

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Kean University Physician Assistant Studies Program

Purpose and Scope

Technical standards are the essential, nonacademic abilities and attributes required for admission, matriculation, participation, progression, and graduation from the Kean University Physician Assistant Studies Program. They reflect the essential functions of the curriculum and supervised clinical practice experiences and are not intended to prescribe every method by which a student must perform those functions.

Applicants and students must be able to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodation. The University provides equal educational opportunity in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other applicable law. Reasonable accommodations are determined individually through the Kean University Office of Accessibility Services (OAS).

An accommodation may not fundamentally alter an essential academic or clinical requirement, eliminate an essential technical standard, compromise patient safety, or transfer the student's clinical judgment or decision-making responsibility to another person. The manner in which a standard is met may vary when an approved accommodation provides equally effective access.

Technical Standards

1. Communication

- Communicate clinical and educational information accurately, effectively, respectfully, and in a timely manner using one or more appropriate communication modalities.
- Elicit and convey information to patients, families, caregivers, peers, faculty, preceptors, and other members of the healthcare team.
- Comprehend and use written, oral, electronic, and other forms of information required for coursework, clinical documentation, patient education, and team communication.
- Recognize and respond appropriately to verbal, visual, behavioral, and other communication cues relevant to learning and patient care.

2. Observation and Information Acquisition

- Obtain, interpret, and respond to information presented through classroom instruction, laboratory activities, simulation, clinical encounters, diagnostic testing, and electronic systems.
- Observe and assess patients sufficiently to identify clinically relevant findings, changes in condition, and safety concerns.

- Access and interpret information presented in print, digital, graphic, audio, visual, tactile, or other formats used in the curriculum and clinical environment.

3. Motor and Procedural Functions

- Perform physical examinations and clinical procedures safely, accurately, and in a timely manner, with or without reasonable accommodation.
- Use clinical instruments, equipment, personal protective equipment, and electronic systems required in classroom, laboratory, simulation, and patient-care settings.
- Execute motor functions necessary to participate in anatomy and laboratory instruction, provide routine and emergency patient care, and respond to changing clinical circumstances.
- Perform the program's required technical skills, including the faculty-approved procedural competencies applicable to the student's cohort, while maintaining infection-control and patient-safety standards.

4. Cognitive and Clinical Reasoning

- Acquire, retain, integrate, analyze, and apply information from biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences.
- Measure, calculate, reason, prioritize, synthesize information, and solve problems in academic and clinical settings.
- Distinguish clinically relevant from irrelevant information; recognize normal and abnormal findings; formulate differential diagnoses; and develop evidence-based evaluation and management plans.
- Make timely clinical decisions and provide a reasoned explanation for those decisions while working within the student's level of training and supervision.
- Manage multiple responsibilities and adapt learning strategies to the varied instructional and assessment methods used throughout the program.

5. Behavioral, Interpersonal, and Professional Functions

- Demonstrate integrity, accountability, ethical conduct, compassion, respect, nondiscrimination, and professional responsibility in all interactions.
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with patients, families, peers, faculty, staff, preceptors, and healthcare professionals.
- Protect patient privacy and confidentiality and comply with University, Program, clinical-site, legal, and professional requirements.
- Receive, reflect upon, and respond appropriately to supervision, assessment, feedback, and constructive criticism.
- Exercise sound judgment, recognize personal limitations, seek assistance when appropriate, and respond effectively to stress, uncertainty, changing environments, and demanding workloads.
- Maintain behavior and emotional regulation sufficient to preserve patient safety and participate effectively in educational and clinical activities.

6. Participation, Scheduling, and Clinical Requirements

- Attend and participate in required classroom, laboratory, simulation, assessment, and supervised clinical practice activities, which may occur during evenings, nights, weekends, irregular hours, or periods outside the University's standard academic calendar.
- Travel to assigned instructional and clinical locations and meet attendance, scheduling, orientation, and onboarding requirements.
- Participate professionally in supervised peer examination and serve as a standardized patient for classmates when required, subject to approved accommodations and applicable safety procedures.
- Meet health, immunization, screening, certification, and clinical-clearance requirements established by the University, Program, and clinical affiliates.
- Maintain the ability to participate safely in patient care. Any health or safety concern will be evaluated individually in accordance with applicable University policy and law.

Reasonable Accommodations

Applicants are not required to disclose a disability to the PA Program before an admission decision. An applicant or admitted student who wishes to request an accommodation should contact OAS directly. Disability documentation is submitted confidentially to OAS and should not be submitted to the PA Program.

Approved accommodations apply throughout the educational program, including supervised clinical practice experiences. The manner in which an accommodation is implemented may vary by setting. The Program, OAS, the student, and the clinical affiliate will coordinate implementation as appropriate while preserving essential educational, clinical, and patient-safety requirements.

If a question arises regarding a student's ability to meet an essential technical standard, the University and Program will conduct an individualized review in consultation with the student and OAS. Any academic or enrollment action will occur in accordance with applicable University and Program policies.

Office of Accessibility Services

Office of Accessibility Services (OAS)
Kean Wellness Center - Downs Hall, Room 122
Telephone: 908-737-4910
Email: accessibilityservices@kean.edu
Website: <https://www.kean.edu/oas>

TECHNICAL STANDARDS ATTESTATION

For admitted students - complete before matriculation

Important: This form acknowledges review of the Technical Standards. Disability-related documentation and accommodation requests must be submitted confidentially to OAS, not to the PA Program.

- I acknowledge that I have received, reviewed, and understand the Kean University Physician Assistant Studies Program Technical Standards.
- I understand that the Technical Standards describe essential requirements for matriculation, participation, progression, and graduation and must be met throughout enrollment, with or without reasonable accommodation.
- I affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, I can meet the Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodation.
- I understand that I am not required to disclose a disability to the PA Program. Requests for disability-related accommodations and supporting documentation must be submitted confidentially to the Kean University Office of Accessibility Services.
- I understand that accommodations are determined individually through the University's established process. An accommodation may not fundamentally alter an essential academic or clinical requirement, eliminate an essential technical standard, compromise patient safety, or transfer my clinical judgment or decision-making responsibility to another person.
- If my ability to meet a Technical Standard changes during enrollment, I understand that I should promptly contact OAS to discuss whether an accommodation or adjustment may be appropriate.

Student name (print)

Kean ID

Student signature

Date

Program receipt/verification

Date received

Submission: Return this completed attestation to the PA Program by the stated pre-matriculation deadline. Do not attach medical or disability documentation.