



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and Public Health

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MISSION, VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Physician Assistant Program is to educate primary health care professionals committed to the delivery of comprehensive, preventative and therapeutic health care in a culturally and ethnically sensitive manner.

VISION STATEMENT: The Physician Assistant Program will prepare and educate physician assistants to provide comprehensive quality health care to all. In addition, the program will serve as an academic and professional leader in the physician assistant profession by contributing its strengths in education, distance education, technology, community-based training and grant initiatives.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

To hold an attitude of high respect for self and others, and to acknowledge and value the talents and skills of each individual

To demonstrate a genuine commitment and dedication to improving the health and welfare of patients

To strive for excellence in all we do

To maximize resources and through continued, life-long learning and critical-thinking, continue to advance knowledge and skills that will lead to the well-being of all persons

To demonstrate personal integrity and ethical conduct

To treat each other in a fair and compassionate manner

To foster and model professionalism

To embrace individual differences and to enhance cultural awareness

To instill the value of servant-leadership, particularly as it relates to meeting healthcare demands in areas of need

To advocate an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach in providing high quality, efficient and effective healthcare

To encourage contribution to the PA profession through scholarship, leadership and education

To enhance advocacy aptitude and core advocacy skills with a commitment to: patient-centeredness and advocacy, lifelong learning (and educating), critical thinking and creativity, critical self-reflection (and self-awareness), partnership/collaboration, and ethical, principled doing

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Train assistants to physicians who are skilled personnel, qualified by academic and clinical training, to provide primary care patient services under the supervision of a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy.
2. Provide an achievement-oriented course of study consistent with a professional educational preparation, which will provide graduates with the knowledge of mental and physical disease and the ability to accurately and reliably perform functions and duties ascribed to the profession.
3. Provide instruction encompassing the many areas of concern including, but not limited to, the social, economic, and ethical aspects of health care.
4. Provide instruction stressing the role of the Physician Assistant relative to health maintenance and preventive medicine in primary care.
5. Provide instruction that promotes the development of basic moral, intellectual, ethical, and professional attitudes to generate trust and respect of the patient population served by the Physician Assistant/Physician team.
6. Provide educational experiences that promote an understanding of the interdependence of health professionals whereby they may participate in shared educational experiences that conceptualize and encourage the interdisciplinary approach to the delivery of primary medical care.
7. Provide didactic and clinical experiences sufficient to give Physician Assistants the technical capabilities, behavioral characteristics, and judgment necessary to perform in a professional capacity.
8. Provide educational experiences that prompt an intellectual approach to the science of medicine and foster the active participation of the student in the acquisition of such knowledge.
9. Promote the intellectual, behavioral, and social skills necessary to provide high quality health care, provide comprehensive services, maintain an atmosphere of trust among the patient, family, and the health care team, and to improve the continuity of care within the health care system.
10. Promote a behavior of life-long learning incorporating the use of evidence based learning critical assessment of ones own practice.
11. Promote scholarship by advancing medical research and education.
12. Contribute to the profession by continually advancing scholarship and quality of programs.

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

Competency-based education focuses on learner performance (learning outcomes) in reaching specific objectives (goals and objectives of the curriculum). The UW-Madison PA Program is committed to providing a training experience that facilitates development and enhancement of the following curricular objectives and outcomes. Additionally, in accordance with recommendation from PA professional organizations, the program will place emphasis on the preparation of skilled professionals in the areas of the six PA professional competencies (paralleling the six general ACGME competencies): medical knowledge, patient care, practice based learning and improvement, systems based practice, professionalism and interpersonal and communication skills.

SUMMARY OF PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

1. **HISTORY:** Elicit an appropriate complete, interval, or acute history from patients of any age and either sex in any setting.
2. **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** Perform, as appropriate, a complete or partial physical examination of a patient of any age, sex, or condition in any setting.
3. **DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES:** Identify, perform and/or interpret routine diagnostic procedures based on history and physical examination findings and be able to assist the physician with other diagnostic procedures as directed.
4. **DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS/DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION:** Develop a differential diagnosis and diagnostic impression considering the data base.
5. **THERAPEUTICS:** Identify, perform and/or order routine physician delegated therapeutic procedures and, as directed, assist the physician with other therapeutic procedures.
6. **EMERGENCY SKILLS:** Recognize life-threatening emergencies and manage them in the absence of the physician.
7. **COMMUNICATION:** Communicate in a medically professional manner both orally and in writing.
8. **ATTITUDE:** Appreciate the health problems of the individual patient as well as those of population groups and approach each with an attitude of professional concern.
9. **PROFESSIONALISM:** Demonstrate the skills, attributes and behaviors of a competent physician assistant and serve as a member of the professional medical community.
10. **EVIDENCE BASED LEARNING:** Engage in critical analysis of ones own practice experience, medical literature and other information sources for the purpose of self-improvement.

OBJECTIVE I

PHYSICAL HISTORY: Elicit an appropriate complete, interval, or acute history from patients of any age and either sex in any setting.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 1.01 Obtain a clear, concise chief complaint and history of the present illness.
- 1.02 Obtain a complete past medical history including illnesses, hospitalizations, surgery, trauma, and childhood diseases.
- 1.03 Obtain a history of allergies, transfusion reactions, and reactions to medications.
- 1.04 Obtain a pertinent social history including occupation, current life situation, and nutrition, as well as use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.
- 1.05 Obtain a list of current medications along with details as to use, dose, and schedules, including the use of over-the-counter medications.
- 1.06 Obtain a family history pertaining to exposure to illness, familial predisposition to disease, or genetic transmission.
- 1.07 Obtain a pertinent review of body systems.
- 1.08 Record all pertinent historical data on the defined data base in a clear, concise, and relevant manner.
- 1.09 Establish effective rapport with the patient and their family.

OBJECTIVE II

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Perform, as appropriate, a complete or partial physical examination of a patient of any age, sex, or condition in any setting.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 2.01 Demonstrate ability to gain the patient's confidence and provide reassurance about the examination.
- 2.02 Demonstrate appropriate use of the instruments for the physical examination.
- 2.03 Perform a complete, logical, and sequential physical examination .

- 2.04 Demonstrate ability to alter the sequence and content of examination according to the special need of the individual patient.
- 2.05 Record all normal and abnormal findings on the defined data base.
- 2.06 Demonstrate professionalism with all patients.

OBJECTIVE III

DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES: Identify, perform and/or interpret routine diagnostic procedures based on history and physical examination findings and be able to assist the physician with other diagnostic procedures as directed.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 3.01 Identify the diagnostic tests available and appropriate for a particular problem, based on history and physical examination findings.
- 3.02 Identify and discuss indications and contradictions of the various diagnostic tests.
- 3.03 Identify and describe the risks, costs, and patient inconvenience of various diagnostic tests.
- 3.04 Demonstrate skills required to collect various routine specimens.
- 3.05 Demonstrate skills necessary to perform (within the scope of federal and state guidelines) and interpret basic laboratory and other tests.
- 3.06 Recognize the signs and symptoms of complications of diagnostic procedures performed or ordered.
- 3.07 Identify, perform, order and/or interpret routine pre- and post-operative diagnostic studies.
- 3.08 Identify specialized tests utilized in obstetrics, pediatrics and geriatrics.

OBJECTIVE IV

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS/DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION: Develop a differential diagnosis and diagnostic impression considering the data base.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 4.01 Develop a differential diagnosis and diagnostic impression at each stage of data collection.

- 4.02 Demonstrate ability to organize and integrate data from the medical history, physical examination, and diagnostic studies.
- 4.03 Demonstrate sound medical judgment in formulating a differential diagnosis and reaching a diagnostic impression.
- 4.04 Demonstrate the skills necessary to accurately record and present data in a manner appropriate to the setting.
- 4.05 Describe the common medical problems and their modes of presentation.

OBJECTIVE V

THERAPEUTICS: Identify, perform and/or order routine physician delegated therapeutic procedures and, as directed, assist the physician with other therapeutic procedures.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 5.01 Administer intravenous infusions utilizing appropriate equipment.
- 5.02 Administer injections by a variety of routes including intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intravenous.
- 5.03 Explain normal nutritional requirements and dietary treatment of health problems including weight reduction, diabetic, low fat, low cholesterol, and low sodium diets.
- 5.04 Describe the drugs used most frequently in treatment or health problems including basic modes of action, indications, contraindications, and complications.
- 5.05 Discuss the management of common medical problems.
- 5.06 Perform various therapeutic skills involved in all medical fields including obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, geriatrics, surgery and orthopedics.
- 5.07 Perform wound closures and wound care.

OBJECTIVE VI

EMERGENCY SKILLS: Recognize and manage life-threatening emergencies in the absence of the physician.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 6.01 Recognize signs and symptoms of common emergencies and take appropriate action to sustain life.

- 6.02 Apply basic techniques of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- 6.03 Assist with or perform other techniques frequently indicated in life-threatening situations.
- 6.04 Describe the use of and indications for standard emergency medications and administer if appropriate.
- 6.05 Describe triage procedures in mass casualty situations.
- 6.06 Respect the decision of the patient and/or family for no advanced life support procedures.

OBJECTIVE VII

COMMUNICATION: Communicate in a medically professional manner both orally and in writing to patients and their families, and other healthcare professionals.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 7.01 Effectively present a synopsis of the patient's present illness, pertinent positive and negative findings, and the diagnostic and therapeutic regimen instituted.
- 7.02 Communicate effectively with both patient and family by using a vocabulary familiar to all concerned.
- 7.03 Counsel patient and family regarding the health problem including an explanation of the disease process, therapy and its rationale, therapeutic options, prognosis, and health care services available.
- 7.04 Write in S.O.A.P. format, clear, concise, and relevant progress notes including diagnostic, therapeutic, and patient education plans.
- 7.05 Fill out routine laboratory test, EKG, and x-ray request slips and note pertinent data.
- 7.06 Discuss preventive health care measures with the patient and family.
- 7.07 Explain the format for writing an interval note, including electronic documentation.
- 7.08 Explain format for dictating or writing a discharge or narrative summary.
- 7.09 Give emotional support to both patient and family.
- 7.10 Counsel the surgical patient regarding surgical risks and complications, surgery, and the consideration of a second opinion.

OBJECTIVE VIII

ATTITUDE: Demonstrate an understanding of the health problems of the individual patient as well as those of population groups. Approach each with the concern of a professional.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 8.01 Discuss the physical, psychic, social, and economic distress created by the health problem.
- 8.02 Maintain the objectivity necessary to permit logical perspective, assessment, and solution of the health problem.
- 8.03 Develop a personal philosophy, including your own definition of, perceived role in, and goals regarding health care.
- 8.04 Recognize the importance of patient education in effecting change in the health status of both individuals and groups.
- 8.05 Discuss the difficulty frequently encountered by patients in their attempts to comply with therapeutic regimens and the health care delivery system.
- 8.06 Explain the usefulness of prepared patient education materials as well as the importance of documenting such teaching/counseling efforts in the individual patient's medical record.
- 8.07 Respect the right of the patient as health care consumer to be informed regarding his physical status, therapy, costs, therapeutic alternatives, prognosis, and services available.
- 8.08 Respect the patient's rights to individuality and privacy and treat confidential information gained with professional discretion.

OBJECTIVE IX

PROFESSIONALISM: Possess the skills, attributes and behaviors necessary to function as a physician assistant and as a member of the professional medical community.

- 9.01 Adhere to and follow statutes and regulatory guidelines.
- 9.02 Successfully complete the PANCE exam.
- 9.03 Recognize the importance and responsibility of participating as a member of the professional medical community.
- 9.04 Demonstrate effective communication to patients, families and other medical professionals.

- 9.05 Recognize the importance of being respectful to patients' individual needs and cultural diversity.

OBJECTIVE X

EVIDENCE BASED LEARNING: Engage in critical analysis of ones own practice experience, medical literature and other information sources for the purpose of self-improvement.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 10.01 Utilize critical thinking and research skills in the process of lifelong learning.
- 10.02 Interpret medical literature in order to maintain a critical, current and operational knowledge of new medical findings.
- 10.03 Convey scientific information accurately and effectively.

The UW-Madison Physician Assistant Program is dedicated to the preparation and education of knowledgeable, competent, professional and compassionate physician assistants to meet the healthcare needs of Wisconsin (and beyond) through excellence in education, research, patient care and service, while significantly contributing to and advancing the PA profession.

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