



**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES
POLICY**

POLICY NAME:	
RESPONSIBILITY For Development/Review:	<i>University Admin Dept. Chair/ Program Director Academic Director Clinical Director Faculty Medical Director Administrative Secretary</i>
APPROVED BY:	Faculty
DATE CREATED:	5/17/2013
DATE REVISED:	2/14/2024
REVIEWED: Annually	2/14/2024
SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS:	<i>DPAS Student and Policy Handbooks</i>
OCCURANCE:	<i>Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Yearly As Needed</i>
PURPOSE:	To define the abilities, aptitude and skills the candidate/enrolled student must have in the areas: observation, communication, motor, intellectual conceptual, integrative and quantitative, behavioral/social and physical demands.

POLICY:

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) requires all Physician Assistant (PA) programs to publish technical standards for program admissions. The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) assembled an Executive Council in 1979 to examine the Department of Health, Education and Welfare regulations relating to Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Executive Council recommended institutional guidelines addressing technical standards for the medical school admissions process. Technical Standards that are defined in Section 504 of this Act and refer to all nonacademic admissions criteria, these guidelines have been used to address technical standards in physician assistant education essential to participation in the program.

PA students must have the intellectual, ethical, physical and emotional capabilities required to undertake the entire curriculum and be able to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty. The standards describe essential functions that the student must demonstrate to meet the requirements of PA education; these standards are prerequisites for matriculation, continuation and graduation from the PA program. Furthermore, the use of an intermediary, a person trained to perform essential skills on behalf of the student, is not permitted.

Mercyhurst University physician assistant students must possess the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data. They must have functional use of the senses of vision, hearing, equilibrium and taste. Exteroceptor (touch, pain and temperature) and proprioceptor (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis and vibratory) senses must be

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES
POLICY**

and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and family members and health care providers. Candidates must be able to work effectively as a member of the health-care team. Candidates must also