

Competencies of the PA Program Graduate

MCPHS-Boston Physician Assistant Program

Graduates of the MCPHS-Boston Physician Assistant Program will be able to demonstrate all of the competencies listed below within the seven domains of competence of medical and surgical knowledge; interpersonal and communication skills; collaboration; competent patient care; professionalism; practice-based learning and improvement; and systems-based practice.

A. Medical and Surgical Knowledge

1. Recall the epidemiology, etiology, and risk factors of medical and surgical conditions
2. Describe the underlying pathophysiology of medical and surgical conditions
3. Recognize clinical presentations of medical and surgical conditions
4. Select and interpret appropriate diagnostic studies used in the diagnosis of medical and surgical conditions
5. Create a differential diagnosis and an assessment using clinical and diagnostic information
6. Develop a management plan for patients including the use of pharmacologic agents
7. Practice appropriate health maintenance

B. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

1. Sustain ethical relationships with patients
2. Possess effective interviewing skills
3. Demonstrate adaptability in communication style based on the context of the interaction
4. Provide clear and thorough patient education
5. Generate comprehensive and accurate medical documentation

C. Collaboration

1. Work effectively and collaboratively with other healthcare providers
2. Demonstrate respect to other healthcare providers
3. Make appropriate consultations
4. Keep other healthcare team members apprised of necessary patient information

D. Competent Patient Care

1. Gather essential and accurate information about patients
2. Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information
3. Develop and carry out appropriate patient management plans
4. Perform medical and surgical procedures essential to practice
5. Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in navigating system complexities
6. Utilize information technology to efficiently and effectively provide patient care

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E. Professionalism

1. Demonstrate emotional resilience and stability in the presence of ambiguity and anxiety
2. Demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients
3. Practice within the legal and regulatory requirements of the state
4. Maintain professional requirements as required by the state and the place of employment
5. Develop and maintain professional relationships with supervising physicians, other healthcare providers, staff and administrators
6. Demonstrate accountability and integrity to patients, family members and healthcare providers and the profession
7. Demonstrate a commitment to on-going professional development
8. Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles of confidentiality, and informed consent
9. Demonstrate sensitivity to diversity amongst patients

F. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

1. Analyze practice experiences and perform practice-based improvement activities
2. Utilize evidence-based medicine
3. Conduct regular self-reflection and recognize and address personal bias, gaps in medical knowledge and other limitations

G. Systems-Based Practice

1. Recognize factors that contribute to healthcare disparities
2. Apply the principles of population health to patient care
3. Effectively practice within various types of medical delivery systems
4. Charge for services appropriately with consideration of funding sources and requirements
5. Practice cost-effective healthcare and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
6. Recognize and address system-based factors that negatively impact patient care