

## Delaware Valley University Physician Assistant Program Learning Outcomes

The DVU PA Program Learning Outcomes are the medical knowledge, interpersonal, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, and clinical reasoning and problem-solving abilities that will be attained at the completion of the program.

- PLO 1      Apply basic science and medical knowledge to patient encounters in a variety of settings, for various patient complaints, across patient age groups and demographics to provide quality care.
  - *DVU Institutional Outcome 5*
- PLO 2      Gather patient histories and perform physical examinations appropriate for the presenting complaint.
- PLO 3      Develop and prioritize a differential diagnosis for a patient's presentation.
- PLO 4      Order and interpret common diagnostic and screening tests.
- PLO 5      Perform common clinical procedures with appropriate supervision.
- PLO 6      Develop and implement appropriate pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment plans.
- PLO 7      Conduct patient education and counseling regarding disease prevention and/or management, considering cultural norms and beliefs and principles of population and public health
  - *DVU Institutional Outcomes 8 & 9*
- PLO 8      Using standards established for medicolegal, billing, and coding purposes, document a clinical encounter in the medical record.
  - *DVU Institutional Outcome 2*
- PLO 9      Utilize principles of evidence-based practice to answer clinical questions and inform patient care.
  - *DVU Institutional Outcomes 2 & 6*
- PLO 10     Demonstrate written and verbal communication skills necessary to communicate and collaborate effectively with members of the healthcare team.
  - *DVU Institutional Outcome 3*
- PLO 11     Demonstrate awareness of systems-based practice to contribute to quality assurance and improvement within a clinical environment, including appropriate utilization of resources, consultations, and referrals.
  - *DVU Institutional Outcome 4*
- PLO 12     Conduct themselves in accordance with the ethical, professional, and technical standards of the Physician Assistant profession.
  - *DVU Institutional Outcomes 1 & 7*

# Graduate Physician Assistant Competencies

## Introduction

The program graduate competencies represent the skills, attributes and behaviors required for graduation from the Delaware Valley University PA program.

The competencies were informed by the PAEA “Core Competencies for New Physician Graduates” and the AAPA, NCCPA, PAEA and ARC-PA “Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession.” These are guidance documents for medical curriculum developers and educators that combine the knowledge, skills and abilities associated with the recognized competencies necessary for practice readiness of new PA graduates and practicing PAs.

The faculty of DVU PA program will review the program competencies annually and revisions will be made as necessary. This process ensures that the competencies are representative of current standards of medical care and education and are reflective of the PA program’s mission and goals.

## Medical Practice Knowledge (PLO 1, PLO 2, PLO 3, PLO 4, PLO 5, PLO 6)

Medical practice knowledge includes the synthesis of pathophysiology, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, health promotion, and disease prevention. Physician assistant graduates will be able to demonstrate core knowledge about established and evolving biomedical and clinical sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care in their area of practice. In addition, physician assistant graduates are expected to demonstrate an investigative and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations and demonstrate the ability to utilize up-to-date scientific evidence to inform clinical reasoning and clinical judgment.

- MPK 1    Employ the use of sound scientific principles related to patient care
- MPK 2    Apply the methods of evidence-based medicine to care for the patient.
- MPK 3    Recognize normal and abnormal health states
- MPK 4    Discern among acute, chronic, and emerging disease states
- MPK 5    Describe the signs and symptoms of medical and surgical conditions
- MPK 6    Select appropriate diagnostic studies and procedures, and perform with appropriate supervision when indicated

- MPK 7 After synthesizing evidence including information from the medical history, physical examination, and diagnostic testing, formulate a differential diagnosis.
- MPK 8 Formulate a patient centered management plan for medical and surgical conditions to include pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment modalities
- MPK 9 Choose appropriate interventions for prevention of disease and health promotion and maintenance, taking into account environmental influences, cultural norms, socioeconomic factors, and beliefs.

### **Interpersonal and Communication Skills (PLO 2, PLO 7, PLO 8, PLO 10)**

Interpersonal and communication skills encompass the verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic exchange of information. Physician assistant graduates will be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange with patients, patients' families, physicians, professional associates, and other individuals within the healthcare system.

- ICS 1 Create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients
- ICS 2 Demonstrate the use of effective communication skills to elicit from and provide information to patients, families and the public
- ICS 3 Adapt communication style and messaging to the context of the interaction
- ICS 4 Demonstrate the ability to work and communicate effectively with physicians and other healthcare professionals as a member or leader of a healthcare team or other professional group
- ICS 5 Demonstrate emotional resilience and stability, adaptability, flexibility, and tolerance of ambiguity and anxiety
- ICS 6 Accurately and adequately document information regarding care for medical, legal, quality, and financial purposes
- ICS 7 Recognize the need for and facilitate the use of professional interpreters and other appropriate resources as needed when barriers to communication arise

- ICS 8 Organize and communicate information with patients, families, the community, and health team members in a form that is understood

### **Interprofessional Collaborative Practice and Leadership (PLO 10, PLO 11)**

Interprofessional Collaborative Practice and Leadership includes patient and setting specific assessment, evaluation, and management. Physician assistant graduates will be able to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team to demonstrate patient-centered care that is effective, safe, high quality, and equitable.

- ICPL 1 Articulate one's role and responsibilities to patients, families, communities and other professionals
- ICPL 2 Exhibit compassionate and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families
- ICPL 3 Make decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, current scientific evidence, and informed clinical judgment
- ICPL 4 Develop and implement patient management plans
- ICPL 5 When counseling and educating patients and their families, assure patients that they are being heard
- ICPL 6 Coordinate care
- ICPL 7 Perform medical and surgical procedures essential to their area of practice
- ICPL 8 Provide health care services and education aimed at disease prevention and health maintenance
- ICPL 9 Use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education
- ICPL 10 Recognize when referrals are needed and make them to the appropriate health care provider

- ICPL 11 Use the full scope of knowledge, skills, and abilities of available health professionals to provide care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable to meet the health needs of individuals and populations

### **Society and Population Health (PLO 9)**

Graduates will be able to recognize and understand that the influences of the larger community may affect the health of patients and integrate knowledge of social determinants of health into care decisions. Graduates will consider the personal, cultural, and social values of patients when engaging in shared decision-making for optimal health outcomes.

- SPH 1 Recognize the cultural norms, needs, influences, and socioeconomic, environmental, and other population-level determinants affecting the health of the individual and community being served
- SPH 2 Recognize the potential impacts of the community, biology, and genetics on patients and incorporate them into decisions of care
- SPH 3 Demonstrate accountability and responsibility for removing barriers to health, such as health literacy and access to care
- SPH 4 Understand the role of structural disparities in causing illness
- SPH 5 Engage members of the health care team in the surveillance of community resources to sustain and improve health
- SPH 6 Reflect on personal and professional limitations in providing care
- SPH 7 Elicit and hear the story of the individual and apply the context of the individual's life (including environmental influences, culture, and disease) when determining healthy versus ill patients
- SPH 8 Understand and apply the fundamental principles of epidemiology
- SPH 9 Describe the process of analysis of practice experience and practice-based improvement activities using a systematic methodology in concert with other members of the health care delivery team
- SPH 10 Use appropriate literature to support evidence-based patient care decision making

- SPH 11 Locate, appraise, and integrate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health and the health of populations
- SPH 12 Apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical literature and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness
- SPH 13 Utilize information technology to manage information, access medical information, and support their own education
- SPH 14 Recognize and appropriately address personal biases, gaps in medical knowledge, and physical limitations in themselves and others

### **Professional and Legal Aspects of Health Care (PLO 8, PLO 12)**

Professionalism is the expression of ethical principles, sensitivity to patient wants and needs, responsibility and accountability as care is delivered. Physician assistant graduates will demonstrate maturity and be able to maintain a high level of professionalism in high-stress, ambiguous, or uncomfortable situations. Physician assistant graduates must also recognize legal and regulatory requirements of their profession and adhere to standards of care.

- PLAHC 1 Articulate standard of care practice
- PLAHC 2 Describe legal and regulatory requirements governing the licensure, certification and role of a physician assistant in practice
- PLAHC 3 Maintain professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers
- PLAHC 4 Demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity with accountability to patients, society, and the profession
- PLAHC 5 Recognize one's clinical limitations and admit mistakes and errors when they occur
- PLAHC 6 Participate in difficult conversations with patients and colleagues
- PLAHC 7 Show a commitment to excellence and on-going professional development commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices

PLAHC 8	Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender, and abilities
PLAHC 9	Demonstrate respect for the dignity and privacy of patients while maintaining confidentiality in the delivery of team-based care
PLAHC 10	Exhibit behaviors associated with self-reflection, critical curiosity, and initiative
PLAHC 11	Recognize one's limits and establish healthy boundaries to support healthy partnerships and life balance
PLAHC 12	Demonstrate responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self interest
PLAHC 13	Demonstrate accountability to patients, society, and the profession

### **Healthcare Systems-Based Practice (PLO 11)**

Healthcare systems-based practice encompasses the societal, organizational, and economic environments in which healthcare is delivered. Physician assistant graduates will be able to demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger system of health care to provide patient care that balances quality and cost. PA graduates will be able to work to improve the health care system of which their practices are a part.

HSBP 1	Recognize financial implications to the provision of healthcare including individual providers' value-add to the health care system
HSBP 2	Discuss the importance and complexities of the collaborative physician/PA relationship
HSBP 3	Describe the different types of health systems, funding streams, and insurance, including the role of Medicare and Medicaid as payors
HSBP 4	Identify the role of a PA in advocacy for quality patient care and assisting patients in dealing with system complexities
HSBP 5	Recognize the role of the physician assistant in quality assurance and improvement measures in their clinical settings