

## **NSU Orlando PA Program Competencies**

The competencies listed below describe the core skills a student should be able to demonstrate after completing the requirements for a Master of Medical Science (MMS) Physician Assistant degree at Nova Southeastern University Orlando PA program. These core competencies are embedded in our established curriculum, clinical rotations, and student service-learning experiences provided during the student's enrollment at the program.

### **Clinical & Technical Skills**

Upon completion of the program, new graduates will be able to perform the appropriate physical exams and clinical procedures necessary for clinical practice to evaluate acute and chronic conditions; and form an accurate differential diagnosis. They will be able to recognize abnormal signs, symptoms, and exam findings, and choose diagnostic studies based on these findings.

### **Clinical Reasoning & Problem-Solving Skills**

Upon completion of the program, new graduates will be able to recognize healthy versus ill patients and determine the stage of illness, whether acute, at risk of illness, or chronic. Graduates will demonstrate the ability to utilize up-to-date scientific evidence to support their clinical judgment and implement the appropriate management plan for culturally diverse populations across the lifespan.

### **Interpersonal Skills & Medical Communication**

Upon completion of the program new graduates will be able to establish rapport and communicate in meaningful ways with patients and their families, the healthcare team, and the community. They will be able to effectively educate and counsel patients consistent with the patient's needs and abilities.

### **Medical Knowledge and Lifelong Learning**

Upon completion of the program, new graduates will have the essential medical knowledge to focus on the practice of primary care medicine. They will demonstrate the ability to continually assess one's level of medical knowledge and constantly strive to augment it, which is essential for lifelong learning and delivering high-quality, patient-centered care to culturally diverse populations across the lifespan.

### **Professional Behaviors and Practice**

Upon completion of the program, new graduates will demonstrate professional behavior in all interactions with patients and their families, the healthcare team, and the community. They will have a firm grasp of the roles of PAs and other team members to provide quality, non-judgmental patient care to a culturally diverse population across the lifespan.