



TTUHSC PA PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

- A. **MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE:** Demonstrate knowledge and application of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences.
1. Apply principles of basic science to patient care.
 2. Apply epidemiological principles to aid in diagnosis and treatment.
 3. Apply principles of the clinical sciences to the differential diagnosis and treatment of diseases.
 4. Apply clinical science principles to diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making.
 5. Differentiate between acute, chronic and emergent disease states.
 6. Facilitate inclusion of evidence-based medical practice by locating, appraising, and assimilating peer-reviewed information into solutions for novel health problems and presentations.
- B. **CLINICAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS:** Demonstrate ability to perform the skills needed to adequately address the patient's presenting complaints and humanistic needs.
1. Compile essential and accurate information about patients using history, physical exam, laboratory data, imaging, and other diagnostic tests.
 2. Interpret laboratory data, imaging, and other tests used in primary care.
 3. Demonstrate patient care that is age-appropriate, patient-centered, safe, effective, and efficient.
 4. Perform medical and diagnostic procedures considered essential for a primary care PA.
 5. Formulate informed diagnostic and treatment decisions using the following: patient information, patient preference, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgement.
 6. Develop patient management plans, including counseling, education, appropriate referral, follow-up, and preventive surveillance.
 7. Recognize when and why to use telehealth, and effectively use it to communicate with patients and interprofessional teams to both transmit and receive information effectively in a professional and patient-centered way.
- C. **INTERPERSONAL & COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and other health professionals.
1. Communicate effectively with other members of the healthcare team to establish and enhance interprofessional teams.
 2. Demonstrate sensitivity, honesty, and compassion in difficult conversations.
 3. Develop patient-centered communication skills to establish therapeutic relationships in clinical encounters.
 4. Maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records.



- D. **PROFESSIONALISM:** Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.
1. Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others.
 2. Demonstrates sensitivity and openness to all patients across a range of clinical and personal circumstances.
 3. Demonstrates both a commitment to ethical principles and knowledge of Texas laws and regulatory requirements for PAs.
 4. Develops healthy coping mechanisms to respond to stress and mitigate burnout.
 5. Understand the PA's role in the reduction of stigma toward vulnerable patient populations suffering from stigmatized disease states.
- E. **HEALTH SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE:** Demonstrate an understanding of the healthcare system and the effective use of available resources to support patient care. Apply knowledge of community-based services, practice setting limitations, and referral pathways to optimize clinical outcomes.
1. Design patient care plans that incorporate relevant patient circumstances, available community resources, and population-level health considerations.
 2. Identify healthcare factors that may affect patient access, adherence, and outcomes, and demonstrate professional self-reflection to support consistent, ethical clinical decision making.
 3. Coordinate patient care effectively within the healthcare system, including referrals, follow-up, and interprofessional collaboration.
 4. Incorporate cost-awareness and risk-benefit analysis in patient care decisions
 5. Demonstrate the physician assistants' value-add to the healthcare team, including the collaborative physician/PA relationship.
- F. **CLINICAL REASONING AND PROBLEM SOLVING:** Demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate the care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on self-evaluation and lifelong learning.
1. Demonstrate an investigatory and analytical approach to clinical situations.
 2. Demonstrate critical thinking in the evaluation of clinical problems.
 3. Appraise one's performance during clinical encounters through reflective practice to improve clinical decision-making and modify behaviors that negatively affect patient care.
 4. Incorporate feedback into daily practice.