

MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

The student's acquisition of medical knowledge and skills in St. Ambrose University's Master of Physician Assistant Studies program will be based on the biopsychosocial model of care. This model requires knowledge and analysis of the biological, psychological, and social aspects of health and illness and the scientific and compassionate application to human structure, function, and behavior. It also requires knowledge of the contextual and underlying factors including current medical practice concepts, clinical research in medicine and its application to clinical decision making, medical delivery and payment systems, effective utilization of communication, the values and ethics of professionalism, and self-assessment activities for continuous self-improvement and improvement of patient care. This model of care is consistent with the mission and goals of the program.

The SAU PA Program's education goals are to develop physician assistants who have the necessary knowledge and skill set to competently practice medicine. The program provides the training to meet the stated competencies. To ensure the program has accomplished these goals, students will undergo a summative evaluation in the last few months prior to graduation to confirm they have met the following competencies in the following five domains:

1. Medical Knowledge
 - a. Apply a broad-based medical knowledge across organ systems and medical settings.
 - b. Integrate medical knowledge with clinical reasoning skills to provide preventative care.
 - c. Integrate medical knowledge and clinical findings to diagnose acute and chronic diseases.
2. Clinical and Technical Skills
 - a. Perform procedural and clinical skills considered essential for entry into PA practice.
 - b. Conduct a pertinent patient-centered focused history.
 - c. Perform a pertinent physical examination.
 - d. Effectively counsel and educate a patient using shared-decision making.
3. Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Abilities
 - a. Synthesize information acquired through all aspects of patient encounters to formulate a differential diagnosis for acute and chronic health conditions.
 - b. Be proficient in ordering and interpreting appropriate laboratory tests and diagnostic studies.
 - c. Develop an appropriate patient-centered clinical therapeutic plan.
4. Interpersonal Skills
 - a. Communicate effectively with patients, families or other health care professionals.
 - b. Demonstrate the ability to write appropriate medical documentation.

- c. Develop rapport and demonstration compassion and respect for patients and families.
5. Professional Behaviors
- a. Demonstrate understanding of ethical and legal principles in healthcare.
 - b. Demonstrate compassion, respect, and awareness of all, including diverse patient populations or healthcare disparities.
 - c. Identify and perform learning activities that address one's gaps in knowledge, skills, or attitudes.
 - d. Demonstrate respect in interactions with peers, teachers, staff, other healthcare team members.