

Rush University
College of Health Sciences
Physician Assistant Program

TERMINAL PA PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES

The terminal learning outcomes describe the competencies expected of all graduates of the Rush University PA Program. Upon completion of the program, graduates will demonstrate:

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

The criteria for terminal learning outcome assessment are:

Core Medical Knowledge

1. Knowledge of medical science concepts in anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology
2. Knowledge of the etiologies, risk factors, epidemiology, and clinical manifestations of medical conditions across the lifespan
3. Application of knowledge relevant to medical practice in the patient care setting
4. Ability to analyze, critique, report, and apply clinical research literature in clinical practice
5. Ability to utilize current and emerging research in the medical literature to make evidence-based patient care decisions

Critical Thinking and Application of Clinical Knowledge

1. Ability to formulate comprehensive and accurate differential diagnoses and develop management plans appropriate to a patient's clinical presentation
2. Derive problem lists and treatment plans appropriate to patient care needs
3. Manage acute and chronic conditions in medicine and surgery across the lifespan
4. Implement, assess, and modify treatment plans as required in the course of patient management.

Procedural Competency

1. Perform detailed and accurate history and physical examinations, order, perform, interpret diagnostic studies, and appropriately record medical data.
2. Perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in order to evaluate and treat both routine and life threatening medical and surgical problems.
3. Perform comprehensive and problem-focused physical examinations as clinically indicated.
4. Accurately order and interpret diagnostic tests.
5. Identify indications, contraindications and risks to procedures and diagnostic studies

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Professionalism

1. Act in a manner that exemplifies good judgment, honesty, intelligence, respect for others, and a clear commitment to the health and well-being of their patients.
2. Function as integral members of the interprofessional healthcare team, providing high quality patient care in collaboration with other team members.
3. Provide care to diverse patient populations in ambulatory, inpatient, and long-term care settings.
4. Convey professionalism, ethical integrity, caring, and compassion in all interactions with patient and colleagues
5. Consistently adhere to regulatory guidelines governing professional practice

Communication

1. Counsel and educate patients across the lifespan regarding problem-oriented conditions and health maintenance.
2. Initiate and follow up on patient referrals to specialty healthcare providers as indicated in a timely manner
3. Able to take a medical history appropriate to ambulatory, inpatient, and long-term care settings and across the life span, and to effectively record clinical encounters in documentation platforms
4. Communicate clinical thinking in a clear, understandable, and timely manner to patients and their families, physicians and other clinical colleagues, and clinical support staff.

Systems-based Practice

1. Demonstrate leadership through participation in community service, academic, and professional enhancement activities
2. Work as an effective member of a health care team in the practice of medicine
3. Utilize current and evolving best practices in the care of patients that incorporates multi-variable considerations, such as benefits, risks, technology, and costs.
4. Assume roles of leadership in clinical practice and professional advocacy for the advancement of the PA profession