

Slippery Rock University Physician Assistant Program Competencies

1. Medical Knowledge (Knowledge)

- 1.1. Evaluate and differentiate between individual patient(s) needs for preventative care and health maintenance to detect conditions in asymptomatic patients.
- 1.2. Evaluate both history and physical examination findings to establish differential diagnoses, order and interpret appropriate diagnostic and imaging studies, and perform procedures necessary to diagnose, treat and manage acute and chronic illness.
- 1.3 Analyze possible etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathologic processes, epidemiology, signs and symptoms for medical and surgical conditions while developing an appropriate treatment plan individualized for each patient.
- 1.4 Demonstrate effective education and counseling for patients and their families while providing patients the opportunity to participate in their own care.
- 1.5 Apply established and emerging principles of clinical sciences to diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making, clinical problem-solving, and other aspects of evidence-based health care.

2. Interpersonal, Communication and Collaboration (Interpersonal Skills)

- 2.1 Employ effective communication skills to communicate with physicians, other health professionals and health care teams to collaborate within an interprofessional setting.
- 2.2 Use effective communication skills to elicit and provide information while adapting to the context of the interaction.
- 2.3 Demonstrate the ability to accurately document medical information satisfying requirements for medical, legal, quality and financial purposes.
- 2.4 Describe how professionals can collaborate to integrate clinical care and public health interventions to optimize health care needs.

3. Patient Care

- 3.1 Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals to provide patient-centered care.
- 3.2 Demonstrate compassionate, empathetic, and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families.
- 3.3 Demonstrate the ability to safely and competently perform medical and diagnostic procedures considered essential for the patient encounter.
- 3.4 Provide appropriate referral of patients, including ensuring continuity of care throughout transitions between providers or settings.

4. Professionalism and Ethics

4.1 Demonstrate respect, compassion, integrity and accountability to the needs of patients and their families.

4.2 Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of care, confidentiality, patient autonomy, informed consent, and business practices in compliance with laws, policies and regulations.

4.3. Demonstrate the ability to participate in difficult conversations with colleagues, patients and their families.

4.4 Demonstrate the ability to make sound ethical decisions in the practice of medicine.

4.5 Recognize one's limits, admit mistakes and errors, accept constructive feedback, and establish healthy boundaries to support health partnerships with colleagues, patients and within society.

5. Practice Based Learning and Improvement

5.1 Differentiate between various types of health systems, funding streams, and payer regulations while recognizing the financial implications within the provision of health care.

5.2 Recognize the individual provider's value to health care teams in terms of cost.

5.3 Demonstrate the ability to use constructive feedback and self-awareness of knowledge, skills, and emotional limitations to identify strengths, weaknesses, and limitations in knowledge and expertise.

5.4 Create goals that foster improvement while enhancing learning to address gaps in knowledge, skills and professional attitudes.

6. Society and Population Health

6.1 Recognize the cultural norms, needs, influences, and socioeconomic, environmental, and other population-level determinants affecting the health of the individual and community being served.

6.2 Identify the contribution of healthcare disparities in illness while demonstrating accountability and responsibility for removing barriers to healthcare.

6.3 Recognize the impact of genetics, socioeconomic, environmental and additional population-level determinates on the health of individuals and a community.

6.4 Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and use effective communication strategies to provide effective, equitable and respectful quality care that is responsive to diversity, cultural beliefs and practices, preferred languages, barriers to care, health literacy and other communication needs.

6.5 Evaluate each patient in the context of their life (including environmental influences, culture, and disease) to understand and define their health status.

*** Updated January 2022

** The SRU PA program created and adapted these competencies through information drawn from: the current competencies of the PA Profession, PAEA's Core Competencies for New graduates, The National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care standards, and the Englander

et al article "Toward a common taxonomy for competency domains for the health professions and competencies for physicians."