



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

School of Health Professions
Physician Assistant Program

TTUHSC PA PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

- A. **MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE:** Demonstrate knowledge and application of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences.
1. Apply principles of basic science to patient care.
 2. Apply epidemiological principles to aid in diagnosis and treatment.
 3. Apply principles of the clinical sciences to the differential diagnosis and treatment of diseases.
 4. Apply clinical science principles to diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making.
 5. Differentiate between acute, chronic and emergent disease states.
 6. Facilitate inclusion of evidence-based medical practice by locating, appraising, and assimilating peer-reviewed information into solutions for novel health problems and presentations.
- B. **CLINICAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS:** Demonstrate ability to perform the skills needed to adequately address the patient's presenting complaints and humanistic needs.
1. Compile essential and accurate information about patients using history, physical exam, laboratory data, imaging, and other diagnostic tests.
 2. Interpret laboratory data, imaging, and other tests used in primary care.
 3. Demonstrate patient care that is age-appropriate, patient-centered, safe, effective, and efficient.
 4. Perform medical and diagnostic procedures considered essential for a primary care PA.
 5. Formulate informed diagnostic and treatment decisions using the following: patient information, patient preference, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgement.
 6. Develop patient management plans, including counseling, education, appropriate referral, follow-up, and preventive surveillance.
 7. Recognize when and why to use telehealth, and effectively use it to communicate with patients and interprofessional teams to both transmit and receive information effectively in a professional and patient-centered way.
- C. **INTERPERSONAL & COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and other health professionals.
1. Communicate effectively with other members of the healthcare team to establish and enhance interprofessional teams.
 2. Demonstrate sensitivity, honesty, and compassion in difficult conversations.
 3. Develop patient-centered communication skills to establish therapeutic relationships understanding of the patient and their story such that appropriate care can be delivered that is conscious of the patient's environment, finances, and culture.
 4. Maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records.

- D. **PROFESSIONALISM:** Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.
1. Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others.
 2. Demonstrates sensitivity and openness to a diverse patient population.
 3. Demonstrates both a commitment to ethical principles and knowledge of Texas laws and regulatory requirements for PAs.
 4. Develops healthy coping mechanisms to respond to stress and mitigate burnout.
 5. Understand the PA's role in the reduction of stigma toward vulnerable patient populations.
- E. **COMMUNITY CONSCIOUSNESS AND SOCIETAL HEALTH:** Demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care. Provide care that is socially conscious and understanding of the resources, needs and limitations of one's community of practice.
1. Design patient care plans with consideration of social determinants of health and community/population health.
 2. Consider the structural barriers within society that contribute to health care disparities as well as own personal biases and the PA's duty in promoting equitable health care for all.
 3. Coordinate patient care within the healthcare system.
 4. Incorporate cost-awareness and risk-benefit analysis in patient care decisions
 5. Demonstrate the physician assistants' value-add to the healthcare team, including the collaborative physician/PA relationship.
 6. Recognize when to refer patients to other disciplines to ensure that patients receive optimal care at the right time and appropriate level.
- F. **CLINICAL REASONING AND PROBLEM SOLVING:** Demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate the care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on self-evaluation and lifelong learning.
1. Demonstrate an investigatory and analytical approach to clinical situations.
 2. Demonstrate critical thinking in the evaluation of clinical problems.
 3. Appraise self in the clinical encounter through reflective practice in order to improve ability to treat diverse patient populations and adjust behaviors that are detrimental to patient care.
 4. Incorporate feedback into daily practice.