

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

UAB PA Technical (Performance) Standards

(Revised 2018, 2023)

Students should be aware that the PA program requires that all students demonstrate the technical skills needed to complete the entire PA program curriculum. These skills include the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, utilize computerized information technology, and possess the visual, auditory and motor skills needed to evaluate and treat patients effectively.

Students who are not able to demonstrate the required technical skills needed to successfully complete the PA may be dismissed from the program until such time that they can demonstrate technical skill proficiency. *A reasonable attempt will be made by the PA program to accommodate students with disabilities.*

Minimum Technical (Performance) Standards

Critical Thinking: Students must possess the intellectual capabilities required to complete the full curriculum and achieve the level of competence delineated by the faculty. Critical thinking requires the intellectual ability to measure, calculate, synthesize, and analyze a large and complex volume of medical and surgical information. Students in the program must also be able to perform applicable demonstrations and experiments in the medical sciences.

Computer Technology Skills: Students must be able to utilize computerized information technology to access and manage on-line medical information, participate in computerized testing as required by the curriculum, conduct research, prepare multimedia presentations, and participate in the management of computerized patient records and assessments.

Communication Skills: Students must be able to communicate clearly and effectively, in order to elicit and relay medical information.

Observation Ability: Students must be able to observe a patient during a physical exam and perform a wide range of technical skills while evaluating and managing patients.

Auditory and Tactile Ability: Students must have the ability to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, and percussion, as well as perform a wide range of technical procedures involved in the practice of medicine and surgery.

Motor and Fine Skills: Students must be able to execute the physical movements required to maneuver in small places, calibrate and use equipment, position and move patients, and perform the technical procedures involved in the practice of medicine and surgery.

Interpersonal Ability: Students must possess a wide range of interpersonal skills, including but not limited to: (1) the emotional health required for management of high stress situations while maintaining their full intellectual abilities; (2) the ability to exercise good judgment; (3) the ability to complete all assigned patient care responsibilities; (4) the ability to manage time (show up on time, begin and complete tasks on time); (5) the ability to develop a mature, sensitive and effective relationship with medical colleagues, clinical and administrative staff, patients and families; (6) the ability to identify, use, understand, and manage emotions in positive ways to relieve stress, communicate effectively, empathize with others, overcome challenges and diffuse conflict; and (7) the ability to recognize your own emotional state and the emotional states of others, and engage with people in a way that draws them to you.