



**SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY™**

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM**  
Saint Louis University Doisy College of Health Sciences  
Department Clinical Health Sciences

## Technical Standards

Students enrolled in the Saint Louis University Physician Assistant (PA) Program within the Doisy College of Health Sciences must be able to complete all requirements leading to the Master of Medical Science degree. This degree signifies that the holder is a clinician prepared for entry into the practice of medicine as a PA, possessing the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to function in a variety of clinical situations and to provide a broad spectrum of patient care consistent with PA practice.

To achieve success in the Program and the profession, individuals must possess certain more specifically defined abilities and skills. These are the Technical Standards of the PA Program and are set forth in this document. Saint Louis University (SLU) has systems in place to assist any student who has a documented physical, psychological, or cognitive disability. SLU is committed to full compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A student who believes he/she may not be able to perform one or more of the listed essential program requirements should discuss the issue with personnel in the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources ([accessibility\\_disability@slu.edu](mailto:accessibility_disability@slu.edu); 314.977.3484; Busch Student Center, Ste 331, 20 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103-2097). Any student who believes he or she cannot meet/fulfill any part of the Technical Standards must contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (see above) to document the matter and address reasonable accommodations for the student if warranted.

Students enrolled in the Program must have the emotional and intellectual ability to learn, assimilate, analyze, and integrate information and data. Motor function capabilities must allow candidates to meet the demands of PA education and patient care. Candidates must be able to develop mature, sensitive, effective relationships with patients and colleagues. They must be able to tolerate physical and emotional stress and a fast-paced academic and clinical environment and continue to function effectively. They must be adaptable, flexible, and able to function in the face of uncertainty.

In addition to acquiring the knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes, and behaviors detailed in the general PA Program Objectives, the Technical Standards must be met by each PA student. If a student is unable to meet or fulfill the Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodation as determined by the Saint Louis University Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (see above), then his/her status as a PA student may be affected. The Technical Standards require that the PA student, with or without reasonable accommodations must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, health professionals, teachers, staff, and peers in settings where communication is typically oral or written and when the time span available for communication is limited. Students must be able to understand and convey information, accurately perceive nonverbal communication, and describe findings related to patients.
2. Observe demonstrations and visual adjuncts used in classroom, laboratory, and clinical instruction. PA students must be able to observe patients accurately and completely from a distance and at close range.
3. Elicit data from patients via palpation, percussion, and auscultation. These skills and others necessary to carry out a variety of diagnostic maneuvers and therapeutic procedures require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and sensation.
4. Acquire, assimilate, interpret, integrate, and apply information from direct observation, oral communication, written messages, films, slides, microscopes, imaging science, ECG readouts and other material/media.
5. Possess motor function sufficient to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients, such as those required in physical examination, airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, suturing and assisting in surgery.
6. Perform problem-solving tasks quickly and efficiently in an environment which may change rapidly, without warning, and/or in unpredictable ways. Such tasks require not only intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities, but also the ability to comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships.
7. Exercise sound judgment and perform all tasks related to the care of patients in a responsible and professional manner.
8. Carry out procedures involved in learning the sciences fundamental to medicine. This includes the ability to participate fully in curricular activities and requirements in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical setting.