

**Rush University  
College of Health Sciences  
PA Program**

**TERMINAL PA PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES  
ARC-PA Standards A2.05a, A3.12g, B1.01b, B1.03e, B4.03, C1.01d**

The program's terminal learning outcomes describe the medical knowledge, interpersonal, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, and clinical reasoning and problem-solving abilities expected of all Rush University PA Program graduates. Upon completion of the program, graduates will demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. The ability to comprehend, evaluate, and apply information relevant to PA practice.
2. Technical proficiency in skills necessary for clinical practice.
3. Behaviors and interpersonal communication skills consistent with the professional standards of the PA profession.

The following are the terminal competencies for PA practice that graduates are expected to meet:

1. Core Medical Knowledge
  - 1.1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic scientific concepts in anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology.
  - 1.2. Demonstrate knowledge of the etiologies, risk factors, epidemiology, and clinical manifestations of medical conditions across the lifespan.
  - 1.3. Identify indications, contraindications, and risks to procedures and diagnostic studies.
2. Critical Thinking and Application of Clinical Knowledge
  - 2.1. Formulate comprehensive and relevant differential diagnoses.
  - 2.2. Develop management plans based on clinical presentation for acute, chronic, and emergent conditions across the lifespan.
  - 2.3. Implement, assess, and modify treatment plans as required in the course of patient management.
  - 2.4. Apply evidence-based knowledge relevant to medical practice in the patient care setting.
3. Procedural Competency
  - 3.1. Perform comprehensive and problem-focused history and physical examinations.
  - 3.2. Order and interpret appropriate diagnostic studies based on patient presentation.
  - 3.3. Document patient encounters in the medical record.
  - 3.4. Perform program-defined core clinical and technical skills.
4. Professionalism
  - 4.1. Act in a manner that exemplifies dependability, self-awareness, ethical integrity, honesty, and respect for others.
  - 4.2. Collaborate as a member of an interprofessional health care team.
  - 4.3. Adhere to regulatory guidelines governing professional practice.
  - 4.4. Demonstrate acceptance of cultural differences and diverse populations.

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- 5. Communication
  - 5.1. Provide patient-centered education relevant to the patient encounter.
  - 5.2. Communicate in a clear and understandable manner.
  
- 6. Systems-based Practice
  - 6.1. Consult and refer to specialty practitioners as indicated.
  - 6.2. Demonstrate cost-effective clinical practice.
  - 6.3. Collaborate as an effective member of a health care team in the practice of medicine.

The Rush PA Program competencies are modeled on the Competencies for the PA Profession position paper approved by the four organizations for the PA profession: NCCPA, ARC-PA, PAEA, and AAPA.  
<https://www.aapa.org/download/90503/>