

UMKC School of Medicine
Technical Standards

Because of our obligation to ensure that patients receive the best medical care possible, certain abilities are required of our students. To undertake and successfully complete the Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant program, an individual must possess those intellectual, emotional and physical capabilities which are necessary to participate fully in the curriculum and which are essential to achieve the levels of competence required for graduation from the program.

Candidates for the Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant degree must demonstrate the ability to work as an effective member of the health care team and must be able to observe and perform a variety of procedures. Intact sensory and motor functioning is required for accurate observation and the competent performance of procedures. Candidates must be able to observe and evaluate a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand. This necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision, hearing, touch and sometimes smell. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively, to hear and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written form. Candidates must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers. Candidates must have the ability to maintain attendance, especially in clinical coursework, in order to earn the required clinical practice hours and experience for graduation.

Problem solving is a critical cognitive skill demanded of physician assistants, and it requires the intellectual abilities of measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. In addition to these skills, a candidate must possess the high moral and ethical standards demanded of physician assistants and the emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients.

Because of the above essential functions, the School of Medicine strongly discourages the use of surrogates to perform these functions as a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. While each application is reviewed individually, it is necessary that each degree candidate be able to observe and perform each task required by the curriculum of the school. Similarly, the school does not consider the waiver of required examinations a reasonable accommodation for individuals with learning disabilities. Learning-disabled students, when appropriate,* may be granted additional time on required examinations, be examined in separate testing facilities or accommodated in other reasonable ways, but they will not be exempted from the requirement to take and pass such examinations.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine Admissions Committee for the MMS PA program will review qualified applicants who are unable to meet the technical standards for admission as stated above. The entire application file will be formally reviewed by the committee in consultation with the UMKC Office of Accessibility Services.

**Contact the UMKC Office of Accessibility Services for information regarding definition and documentation of learning disabilities.*

I have read and understand the above technical standards, and I hereby certify that I believe that I am able to meet these standards if I become a physician assistant student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.