

Physician Assistant program, Harrogate, TN

Technical Standards for Admission and Retention

The LMU-SMS PA Program seeks candidates who will be able to serve the needs of society by becoming skilled and effective Physician Assistants. To that end, the LMU-SMS PA Program requires candidates for admission and continuing students to meet certain technical standards. These technical standards ensure that graduates of the LMU-SMS PA Program possess a level of cognitive and technical skill necessary to achieve the levels of competency stipulated for graduates of the LMU-SMS PA Program by the faculty, accreditation agencies, and the standards of Physician Assistant practice. The technical standards go beyond the curriculum's academic criteria and apply both to candidates for admission and continuing students. In order to acquire the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, candidates for admission and continuing students in the LMU-SMS PA Program must meet the established technical requirements in the following six areas:

General Health; Observation and Visual Integration; Communication; Motor and Sensory; Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities; Behavioral and Social Attributes.

1. General Health: Students must be able to work long hours in both the classroom and clinical settings with exposure to various body fluids, communicable diseases, radiation, and toxic substances. Students must maintain a general state of physical and mental health necessary to operate under the typical demands and performance requirements of the program and the PA profession. This includes standard preventative health measures such as annual immunizations. The LMU-SMS PA Program requires all students enrolled in the program to maintain health insurance coverage from matriculation through graduation. **Please see Section III; Admissions Policies and Procedures of the Student handbook.**

2. Motor and Sensory: The provision of patient care often requires upright posture with sufficient total body strength, mobility, and cardiovascular endurance. Students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and be able to sit, stand, and walk for long periods in both the classroom and clinical settings. Students must have adequate gross and fine motor function

and coordination (including hand-eye Updates available online 15 coordination and manual dexterity) to elicit information from patients via auscultation, palpation, and percussion and to use appropriate diagnostic techniques and instruments to complete movements made to provide routine and emergent medical care, and to perform common diagnostic procedures. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following: assisting patients in range of motion, performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medications, suturing of simple and complex wounds, routine obstetric and gynecologic care, and assisting in surgical procedures. Students must be able to observe demonstrations, visual presentations, lectures, laboratory studies and microbiological specimens, and experiments in medical and clinical settings. Students must also possess adequate sensory skills, including normal or corrected to normal functional vision and hearing acuity, visual integration, olfactory, tactile, and proprioceptive capabilities to provide patient care. Functional vision includes the following:

- Allowing for observation for patients close at hand and at a distance;
- Using depth perception and peripheral vision in order to assess for symmetry/asymmetry, and
- Distinguishing colors and color intensity, tissue textures

3. Communication: Students must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients to gather pertinent data, describe their observations (including activity and function, mood, and posture) and be able to perceive nonverbal communications. Students must be able to effectively, efficiently, and with sensitivity, communicate in English with patients, families, and colleagues, from different social and cultural backgrounds, orally and in writing, with clarity and accuracy. Students must be able to communicate effectively with students, instructors, clinicians, and patients in oral and written formats.

4. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: Students must exhibit skills in problem solving, critical thinking, measurement, calculation, comprehension of three-dimensional relationships and structural spatial relationships consistent with medical practice. Students must be able to comprehend, retain, analyze and integrate a large amount of information related to medicine and process this information in an efficient and effective manner that allows for timely and appropriate patient care. Students must be able to engage in long hours of study;

self-identify areas of weakness and utilize appropriate resources for remediation of deficits; and self-reflect and process constructive feedback for improving knowledge and Updates available online 16 skills.

5. Behavioral and Social Attributes: Students must possess the emotional health required for full use of their cognitive and intellectual abilities, the exercise of reasonable judgment and the prompt completion of all academic and patient care duties and responsibilities across the lifespan. The development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team is essential. The ability to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice, flexibility, compassion, integrity, motivation, interpersonal skills and concern for others are all required. Students must be able to demonstrate empathy, sensitivity, and the ability to quickly establish rapport with patients from diverse backgrounds with different cultural beliefs and a wide variety of acute and chronic medical and surgical conditions. Students must be able to exhibit adequate interpersonal communication skills, compassion, concern for others, honesty, and integrity. Students must be able to tolerate physically demanding workloads (which may involve nights and weekends), noisy environments, long hours, and to maintain composure with emotional stability in challenging, stressful, and changing circumstances and to deal effectively with uncertain and possibly emotionally charged situations. Students must be able to accept constructive criticism and respond with a professional and respectful demeanor.