

TECHNICAL STANDARDS for the MPAS PROGRAM

To ensure patient and student safety, to meet the PA Program competencies, and for successful completion of the objectives of each PA course, an individual admitted to the Mercy College of Ohio Physician Assistant Studies Program must be able to independently, with or without reasonable accommodation, meet the technical standards for the PA Program. Mercy College is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Individuals must be able to demonstrate the following observation/sensory, psychomotor, communication, cognitive, and behavioral/social skills, and abilities essential for admission, continuation, promotion, and graduation from the PA Program.

Observation/Sensory

A PA student must be able to gather data from written and oral communications, observing demonstrations; studying medical illustrations, radiologic films or microscopic analysis of specimens/tissues; reading digital or analog physiologic outputs from medical instruments; performing physical examination (inspection, palpation, auscultation, and percussion with ability to perceive position, pressure, movement, weight, and vibration); and performing didactic/laboratory, diagnostic, and therapeutic procedures. Observation requires the functional use of the visual, auditory, and somatic senses, enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell and other sensory modalities.

Psychomotor

A PA student must be able to perform gross and fine motor movements required to provide clinical care to all patients across the spectrum of medical care including surgical and emergent care. Psychomotor demands include reasonable strength, stamina, precision, and equilibrium. The student must be able to sit, stand, and move within the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings for long periods of time; perform quick and precise maneuvers such as CPR and other diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures; participate in all experiments, return demonstrations, and procedures; and effectively use patient care technologies, information systems, and communication devices that support safe and effective clinical practice.

Communication

A PA student must be able to communicate sensitively, accurately, and effectively to others in verbal, non-verbal, and written forms of communication to a wide audience, including supervising/collaborating practitioners, peers, other members of the healthcare team, and patients and their families/guardians. This includes the ability to use and interpret facial expressions and body language; to ask questions and receive answers; and to give and receive constructive feedback. This includes the ability to speak, hear, observe, read, and understand the English language in a manner sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care.

Intellectual, Integrative, and Conceptual Cognitive Abilities

A PA student must be able to learn in the classroom and various educational settings; to synthesize knowledge, read and think critically, solve problems, exercise professional judgment, promptly complete responsibilities, and make decisions for the safe and effective care of persons across the health continuum in a variety of settings. This includes the ability to integrate relevant aspects of the patient assessment findings to determine and administer an effective treatment plan within time constraints imposed by the needs of the patient, the facility/setting, and the standards of care. The student must have the ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures, as well as to measure and calculate.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

A PA student must possess the mental and emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the maintenance of patient confidentiality, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients and course assignments. The PA student must be able to communicate with, and care for, persons whose culture, spiritual beliefs, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, gender-identity, sexual orientation, and/or age are different from their own. The PA student must be able to examine the entire patient, male or female, regardless of the social, cultural, or religious beliefs of the patient or of the PA student. The PA student must have the ability to show concern for others, show respect for human dignity, and develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and others. A PA student must also be able to tolerate rigorous workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical situations. A student is expected to be able to adhere to academic honesty and clinical integrity requirements; recognize professional and personal limitations and when to seek guidance; accept and reflect upon appropriate suggestions and criticisms; and, if necessary, take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes. A PA student should also conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the American Academy of Pas “Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the PA Profession” available at: <https://www.aapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/16-EthicalConduct.pdf>.

To be qualified for the Mercy College of Ohio PA Program, individuals must be able to meet both academic standards and the technical standards listed above, with or without reasonable accommodation(s). Reasonable accommodation can be made in certain areas. However, the student must still be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner and demonstrate the requisite skills and abilities with such accommodation(s). The use of a trained intermediary will not be acceptable in many clinical situations because the student’s judgment is then being mediated by someone else’s power of selection and observation.

It is a student’s responsibility to request reasonable accommodations following the procedures outlined in the *Mercy College of Ohio Graduate Catalog* or on the College’s website: <https://mercycollege.edu/student-affairs/accessibility>.

Requests for reasonable accommodations will be reviewed and considered by the College. For further information regarding services and resources for students with disabilities and/or to request accommodations, please contact the Office of Accessibility Services at 419-251-1784 or ADA504@mercycollege.edu.

These technical standards are not intended to deter any student who may be able to complete the requirements of the MPAS Program with reasonable accommodation(s).

Please indicate below:

- ☐ I can meet the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.
- ☐ I cannot meet the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

Print Name_____

Student Signature_____

Date_____