

## **Kean University Physician Assistant Studies Program**

### **Admission Requirements, Technical Standards, and Technical Standards Attestation Form**

#### **Admission Requirements**

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- Baccalaureate degree (or foreign equivalent) from an accredited institution.
- Overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Prerequisite GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Healthcare Experience of a minimum of 250 hours (can be fulfilled by volunteering, shadowing PAs/Physicians, work as medical scribe, physical therapy aide, patient care technician, pharmacy technician, ophthalmology technician, or EMT). All candidates considered for admission must have spent at least 20 hours of the 250 required hours shadowing or working with a certified PA.
- GRE General Exam – competitive candidates are those who achieve scores approaching 40<sup>th</sup> percentile and above in each test area. MCAT scores cannot be substituted for GRE.
- Prerequisite courses: qualified candidates required to have a C or better in each prerequisite course. Qualified candidates will not have more than two grades of C in their prerequisite courses.
  - Human Anatomy\*
  - Human Physiology\*
  - General Biology\*
  - Microbiology\*
  - General Chemistry I and II\*
  - Biochemistry\*
  - Statistics (or Calculus)
  - General Psychology
  - Medical Terminology

\*All science courses must have a laboratory component; Human Anatomy and Human Physiology may be taken as a combined course, i.e., Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II. All prerequisite courses must be on-campus courses in the US and courses must be taken within the past 7 years of anticipated matriculation. Medical terminology may be taken as an on-line course.

- Submit 3 letters of recommendation – one should be from a course professor and one should be from a PA-C that you either worked with or shadowed.
- Official copies of ALL post-secondary transcripts (this includes transcripts that reflect transfer credit)
- Official TOEFL or IELTS scores – The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is required of all international students
- Professional Resume or CV
- Personal Statement

- Personal interview – it is expected that interviews will be granted to candidates who exceed admission criteria. Invitation to an interview does not guarantee acceptance to the program.
- \$75.00 application fee (non-refundable)

The Graduate Admissions office screens applications to ensure applicants meet basic admission requirements (GPA, transcripts, etc.) and to ensure that the application is complete.

Candidates for admission are considered comparatively on the basis of the following factors:

- Assessment of motivation, ability to communicate, problem-solving ability and maturity
- Review of health care experience, preferably including direct, hands-on patient care
- Review of letters of recommendation
- Review of personal statement and supplemental application statements
- Written sample at the time of interview

Preference will be given to equally qualified Kean University graduates.

Advanced standing is not available. All admitted students must complete the entire curriculum in order to qualify for graduation. No advance placement or transfer credit will be awarded and no credit granted for experiential learning or prior coursework.

Candidates accepted for admission are required to undergo and pass a background prior to matriculation in the program.

## **Technical Standards**

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Applicants accepted for admission to the PA Program will be required to verify that they understand and meet these technical standards prior to matriculation. Admission decisions are made on the assumption that each candidate can meet technical standards without consideration of disability.

Kean University has a strong commitment to full inclusion and equal opportunity for all persons with disabilities. The University adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Every effort is made by our staff to provide every student with the opportunity to participate in all areas of graduate student life. However, it is essential that the integrity of the curriculum be maintained, that elements of the curriculum considered necessary for the education of a physician assistant be preserved and that the health and safety of patients be considered vital. While reasonable accommodations will be offered to persons with disabilities on a case-by-case basis, in conjunction with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the

Rehabilitation Act, applicants and students must be able to perform the following technical standards in an independent and timely manner. Reliance on another individual such as a trained intermediary means that an applicant/student's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation and as such is unacceptable.

### Communication:

The ability to engage in meaningful exchange of information with others is essential and as such will require the applicant and student to have effective communication skills. Therefore, they must be able to:

- speak clearly and intelligibly, hear sufficiently, and successfully elicit and accurately share information with others using a variety of modalities;
- communicate effectively, sensitively and respectfully with instructors, classmates, patients and their families, and members of the healthcare team; and provide care in a non-judgmental manner;
- possess excellent verbal and written communication skills in the English language, including the ability to read at a level necessary for educational requirements;
- access patient information in multiple formats (oral, written, and electronic) and accurately transmit patient information to members of the healthcare team in a timely manner; and
- recognize and appropriately respond to verbal, visual, behavioral, and other non-verbal cues.

### Observation:

Applicants and students must be able to observe material presented in a variety of modalities throughout all phases of instruction including during the clinical care of patients in order to access information. Therefore, they must:

- have the visual acuity to read information presented in print and electronic formats;
- be able to observe classroom presentations, laboratory and lecture demonstrations, on-line modules, simulation activities, and clinical rounds;
- be able to observe patients accurately at a distance, and close at hand, with or without standard medical equipment to determine findings on a physical examination; noting both verbal and non-verbal signals; changes in body language, activity and posture; facial expressions, and demeanor; and
- be able to read and examine results of standard laboratory and diagnostic tests.

### Sensory / Motor Function:

Applicants and students must have the sensory and motor skills necessary to fully participate in all aspects of the educational program and patient care. Therefore, they must:

- have sufficient visual, hearing, smell, and somatic capacity to fully appreciate the nuances of the educational experiences in all settings including but not limited to the classroom, laboratory, cadaver lab, and patient care settings;
- demonstrate the functional sensory and motor (fine and gross) skills to independently and directly perform a full physical examination on patients, and differentiate abnormal from normal findings; including the ability to palpate, percuss, auscultate, and perform other diagnostic maneuvers that assist in the evaluation of the patient;
- perform cadaver dissection;
- have the hand-eye coordination and motor function to utilize diagnostic instruments and perform laboratory and clinical exposure-prone procedures under aseptic technique as needed. These procedures include but are not limited to phlebotomy, intravenous catheter placement, injections, suturing, Foley catheter placement, nasogastric tube placement, lumbar puncture, and intubation; and emergency procedures such as: intubation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, application of pressure to control bleeding, administration of intravenous medication, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers;
- be sufficiently mobile to execute movements required to participate in classroom and laboratory activities as well those needed to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients;
- have the physical stamina to complete the didactic and clinical portions of the program which include the following: long periods of sitting and standing, moving from classroom to laboratory to clinical setting, and from room to room, and location to location in an efficient manner to participate in patient care activities; and
- meet all requirements of each individual SCPE including extended standing, retracting and assisting in surgery, and maintaining patient safety.

### Intellectual Ability:

The ability of the applicant and student to acquire knowledge and integrate that knowledge into the practical care of the patient is necessary. Therefore, they must:

- have the intellectual capacity to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information from various sources;
- be able and willing to learn through a variety of teaching modalities including individual study, classroom lecture, cooperative learning, small group activities, laboratory exercises, simulation, and the use of technology assisted learning;
- develop effective and efficient learning techniques and habits that allow for seeking out new information and mastery of educational requirements;

- process and memorize large amounts of information; recall and retain information in an efficient and timely manner and be able to see the relationships between this retained information and its application to clinical practice;
- have the critical thinking skills necessary to problem solve in a clinical setting, perform multiple tasks simultaneously; discriminate normal from abnormal findings during the patient encounter and work-up, and incorporate that information along with information from peers, instructors, and the medical literature into the formulation of diagnoses and treatment plans;
- provide a reasoned explanation for clinical decisions including likely diagnoses, work-up plans and prescribed medication and treatment options; and
- provide education to patients and their families at an appropriate level.

#### Behavior; Social and Professional Attributes:

Applicants and students must exhibit professional and ethical behaviors at all times and possess the emotional health required for full participation in educational program. Therefore, they must:

- demonstrate the emotional stability and maturity to be able to exercise good judgment and the prompt completion of all responsibilities during all aspects of the program and in the care of patients;
- demonstrate honesty, integrity, dedication, compassion, nondiscrimination, and motivation in all interactions;
- understand and adhere to the professional and ethical standards of the profession;
- treat all fellow students, faculty and staff, patients and families, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team with dignity, courtesy, and respect;
- develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with instructors, classmates, preceptors, members of the health care team, patients and their families; and work cooperatively;
- be able to examine their own personal attitudes, perceptions and stereotypes in order to avoid potential negative impact on relationships;
- demonstrate a non-judgmental demeanor when caring for patients; be able to examine the entire patient;
- maintain patient confidentiality;
- have the ability to recognize their personal limits to successfully tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and function effectively under stress; remaining poised and respectful;
- have the ability to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in an environment of uncertainty inherent in the clinical practice of medicine;
- demonstrate an ability to conform to the professional policies and standards of the University, the PA Program, and multiple clinical sites which include but are not limited to behavior, responsibilities, dress code, and varying schedule and hours; and

- accept constructive criticism and respond appropriately with an acceptable modification of behavior; respond to supervision appropriately and act within the scope of practice, when indicated.

### Additional Requirements:

Applicants and students must:

- be able to attend and participate in all activities related to the curricular requirements of the PA Program including SCPEs; these activities may take place at times which differ from the University's academic calendar; occur during evenings, nights, and weekends, and at irregular hours; and are subject to change at any time;
- respectfully and professionally perform physical examinations on peers and act as a patient for peers, in order to practice history taking, physical examination and minor procedures;
- be able to transport themselves from one location to another to facilitate the learning process and patient care responsibilities; and
- be free from any active diseases that are infectious and may be spread by routine means, such as handshakes, skin contact, and breathing.

It should also be noted that successful completion of all SCPE courses is a graduation requirement, and some facilities with which the PA Program affiliates may not be able to meet the same accommodations as those offered to the student by the University during the didactic portion of the curriculum.

Applicants to the PA Program do not need to disclose information about reasonable accommodation needs prior to an admission decision. An offer for admission can be withdrawn and/or a student already in the PA Program may be dismissed if it becomes apparent that the applicant/student is unable to perform any of the essential functions or meet any of the technical standards.

### The Office of Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services at Kean University provides assistance and accommodations for all students with documented physical, medical, learning, emotional and/or psychological disabilities, both temporary and permanent. When applying for services, students should call the Office of Disability Services at (908) 737-4910, email [disabilityservices@kean.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@kean.edu), or visit Downs Hall, room 122, to make an appointment for an intake interview. During the academic year, the office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

## **Kean University Physician Assistant Studies Program**

### **Technical Standards Attestation Form**

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I have read and understand the Kean University Physician Assistant Studies Program's Technical Standards. I acknowledge my understanding and, to the best of my knowledge, agree that I meet these standards, with or without reasonable accommodations. I also understand that should I need an accommodation(s) due to disability or should the need arise during my studies, it is my responsibility to contact the Office of Disability Services to determine if any specific accommodations may be necessary and can be made.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be submitted with your application.