



WINGATE UNIVERSITY
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
PROGRAM

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Preface

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is the primary non-discrimination law applicable to the admissions and post-secondary education of disabled persons. Section 504 of this statute prohibits discrimination solely on the basis of the disability of an “otherwise qualified” person seeking admission to any college, university, or other institution of higher learning.

The purpose of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enacted in 1990, as far as schools are concerned, is to assure a level playing field so that individuals with disabilities can compete with other applicants on the basis of their ability without being eliminated specifically because of a disability. Disability is defined in the ADA as a physical or mental impairment. The ADA requires that:

- *Schools judge a person on the basis of his or her ability to complete the education program rather than on their status as a disabled person*
- *The person seeking admission must be able to perform the “essential functions” of the program in spite of the disability*
- *“Reasonable accommodations” may be needed and, if so, must be provided*
- *The “essential functions” of the educational program are matters for each school to determine*
- *Pre-admission inquiry as to whether a person is disabled is not permitted, but a school may seek as much information as needed to make a determination that an individual can perform the “essential functions” of the education program*

The accreditation standards of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) state: “While physical disability should not preclude a student from consideration for admission, each school should develop and publish technical standards for the admission of handicapped applicants, in accordance with legal requirements.”

Any applicant who plans to enter the physician assistant program at Wingate University must possess certain abilities that will enable him/her to master the educational and clinical content of the program within a reasonable time frame and to function as a physician assistant after graduation.

Wingate University welcomes specific inquiries from potential students with disabilities regarding required technical skills and how mastery of those skills might apply to his/her unique situation. Federal law prohibits programs from making inquiries about specific disabilities prior to admission; however, applicants who are selected for admission must be prepared to meet the

educational and technical performance standards in order to complete the program. Students who are unable to master these skills will not be allowed to continue in the program.

Preface of Technical Standards is used with permission of the Methodist University PA Program, June 2018.

Technical Standards

Observation and Sensory Integration

The student must:

- Be able to acquire information in all didactic and clinical settings through sources including, but not limited to, oral presentation, written material, visual media, and live presentations.
- Possess function of visual, tactile, and auditory skills necessary for physical examination and documentation.

Communication

The student must:

- Be able to communicate effectively verbally and in writing, at a level consistent with graduate-level work, using proper English grammar, spelling and vocabulary which is necessary for patient evaluation and documentation.
- Be able to communicate in a professional manner to all faculty, peers, health care professionals, patients and their families.
- Demonstrate the ability to record activity and account for allocation of time in the clinical setting.
- Confidently, concisely and professionally communicate relevant information regarding patient status with appropriate members of faculty and the health care team.

Motor Coordination and Function

The student must:

- Possess the necessary motor skills to perform a comprehensive physical examination, maneuver instruments or diagnostic tools, and perform medical procedures.
- Have the physical capability, strength and stamina to stand, sit, and move within the classroom, laboratory and clinical areas, including but not limited to, examination rooms, treatment rooms, confined spaces, and surgical suites for long periods of time.

Intellectual/Conceptual Abilities

The student must:

- Be able to think critically and with sound judgment in order to understand, assess, and solve complex clinical problems. This includes the ability to collect, organize, prioritize, reason, analyze, integrate, learn, and retain information, often in a limited time-frame.
- Must be able to apply basic principles of the scientific method in reading and interpreting professional literature, to integrate data, and to develop appropriate differential diagnoses.
- Be able to comprehend two and three-dimensional structures and understand spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral, Emotional, and Social Abilities

The student must:

- Be flexible and respond appropriately and professionally to stress during the educational period.
- Respect and work within the framework of individual, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences.
- Be capable of regular, reliable, and punctual attendance at classes and in regard to clinical responsibilities.
- Demonstrate emotional and psychological stability at a level necessary to deliver sound patient care in all settings and while interacting with interdisciplinary health care teams.
- Behave in an ethical and moral manner consistent with professional values and standards.

Students with Disabilities

Any student who, because of disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the curriculum requirements, is expected to obtain approval for accommodations through the Director, Wingate University Academic Resource Center. Once accommodations are approved, the student must meet with the Program Director. Accommodations are for present and future activities and are not retroactive. Students will not receive special arrangements unless accommodations are approved by the University's Office of Disability Support Services.

Ms. Kristin Wharton
Director of the Academic Resource Center
kwharton@wingate.edu
704.233.8366

I have read and understand the Technical Standards Requirements of the Wingate University Department of Physician Assistant Studies and attest that I have no condition that would interfere, inhibit, compromise or distract from my participation in the program.

Printed Name

Date

Signature