The University of the Sciences PA Program
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & COMPETENCIES

The University of the Sciences PA Program learning outcomes and competencies were developed using several sources. The faculty reviewed the following documents: the competencies from PAEA, AAPA, ARC-PA, and NCCPA to address medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, and clinical reasoning and problem-solving abilities; the NCCPA Content Blueprint for entry level medical content and tasks; the ARC-PA Standards and the most common diseases and skills used in medicine.

The PA student will be able to:

1. Evaluate the structures of the human body and how they function at the biochemical and physiological level.

2. Integrate and apply their knowledge of the basic sciences and clinical medicine to the care of the patient.

3. Analyze the etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathologic process, and epidemiology for medical conditions.

4. Describe and understand the principles of drug absorption, distribution, action, toxicity, and elimination, and have a practical, working knowledge of commonly prescribed drugs.

5. Differentiate the indications, contraindications, and side effect profiles for the pharmacologic agents used in the treatment of various diseases and conditions.

6. Recognize the importance of patient education and compliance as it relates to pharmacologic interventions.

7. Collect and document essential and accurate patient medical history and perform an appropriate comprehensive or problem-focused physical examination based on the patient's presentation.

8. Formulate an appropriate differential diagnosis based on history and physical examination of pertinent positive and negative findings and diagnostic study results in the diagnosis and management of common medical and psychiatric conditions in infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.

9. Demonstrate competency in written, oral, and electronic forms of communication and the ability to effectively communicate with patients, patients' families, physicians, and various other professional associates in outpatient, inpatient, operative, emergent and behavioral health settings for infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.

10. Use communication skills and collaborate with patients, their families/caregivers, and members of the health care team to provide competent comprehensive patient-centered care infant, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.
11. Interpret and recognize the significance of various laboratory and radiographical studies in relation to the disease process.

12. Differentiate between normal and abnormal signs, symptoms, and diagnostic studies results.

13. Demonstrate the ability to provide superior patient care, including presentation-based diagnosis and management of emergent, acute, and chronic medical and psychological disorders in infant, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.

14. Formulate a working differential diagnosis and create an assessment and plan that is evidence-based and appropriate, based on the patient's signs and symptoms.

15. Develop and implement appropriate treatment plans for common disorders including medications, surgery, counseling, therapeutic procedures, rehabilitative therapies, and specific disease prevention, and evaluate the success of those treatments.

16. Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to perform the skills necessary for prevention, health promotion/maintenance, patient evaluation, monitoring, diagnosis/differential diagnosis, therapeutics, counseling, rehabilitation, and appropriate referral of the patient.

17. Screen for diseases, assess for risk factors of common diseases, and initiate and recommend health promotion and disease prevention measures.

18. Identify when referral is indicated and work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals as a member of an interprofessional patient-centered health care team.

19. Apply the scientific method and critically evaluate landmark research publications that lead to establishment guidelines for disease management and apply that information in the health care of the patient.

20. Understand the principles of scientific inquiry and research design, so that they will be able to apply those principles to critically interpret medical literature and enhance their ability to provide quality health care.

21. Keep abreast of the evolving practice of medicine through a dedication to life-long learning and enhancement of one's knowledge, skills, and attitudes as a PA by self-reflection, active management and professional development.

22. Demonstrate an understanding of health care policy, health care and social service systems, coding/reimbursement, billing, and the role of the PA/Physician Team within those systems and how they apply in clinical practice.

23. Conduct themselves in a professional courteous manner and with the highest ethical and legal standards expected of a health care professional and consistent with the role and responsibilities of a PA.

24. The knowledge, appreciation, and application of legal and ethical concepts related to medical care.
25. Evaluate the impact of the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic ramifications on the diagnosis and treatment of various medical conditions, as well as the ethical considerations within medical practice, and demonstrate sensitivity regarding the emotional, cultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the patient, the patient’s condition, and the patient’s family.
26. Appraise the psychological, socioeconomic, cultural, and spiritual dimensions of the patient’s experience of the health and disease and utilize the information in the development of appropriate plans of care.

27. Understand the commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices.
28. Effectively advocate for patients and the PA profession.

29. Demonstrate respect, compassion, and accountability to patients and society, and be responsive to the patient’s values, culture, age, gender, and capabilities.
30. Create healthy living behaviors through patient education and counseling.

31. The attitudes and skills which demonstrate a commitment to personal growth and sensitivity to cultural and individual differences, respect for self and others throughout a diverse patient population.
32. Continually assess and demonstrate self-reflective practice and an awareness of one’s own implicit bias and recognize its potential effect on the care of patients.

33. Demonstrate understanding of the important considerations in reproductive and sexual health, including the societal and clinical aspects of human sexuality, prenatal care, gynecologic care, men’s health and associated preventative medicine.

34. Understand the importance of superior patient care in the pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative settings, with consideration for patient safety and optimal outcomes.

35. Demonstrate the ability to provide appropriate behavioral and mental healthcare across the lifespan, through the appraisal of both the societal and clinical aspects of behavioral health and wellness.