

Nova Southeastern University Fort Lauderdale PA Program Competencies

Upon completion of the Nova Southeastern University Fort Lauderdale Physician Assistant Program, graduates will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

Medical Knowledge

MK1- Analyze pathophysiologic mechanisms to explain clinical presentations and guide diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making for commonly encountered medical and surgical conditions.

MK2- Evaluate patterns of signs, symptoms, and physical examination findings across the lifespan to distinguish between normal variants, acute disease, chronic conditions, and comorbidities.

MK3- Synthesize clinical data to construct prioritized differential diagnoses and design evidence-based management plans for all patient populations in various patient care settings.

Assessment: Summative OSCE, End-of-Curriculum (EOC) Examination

Clinical Skills

CS1- Collect a medical history, including chief complaint, history of present illness, past medical history, family history, social history, and review of systems, tailored to the patient's condition and context that is patient-centered and culturally sensitive.

CS2- Perform thorough physical examinations, differentiating normal from abnormal findings and correlating them with the patient's history.

CS3- Justify, select, and interpret laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging using evidence-based criteria to support differential diagnosis and management.

CS4- Triage and prioritize patient complaints and conditions, applying sound judgment to ensure timely and appropriate care.

Assessment: Summative OSCE

Technical Skills

TS1- Perform clinical procedures and technical skills while ensuring patient safety and the prevention of medical errors.

Assessment: Technical Skills Assessment

Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Abilities

CRPS1- Synthesize historical, physical, and diagnostic data to formulate a logical differential diagnosis and develop a patient-centered management plan that promotes wellness and disease prevention

Assessment: Summative OSCE, EOC Examination

Interpersonal Skills and Medical Communication

IPMC1- Effectively educate and counsel patients on individualized care plans consistent with the patient's needs

IPMC2- Accurately and concisely document patient encounters, including history, physical exam findings, diagnostic results, assessment, and plan, in compliance with legal and ethical standards.

IPMC3- Communicate effectively with other professionals on the healthcare team

Assessment: Summative OSCE, Summative SOAP note, Project Poster presentation

Professional Behaviors and Ethical Practice

PBEP1- Demonstrate professionalism and ethics through behaviors, sensitivity, and accountability essential to interactions with patients, their families, members of the multidisciplinary team, and the community

Assessment: Summative OSCE

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

PBLI1- Analyze and evaluate barriers to care in the health care system and implement strategies to continually improve the quality of patient care

Assessment: Scholarly Poster Presentation, Written scholarly paper