

Technical Standards Policy

CSUSB Master of Science in Physician Assistant Program

The CSUSB Master of Science in Physician Assistant (MSPA) program has defined certain physical, emotional, cognitive, and social capacities that all candidates must meet in order to complete the requirements of the program and enter the physician assistant profession. Candidates must have abilities and skills in six essential areas: (1) observation, (2) communication, (3) motor function, (4) cognition, (5) behavioral and social attributes, and (6) ethical standards. Due to their crucial nature, these technical standards are considered essential for admission, promotion, and graduation from the CSUSB MSPA program.

The six areas of abilities/skills are detailed as follows:

Observation

The candidate must be able to process information through sensory input in academic and clinical settings, including the ability to:

- observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic and medical sciences;
- observe a patient and the clinical environment accurately at a distance and close at hand;
- distinguish between shapes, colors, and other characteristics of small objects (e.g., medication labels).
- discriminate variations in human responses to disease using visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory, and other sensory cues;
- discriminate changes in monitoring devices and alarms using visual and auditory senses.

Communication

The candidate must be able to exhibit interpersonal and communication skills to enable effective caregiving of patients, including the ability to:

- communicate clearly, effectively, and sensitively in English through oral, electronic, and written methods in order to communicate with other healthcare providers, caregivers, and patients of all ages in a timely manner;
- interpret verbal and nonverbal communications;
- speak and receive information in oral form effectively, including during life threatening situations;
- interpret written communications accurately in both the academic and clinical settings;
- elicit information from patients with accuracy and efficiency;
- describe changes in mood, activity, and posture;
- record information clearly and accurately.

Motor Function

The candidate must have adequate physical endurance, motor function, and sensory ability to:

- elicit information from patients through palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers;

- execute motor movements reasonably required to complete the MSPA program, as well as provide general and emergency care to patients. Examples of motor movements reasonably required of Physician Assistant students and Physician Assistants include, but are not limited to, patient positioning, physical examination, diagnostic maneuvers, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, vascular access, medication administration, clinical procedures using instrumentation, and use of electronic devices;
- coordinate gross and fine motor movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

Cognition (Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities)

The candidate must be able to effectively interpret, assimilate, and engage with complex information presented in the MSPA program and clinical environments, including the ability to:

- use reason, analysis, measurements, calculations, problem solving, critical thinking, synthesis, self-evaluation, and other learning skills to acquire knowledge, comprehend information, and synthesize complex concepts;
- comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures;
- interpret connections and create accurate, fact-based conclusions based on the data and information available;
- formulate a hypothesis, investigate potential outcomes, and develop logical conclusions;
- adapt to different learning environments and modalities, including, but not limited to, in-person instruction, online coursework, lectures, small group discussions, computer technology, individual study, and clinical settings;
- learn, participate, collaborate, and contribute as part of a team effectively.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

The candidate must possess the emotional health, maturity, and self-discipline required:

- for full utilization of one's intellectual abilities;
- for the exercise of good judgment;
- for the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients;
- for the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, caregivers, members of the healthcare team, faculty, staff, and colleagues;
- to tolerate demanding workloads using physical and emotional endurance;
- to function effectively under stress, as well as adapt in stressful and rapidly changing situations;
- to display flexibility;
- to learn to function in the face of uncertainties and ambiguities inherent in the practice of medicine;
- to exhibit compassion, integrity, tact, sensitivity, empathy, and respect towards people of all backgrounds, experiences, and belief systems;
- to assess and reflect upon one's own mistakes;
- to accept constructive feedback and respond by appropriate behavior modification;
- to use supervision appropriately and act independently when indicated;

- to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments;
- to demonstrate personal and professional self-control.

Ethical Standards

The candidate must demonstrate professional demeanor and behavior, including the ability to:

- demonstrate ethical behavior in all interactions with colleagues, faculty, staff, patients, caregivers, and members of the healthcare team;
- comprehend the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within these standards.

Equal Access and Equal Opportunity

CSUSB is committed to providing eligible students accommodations that ensure equal access to learning and equal opportunity for academic success. The [Office of Services to Students with Disabilities \(SSD\)](#) empowers students with disabilities by fostering skills of self-advocacy, resourcefulness, and independence. The SSD office works collaboratively with the campus community to remove barriers and promote an enriched learning environment where students with disabilities can utilize their skills and pursue their academic and personal development goals.

SSD provides the necessary support services instrumental for the achievement of chosen academic goals. Services are critical to a student's success; therefore, needs are assessed on an individual basis. This highly personalized approach has enabled SSD to successfully assist thousands of students achieve their chosen academic goals.

Accommodations

To be eligible for accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment to an instructional activity, facility, program, or service that enables a qualified student with a disability to have equal opportunity. An accommodation is not reasonable if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of self and/or others; if making it requires a substantial modification in an essential element of the curriculum; if it lowers academic standards; or if it poses an undue administrative or financial burden. Except in rare circumstances, the use by the candidate of a third party (e.g., an intermediary) to perform any of the functions described in the Technical Standards would constitute an unacceptable substantial modification.

Please note that meeting the Technical Standards of the CSUSB MSPA program with reasonable accommodation does not guarantee a graduate of the program will be able to fulfill the technical standards for future employment, fellowship, or certifying board.

Process for Admitted Candidates

Prior to matriculation into the CSUSB MSPA program, all admitted candidates must confirm their ability to meet the Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

Admitted candidates seeking accommodation are encouraged to contact the [Office of Services to Students with Disabilities \(SSD\)](#) upon acceptance to discuss accommodation needs confidentially. Admitted candidates must provide sufficient current information documenting the general nature and extent of their disability, as well as the functional limitations requiring accommodation. These requests must be initiated through SSD in a timely manner to allow time to develop and implement accommodations.

Process for Enrolled Students

As during the admittance process, enrolled students must submit requests for accommodation to SSD in a timely manner. SSD will use a highly personalized approach to assess a student's individual needs.

Technical Standards Attestation

CSUSB Master of Science in Physician Assistant Program

I, _____ [Student Name], confirm that I have reviewed the *Technical Standards Policy* for the California State University – San Bernardino (CSUSB) Master of Science in Physician Assistant (MSPA) Program.

I attest that **I am able** to meet all of the technical standards outlined in the CSUSB MSPA Program *Technical Standards Policy*.

I understand that if I am unable to fulfill these technical standards at any time after admission to the CSUSB MSPA Program (with or without reasonable accommodations), **I will not** be permitted to progress or participate in the CSUSB MSPA Program.

Student Signature _____

Student Name (printed) _____

Date _____