

Safety and Technical Standards North Central College Master of Physician Studies Program

Name (Last)_____ (First)_____ (Middle)_____

CASPA ID Number_____

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) is a broad undifferentiated degree attesting to general knowledge in medicine and the basic skills required for the practice of medicine. Essential abilities and characteristics required for completion of the MSPAS degree consist of certain minimum physical and cognitive abilities and sufficient mental and emotional stability to assure that candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation are able to complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of medical training. The North Central College MSPAS Program intends for its graduates to become competent and compassionate physician assistant (PA) who are capable of entering interprofessional practice, meeting all requirements for PA Licensure. For purposes of this document and unless otherwise defined, the term "candidate" means candidates for admission to the NCC MSPAS Program as well as enrolled MSPAS Students who are candidates for promotion and graduation.

The NCC MSPAS Program has an ethical responsibility for the safety of patients with whom students and graduates will come in contact. Although students learn and work under the supervision of instructional faculty, MSPAS students interact with patients independently at times throughout their PA education. Patient safety and well-being are therefore major factors in establishing requirements involving the physical, cognitive, and emotional abilities of candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation. The essential abilities and characteristics described herein are also referred to as *technical standards*. They are described below in several broad categories including: observation; communication; motor function; intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; and social and behavioral skills. In addition to these, candidates must have the physical and emotional stamina to function in a competent manner in settings that may involve heavy workloads and stressful situations. Delineation of technical standards is required for the accreditation of Physician Assistant Schools by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc (ARC-PA). The following abilities and characteristics are defined as *technical standards*, are requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation. Individuals who are currently impaired by alcohol or other substances are not suitable candidates for admission, promotion, or graduation.

CRITERIA

Students matriculating in and graduating from North Central College Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) must throughout the program be able to meet the technical requirements and must not pose a threat to the well-being of patients, other students, staff, attending physicians, or themselves. Therefore, the successful applicant for admission must have abilities and skills of five varieties:

I. Observation: The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences including, but not limited to, physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations, microbiologic

cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision, hearing, and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

II. Motor: Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to do basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, etc.), carry out diagnostic procedures (proctoscopy, rectal examinations, paracentesis, etc.) and read EKGs and X-rays. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physician assistants (PAs) are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple gynecological maneuvers such as cervico-vaginal examinations. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

III. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities: These abilities include measurement, calculations, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of Physician Assistants (PAs), requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidates should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

With regard to I (Observation), II (Motor), and III (Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities) above, please answer the following:

1. With or without accommodation, do you have sufficient sense of vision, hearing, and touch to perform the customary techniques in a physical examination such as auscultation (listening with a stethoscope), percussion (tapping of the chest or abdomen to elicit a sound indicating the relative density of the body part), palpation (feeling various body parts such as the breast or abdomen with the ability to discern the size, shape, and consistency of masses) and visual observation sufficient to note changes in skin and eye color as well as to use such instruments as an otoscope (magnifying instruments for examining the ear) and ophthalmoscope (magnifying instrument for examining the eye).

Yes ___ No ___ Use this space for explanation should you so desire.

2. With or without accommodation, do you have sufficient dexterity to be able to perform basic medical procedures such as venipuncture (inserting a needle into a vein), or suturing (sewing torn or cut tissues together with a needle and sutures)?

Yes ___ No ___ Use this space for explanation should you so desire.

3. With or without accommodation, do you have sufficient coordination to perform quickly and effectively such emergency procedures as cardiopulmonary resuscitation?

Yes ___ No ___ Use this space for explanation should you so desire.

IV. Communication: A candidate should be able to speak, to hear, and to observe the patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture and perceive nonverbal communication. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

4. With or without accommodation, do you have sufficient verbal and written communication skills to talk and listen to people so as to conduct patient interviews and to make your assessments and plans known to others on the health care team?

Yes ___ No ___ Use this space for explanation should you so desire.

V. Behavioral and Social Attributes: A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgement, 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. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the

clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and education process.

5. With or without accommodation, do you have sufficient physical, mental, and emotional ability to withstand the rigors of medical education and practice? Both may entail long hours, going without sleep, and taking care of patients with serious illnesses, terminal diseases, and severe emotional disorders.

Yes ___ No ___ Use this space for explanation should you so desire.

VI. Ethical and Legal Standards: Candidates must meet the legal standards to be licensed to practice medicine in the State of Illinois. As such, candidates for admission must acknowledge and provide written explanation of any felony offense or disciplinary action taken against them prior to matriculation. In addition, should the student be convicted of any felony offense while in PA school, they agree to immediately notify the Program Director as to the nature of the conviction. Failure to disclose prior or new offenses may lead to disciplinary action that may include dismissal.

I certify that the information submitted in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. _____

Print name _____

Applicant's Signature Date _____

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) Program does not discriminate against persons with disabilities and is committed to reasonably accommodating otherwise qualified students with disabilities so as to enable them to complete their course of study. Pursuant to applicable law, the Program will not approve any proposed accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids) that may reasonably compromise patient health or safety or that would require substantial program modification or lower academic standards. NCC MSPAS Students should contact the Student Disability Services, which coordinates accommodations for undergraduate and graduate students at (630) 637-5264 or sds@noctrl.edu with any questions regarding accommodations. Accommodation Request Procedures and Forms can be found at <https://www.northcentralcollege.edu/disability-services>

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