



Programmatic Essential Functions Physician Assistant Program

The SHRP-Essential Functions were developed to assist each student in evaluating their capabilities and chances for success in a particular program. In order for students to do this accurately, program specific Essential Functions must indicate what is required to do well in the academic program, as well as, the skills/functions required to be successful in that particular allied health professional role. The following standards pertain to particular cognitive, motor, behavioral and social skills that are associated with the educational process for your allied health program:

Programmatic Standards

Observational Standards

- Attend and participate in didactic and clinical education and training, on and off campus
- Participate in patient examination, assessment and evaluation.
- Participate in patient education and supportive care.
- Participate in emergency care.
- Participate in co-educational peer physical examination practicum.

Communication Standards

- Participate in patient education and supportive care.
- Perform practical, oral and written examinations and/or demonstration(s).
- Communicate effectively, in writing and orally, with patients, families and other health care professionals.
- Perceive high and low pitched sounds of variable intensities (e.g. heart sounds, blood pressure/korotkoff sounds).
- Discern colors/color changes (e.g. skin color, eye/sclera color).

Intellectual/Conceptual Standards

- Participate in patient education and supportive care.
- Participate in emergency care.
- Maintain a current CPR certification and the ability to perform.
- Possess the self-directness and motivation to independently work on and complete long term projects.
- Gather, understand, interpret and report patient data.
- Understand medical-legal concepts as they pertain to clinical practice.
- Participate in the process of critical analysis as it relates to differential diagnosis and scientific inquiry.
- Prioritize multiple tasks; maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously.

Motor Skills Standards

- Work lengthy and irregular hours off campus.
- Work several hours without a break and stand for long periods of time.
- Participate in invasive and non-invasive procedures; including exposure prone procedures
- Remain at hospital overnight to take call

Behavioral and Social Standards

- Maintain patient confidentiality and develop and exhibit professional ethical demeanor.
- Demonstrate sustained attention level necessary to effectively participate in three-four hour classes.
- Maintain personal hygiene consistent with close personal contact associated with patient care.
- Demonstrate the emotional stability necessary for an intensive training program in preparation for the stresses of clinical situations (e.g. heavy academic schedule, fast paced clinical situations, psychosocial responses of patients, and dealing with dying patients).