Functions and Tasks of Physician Assistant Graduates

The general entry level competencies expected of a graduate of our program are to be able to:

1. Obtain a comprehensive, detailed and accurate history from patients of any age, and either gender in a variety of settings. This includes: screening patients to determine the need for medical attention, review of the patient’s medical record, obtain the patient’s chief complaint, evaluation of history of the present illness, interpret the history in terms of risk factors for the patient, obtain and record a past medical history, family and social history, conduct and record a review of systems and question the patient about adverse effects of medication or treatment. (ICS2, ICS7, MK1, MK2, MK8, MK9)

2. Perform an appropriate comprehensive or problem-oriented physical examination of a patient of any age and gender in a variety of settings. (MK7, ICS2, PC3)

3. Collect other data as necessary from previous medical records, laboratory reports, family, friends, providers, etc., required for diagnostic work-up. (MK3, ICS2, ICS3, PC2, PC3, PROF2)

4. Understand and recognize the further diagnostic procedures required to determine or confirm a patient’s diagnosis. This includes: identify, order, perform and/or interpret appropriate cost-effective diagnostic studies based upon the patient’s history and physical examination findings. (MK3, PC4)

5. Perform additional diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures associated with the management of medical and minor surgical conditions, to include but not limited to venipuncture, debridement, suturing and dressing superficial lacerations, common laboratory testing, giving injections, administering medications, and application of splints and casts. (MK4, ICS1, PC1, PC7)

6. Analyze pertinent medical and laboratory data for the formation of diagnostic and/or management plans. (MK2, MK3, MK8, PC3, PC4)

7. Formulate a differential diagnosis in accordance with their assessment of the patient. (MK9, ICS7)

8. As authorized by the supervising physician under existing laws, implement and monitor health management plans and recommend or prescribe medications or other therapy for the treatment of common, uncomplicated medical/surgical problems.

9. Monitor patients with acute and chronic illness for compliance and response to therapy. Modify treatment regimens as needed. Know the indications for referral and provide these services. (MK4, MK5, ICS4, PC4, SBP6)

10. Prepare a problem list. (MK1, PC3)

11. Interact with, educate, and counsel individual patients and members of the community at an appropriate level of comprehension, with sensitivity and with cultural competence. (ICS1, ICS3, PC2, PROF 8, PBLI7)

12. Use Healthy People 2010 initiatives to eliminate disparities in the provision of health care, promote health, and prevent illness, disability and premature death in the community. Implement effective strategies for incorporating health promotion/disease prevention into practice. (MK6, MK7, ICS4, PC6, PC8, PROF4, SBP7)

13. Respond to patient needs which go beyond the scope of the immediate presenting complaint to include the social, emotional, spiritual, economic and environmental aspects of the patient’s problem. (ICS1, ICS5, ICS6, PROF3, PBLI7, SBP5)

14. Document patient information, including admission notes, discharge summaries, progress notes, initial comprehensive evaluations, problem-oriented notes, consult notes, surgical notes, orders and problem lists, in a complete, clear and concise manner. (ICS3, ICS7, PC3, PROF1, SBP9)

15. Provide complete, concise and well-organized case presentations to supervising physicians, consultants, peers and coworkers. (MK1, MK2, MK3, MK4, ICS4, ICS7, PC1, PC4, PROF2)

16. Assess the severity of common emergency problems and respond in a decisive and appropriate fashion. Provide life support and emergency evaluation/care in response to life threatening situations, jointly with or in the absence of a physician or other health professionals. (MK5, PC7, PROF4)

17. Function as a member of the interdisciplinary health care team; communicate appropriately and interact professionally with the health care team, patients, family, peers, staff, and the general public. (ICS1, ICS4, PC1, PROF2, PBLI6, SBP6)
18. Act as a health care professional with a positive professional attitude and carry out strategies to promote acceptance of the Physician Assistant role within the community. (ICS4, ICS6, PROF2, PROF9)

19. Demonstrate a commitment to continuing medical education and ongoing professional development. (PROF6).

20. Review current medical literature on a continuing basis for resource and research purposes, using evidence-based medicine protocols whenever possible. (PBLI1, PBLI2, PBLI5, SBP8)

21. Participate in the scholarly activity of the profession through research, publishing, and education. (PROF6, PBLI5, PBLI6)

22. Demonstrate professional responsibility and understand the concepts of privilege, confidentiality and informed patient consent. (PROF7)

23. Understand the genetic and molecular mechanisms of health and disease. (MK1, MK6, MK7, MK8)