

Eastern Michigan University PA Program Technical Standards

The Eastern Michigan University Physician Assistant Program requires certain skills and professional behaviors that are essential for successful progression and completion of all aspects of the curriculum and for entry into the profession. These Technical Standards are required for admission and must be maintained throughout a student's progress through the Physician Assistant Program. In the event that, during training, a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, then the student may be asked to leave the program.

Observation - Students must be able to:

- observe lectures, demonstrations, exercises, and patients accurately and completely, both at a distance and closely. This ability requires functional vision, hearing and tactile sensation.
- note non-verbal as well as verbal signals and cues.

Communication - Students must be able to:

- speak and hear clearly.
- elicit and transmit patient information through a command of oral and written English.
- describe changes in mood, activity and posture.
- communicate effectively and sensitively.
- possess reading skills at a level sufficient to accomplish curricular requirements and provide clinical care for patients.
- complete appropriate medical records, documents, and plans according to protocol in a thorough and timely manner.

Sensory and Motor Coordination and Function - Students must:

- possess motor skills sufficient to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other basic diagnostic procedures.
- be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide basic medical care. Such actions require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. This would include, but is not limited to: airway management, placement of catheters, suturing, phlebotomy, application of sufficient pressure to control bleeding, simple obstetrical maneuvers, etc.
- possess physical stamina sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study, which includes prolonged periods of sitting standing and rapid ambulation.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities - Students must:

- be able to independently access and interpret medical files.
- identify significant findings from history, physical examination, and diagnostic testing.
- show good judgment and provide a reasoned explanation for likely diagnoses and management plan.
- recall and retain information in an efficient and timely manner.

Behavioral and Social Attributes - Students must be able to:

- behave and interact appropriately under stressful and/or emergency circumstances.
- develop empathic, sensitive, and effective relationships.
- adapt to changing environments and to learn in the face of uncertainties inherent in the practice of medicine.
- use supervision appropriately and act independently, when indicated.

Admission decisions are made on the assumption that each candidate can meet the technical standards without consideration of disability. Admission will be offered contingent on either a signed statement from the applicant that she/he can meet the program's technical standards without accommodation, or a signed statement from the applicant that she/he believes she/he can meet the technical standards if reasonable accommodation is provided.

If an applicant states she/he can meet the technical standards with accommodation, then the program will determine whether it agrees that the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation. This includes a review of whether the accommodations requested are reasonable, taking into account whether the accommodation would jeopardize patient safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework and supervised clinical practice experiences deemed essential to graduation.

Applicants and students are encouraged to contact the Eastern Michigan University Disability Resource Center (DRC) for more detailed information regarding the technical standards and accommodation practices. The DRC can be reached at:

EMU Disability Resource Center

240 Student Center

Phone: (734) 487-2470

Fax: (734) 487-5784

Email: DRC@emich.edu