



**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES  
POLICY**

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| <b>POLICY NAME:</b>                           | <b>TECHNICAL STANDARDS</b>  |
| <b>RESPONSIBILITY For Development/Review:</b> | <i>University Admin      Dept. Chair/ Program Director      Academic Director      Clinical Director      Faculty      Medical Director      Administrative Secretary</i>   |
| <b>APPROVED BY:</b>                           | Faculty   |
| <b>DATE CREATED:</b>                          | 5/17/2013   |
| <b>DATE REVISED:</b>                          | 2/14/2024   |
| <b>REVIEWED: Annually</b>                     | 2/14/2024   |
| <b>SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS:</b>                  | <i>DPAS Student and Policy Handbooks</i>  |
| <b>OCCURANCE:</b>                             | <i>Daily      Weekly      Monthly      Quarterly      Yearly      As Needed</i>   |
| <b>PURPOSE:</b>                               | To define the abilities, aptitude and skills the candidate/enrolled student must have in the areas: observation, communication, motor, intellectual conceptual, integrative and quantitative, behavioral/social and physical demands. |

**POLICY:**

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) requires all Physician Assistant (PA) programs to publish technical standards for program admissions. The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) assembled an Executive Council in 1979 to examine the Department of Health, Education and Welfare regulations relating to Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Executive Council recommended institutional guidelines addressing technical standards for the medical school admissions process. Technical Standards that are defined in Section 504 of this Act and refer to all nonacademic admissions criteria, these guidelines have been used to address technical standards in physician assistant education essential to participation in the program.

PA students must have the intellectual, ethical, physical and emotional capabilities required to undertake the entire curriculum and be able to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty. The standards describe essential functions that the student must demonstrate to meet the requirements of PA education; these standards are prerequisites for matriculation, continuation and graduation from the PA program. Furthermore, the use of an intermediary, a person trained to perform essential skills on behalf of the student, is not permitted.

Mercyhurst University physician assistant students must possess the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data. They must have functional use of the senses of vision, hearing, equilibrium and taste. Exteroceptor (touch, pain and temperature) and proprioceptor (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis and vibratory) senses must be



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and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and family members and health care providers. Candidates must be able to work effectively as a member of the health-care team. Candidates must also be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the realm of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, collegiality, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admission and education processes.

Physician assistant students are reviewed individually and on a case basis at time of deposit, orientation, during PA 620 Thesis Guidance course, and as needed using the standards above. Inability to meet the above standards may result in inability to matriculate. Mercyhurst University abides by federal, state and local law in admissions, and all services/programs provided. Mercyhurst University complies with federal, state and local legislation and regulations regarding nondiscrimination. Mercyhurst University does not discriminate in the admissions process or educational program against anyone on the basis of the individual's age, race, color, religion, sex, creed, citizenship status, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, familial status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, military or veteran status or any other legally protected characteristic or because of any individual's legally protected activities.

**ADA**

Mercyhurst University values inclusion and is committed to the goal of providing equal opportunities for all. Mercyhurst abides by federal, state, and local laws in admissions, employment, academic programs, and all services provided.

Mercyhurst University is committed to complying with its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Fair Housing Act to ensure that a person with a disability is granted reasonable accommodations, when such accommodations are necessary, to afford that person equal opportunity to obtain a Mercyhurst education and use university facilities. Please refer to the HUB <https://lakersmercyhurst.sharepoint.com/sites/StudentsHub> and select the Services tab, then ADA Accommodations from the dropdown for instructions to request an accommodation. You may also contact Susan Reddinger, ADA Coordinator, [ADA@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:ADA@mercyhurst.edu), 814-824-

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