



**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**

College of Health and Human Services

Physician Assistant

**Policy Name: Technical Standards Policy**

**ARC-PA Standard: A3.13e**

**Policy Statement:**

The Western Michigan University (WMU) Physician Assistant Program's mission is to prepare students to practice medicine. Medical education requires that the accumulation of medical knowledge be accompanied by the acquisition of skills and professional attitudes and behavior. In all phases of medical education, the student's ability to utilize his/her intellectual ability and maintain emotional stability, particularly when under stress and within time limitations inherent in the medical setting, is vital to the successful completion of the Program.

The Western Michigan University Physician Assistant Program is committed to the principle of equal opportunity. The WMU PA Program does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or disability. When requested, the University will provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified students with disabilities.

All candidates should have:

1. The ability to learn from and participate in instruction via lecture, computer, case assignments and group work.
2. Sufficient posture control, neuromuscular control and eye-hand coordination to effectively conduct a physical exam and use an ophthalmoscope, stethoscope, otoscope, and similar instruments.
3. Sufficient use of the senses of vision and hearing necessary to directly perform inspection, palpation, auscultation and percussion as part of the physical examination. Candidates must also be able to use their sense of vision to perform other tasks such as interpreting x-rays and electrocardiograms.
4. Sufficient communication skills to:
  - a. Elicit all components of the medical history from patients with a wide range of literacy.
  - b. Perform the history-taking task at a pace that would not pose a potential danger to the patient.
  - c. Relay the results of the history and physical examination to the patient and to their colleagues with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency.
  - d. Effectively interact in two-way communication with patients to provide and clarify information, reduce apprehension, and provide counseling.
  - e. Give clear verbal instructions in an emergency.
5. The ability to learn to analyze, synthesize, solve problems, and reach diagnostic and therapeutic judgments.
6. The ability to learn to respond with precise, quick, and appropriate action in emergency situations.

7. The ability to relate to patients to develop a therapeutic relationship with them.
8. The ability to work collaboratively with members of a health care team.
9. The ability to accept criticism and feedback and adopt appropriate modifications in their behavior.

In summary, every precaution is taken to ensure that students with substantially impaired intellectual, physical, or emotional functions place neither the educational process nor the patient in jeopardy. All students awarded a degree from the Western Michigan University PA Program must meet the basic standards for practice.

Any candidate who is admitted to the Physician Assistant program will be required to sign a statement that verifies that they have read, fully understand, and meet each of the technical standards.

Date Reviewed: 5/01/2025  
To Be Reviewed: 5/01/2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Zep" followed by a stylized "PA" or similar initials.

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Program Director