

**Carlow University**  
**Department of Physician Assistant Studies**  
**Program Policies**

**Policy Title: Technical Standards Policy**

**Effective Date: 7/20/20**

**Review Date(s): 8/28/20, 4/27/21, 12/6/21, 7/14/23, 8/14/25**

**Revision Date(s): 4/27/21, 8/14/25**

**Approved By: Alison Wix, PA-C, Program Chair and Director, and Full Faculty**

**ARC-PA 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Standard(s): A3.01, A3.02, A3.13e**

### **I. Purpose**

Technical Standards are nonacademic requirements that describe the physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities that are required for successful completion of the academic program and entry into the profession. Specific accommodations may be required in order to meet components of these Standards; those can be developed via the Office of Disabilities Services at Carlow University.

Program policy applies to all students regardless of location.

### **II. Policy Statement**

#### **Introduction**

1. Technical Standards: All applicants must meet the essential functions outlined in the Technical Standards.
2. The PA Program has established and publicizes the technical standards for all potential applicants via the web site and Student Manual. For questions, applicants are directed to the Carlow University Office of Disabilities Services.
3. Technical Standards: Technical Standards (a.k.a. “Essential Functions”) are defined as: Nonacademic requirements for participation in an educational program or activity. They include physical, cognitive and behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum and for entry into the profession. These are the abilities required of individuals who matriculate into the Carlow University PA Program.
  - i. Students must have the mental, physical, emotional capacities and professional disposition essential to successfully complete all aspects of the curriculum and enter and practice successfully in the profession. All students are expected to have abilities, upon matriculation, in five realms including sensory, communication, motor, intellectual, and social/emotional/professional. These abilities allow students to perform functional tasks required to meet graduation and professional requirements as measured by national certification requirements as well as state licensure and credentialing processes.
    1. Sensory: All individuals must have functional sensory capacity including visual, auditory, olfactory, and tactile capacity to observe and actively participate in various academic settings as well as the sensory capacity to perform appropriate examinations and interactions as deemed appropriate in the role as a student and graduate PA. They must maintain a clear sensorium at all times and not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

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2. **Communication:** All individuals must be able to communicate effectively and professionally in all academic and clinical settings and be able to demonstrate accuracy, clarity and proficiency in both verbal and written English.
3. **Motor:** All individuals must have the physical ability to participate in basic physical maneuvers and procedures. Students must be able to negotiate patient care environments. Manual dexterity is required of all individuals. Physical stamina and endurance sufficient to complete the course of didactic and clinical study is required. Long periods of sitting, standing or moving are required in a variety of learning and clinical environments.
4. **Intellectual:** All individuals must have the cognitive ability sufficient to understand and interpret information, as well as be able to calculate, reason, assess and integrate information, critically think and problem solve. Must be able to read and comprehend graduate level written course materials.
5. **Social/Emotional/Professional:** All individuals must possess the social, emotional and professional maturity to function appropriately and effectively in the academic and clinical setting, based upon social, societal, and professional norms, maintaining mature and effective relationships with peers, faculty, patients and others in the health care environment. All individuals must demonstrate good judgement, emotional stability and regulation, and an overall awareness of acceptable behaviors in the classroom, clinical setting, and public environments. Demonstrate compassion and empathy.

**Orientation to Policy**

1. The Technical Standards appear on the PA Program web site and in the Student Manual. Applicants are introduced to the Technical Standards at the on-campus/virtual interview. Students are re-introduced to the Technical Standards at their initial orientation.
2. Faculty will be oriented to this policy via the Faculty Manual.

**Compliance**

1. The Program Director is responsible for monitoring compliance with the policy.
2. This policy will be reviewed annually by the PA program faculty (per Program Assessment Plan) to assure it continues to reflect the current University and program policy.