

Nova Southeastern University

College of Health Care Sciences

Physician Assistant

Technical Standards

Applicants for and students enrolled in Physician Assistant programs must have abilities and skills in the areas of observation, communication, motor, intellectual/critical thinking, interpersonal, and behavioral/social attributes. Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities will be considered on an individual basis. Students wishing to request accommodations for disabilities should review the information at: <http://www.nova.edu/disabilityservices/> and contact the Health Professions Division (HPD) Coordinator.

Observation:

Applicants and students must have sufficient capacity to observe in the classroom, laboratory, and diagnostic and treatment areas of inpatient and outpatient settings. Sensory skills to perform the procedures typically provided by physician assistants in both primary care and medical specialties are required. In any case where a candidate's or student's ability to observe or acquire information through sensory modalities is compromised, the candidate or student must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to acquire and demonstrate the essential information conveyed in this fashion.

Communication:

Applicants and students must be able to communicate effectively in both academic and healthcare settings. Applicants and students must show evidence of effective written and oral communication skills. Applicants and students must be able to effectively communicate with patients in order to elicit and impart information.

Motor:

The ability to participate in basic diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures is required. Applicants and students must have sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to properly care for all patients. Applicants and students must be able to perform motor functions with or without assistive devices.

Intellectual:

Applicants and students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize. Problem solving, one of the critical skills demanded of health care professionals, requires all of these intellectual abilities. Applicants and students must be able to read and understand medical literature. In order to complete the Physician Assistant program, students must be able to demonstrate mastery of these skills and the ability to use them together in a timely fashion in health care problem-solving and patient care.

Interpersonal, Behavioral and Social:

Applicants and students in Physician Assistant programs must possess the emotional health and stability required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all patient care responsibilities. The development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, families, and other members of the health care team is essential. The ability to function in the face of uncertainties in clinical practice, flexibility, compassion, integrity, motivation, interpersonal skills, and concern for others are all required.