



Technical Standards for Admission (A3.13e)

A3.13e. The program must define, publish, consistently apply, and make readily available to prospective students, policies, and procedures to include (e) any required technical standards for enrollment.

The technical standards for the Alvernia University Physician Associate Program have been established to ensure that candidates have the ability to demonstrate academic mastery, competence when performing clinical skills, and the ability to communicate clinical information.

These technical standards are intended to ensure that each candidate has the academic and physical ability to acquire competencies, as defined by the National Commission on Accreditation of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), the Accreditation Review Commission for Education of the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). The technical standards are consistent with the technical standards set forth by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Alvernia University and the Physician Associate Program are committed to creating a respectful, accessible, and inclusive learning environment for all students and do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, sexual preference, gender identity, ethnicity, handicap or socioeconomic status. <https://www.alvernia.edu/office-justice-equity-and-inclusion>

Out of that commitment, and in accordance with both the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Program offers support to those individuals who may require an accessibility accommodation. If a candidate states they are unable to meet the technical standards due to a diagnosed disability, the Alvernia University College of Health Sciences will determine whether the candidate can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation. This includes a review of whether the accommodations requested would jeopardize patient safety or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework and clinical rotations deemed essential to graduation.

A candidate with a documented disability who wishes to request academic accommodations is encouraged to contact the [Office of Accessibility Services](#) at [610-568-1499](tel:610-568-1499) or via email at accessibility.services@alvernia.edu.

All candidates, with or without reasonable accommodation, are required to master the activities described herein, including Observation, Communication, Motor Function, Critical Thinking Ability, Behavioral and Social Skills, and Ethical and Legal Standards. These technical standards are required for admission and must be maintained throughout a student's progress from matriculation through graduation from the Physician Associate Program.

Competency in technical standards will be assessed regularly throughout the Program. Students are obligated to alert the Program in a timely fashion of any change in their ability to fulfill the technical standards. Students are subject to dismissal and may not be able to graduate if they do not, with or without

reasonable accommodation, participate fully in all aspects of PA training; are not deployable as competent PAs; or otherwise, do not meet the technical standards.

Due to the nature of the program, students will be expected to submit to drug testing and comprehensive background checks and must promptly report through the identified channels if they are physically impaired by drugs or alcohol while performing tasks as part of the program; or if they are charged or convicted of any misdemeanor or felony offense while in the Program. Failure to disclose prior or new offenses may lead to disciplinary action that may include dismissal.

All candidates must be able to independently meet the following standards with or without accommodation:

1. Observation

- Students must be able to acquire information effectively and accurately from demonstrations in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical setting and apply relevant information.
- Students must be able to acquire information effectively and accurately from patients, observe a patient's condition, and accurately describe these findings.
- Students must be able to perform a complete history and physical examination and develop an appropriate assessment, order diagnostic studies, and formulate a treatment plan.
- Students must have the ability to note non-verbal as well as verbal signals.
- These skills require the use of visual, auditory, olfactory, and tactile senses or the functional equivalent.

2. Communication

- Students must be able to communicate effectively, professionally, and empathetically with other students, faculty, patients, their family members, and other professionals in any healthcare setting.
- Students must be able to listen attentively and speak clearly to individuals from different social and cultural backgrounds.
- Students must be able to demonstrate proficiency in oral and written communication in the English language to elicit information, convey information, clarify information, and create rapport.
- Students must be able to recognize and respond to non-verbal communication, accurately and legibly record observations, and plans in the patient record using various formats, and complete legal documents and forms in a timely manner.

3. Motor Function

- Students must, after reasonable training, be able to elicit information from patients by performing a patient history and physical examination using palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers.
- Students must be able to perform the basic and advanced clinical procedures that are requirements of the PA program curriculum after reasonable training.
- Students must be able to provide timely routine and emergent medical care to patients, which includes, but is not limited to, recording information; performing basic laboratory tests, and diagnostic and therapeutic procedures; interpreting diagnostic images; assisting

in surgical care; performing medical procedures, and performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

4. Critical Thinking Ability

- Students must be able to assimilate a large amount of complex information presented in the Program curriculum.
- Students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and apply critical thinking to solve problems. In addition, students must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand spatial relationships of structures.
- Students must be able to adapt to different learning environments and modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction; small group, team, and collaborative activities; individual study preparation and presentation of information; and simulations and use of computer technology.
- Students must be able to critically appraise medical literature to provide evidence-based care by formulating accurate diagnoses and management plans.
- Students must demonstrate sound clinical judgment and identify/predict issues that require intervention and intervene in a timely manner.

5. Behavioral and Social Skills

- Students must adapt to changing environments and learn in the face of uncertainties inherent in the practice of medicine.
- Students must accept responsibility for learning, exercising good judgment, and promptly completing all responsibilities during their training, as well as the responsibility attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients.
- respond to supervision appropriately and act within the scope of practice, when indicated.
- Students must understand the legal and ethical standards of the medical profession.
- Students must be able to work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as part of the educational and healthcare team, and to interact with instructors and peers, patients, patient families, and healthcare personnel in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner.
- Students must demonstrate best practices related to cultural competency and providing services to individuals with diverse backgrounds.
- Students must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others, and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes.
- Students must be punctual for all program requirements and be able to participate in all scheduled training hours, which may not be limited to the standard workweek.

6. Ethical and Legal Standards

- Students must behave in an ethical and moral manner consistent with professional values and standards.
- Students must be able to understand the basis and content of both general and medical ethics and demonstrate high ethical and moral behavior.
- Students must demonstrate maturity, emotional stability, compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, responsibility, and tolerance.
- Students must be able to recognize limitations in their knowledge, skills, and abilities and to seek appropriate assistance with their identified limitations.

- Students must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within both the law and ethical standards of the medical profession.
- Students must meet the legal standards to be licensed to practice medicine.

Approved 2-15-23 RL