All SCU Physician Assistant students are required to meet/fulfill the PA technical standards. In order to fully function as a Physician Assistant the student must possess the knowledge and skills required to perform delegated healthcare duties. The services rendered must, for the safety and welfare of the patient, be of comparable quality, to that of the mentoring physician. The Physician Assistant role is that of a clinician who is skilled and knowledgeable to provide services in varied clinical settings with a broad spectrum of patient care. It is expected that each student will perform in an independent manner and with the ability to perform successfully as a member of an inter-professional team.

**Observation:** The student is required to have sufficient sensory capacity to participate and observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic core sciences, in the outpatient/inpatient setting, and at the patient’s bedside. The student will be expected to observe patients at far and near distance and accurately assess patients in both normal and abnormal conditions. Patient evaluation will necessitate both sensory and motor skills.

**Communication:** The student must have the ability to speak and hear. In order to effectively communicate the student will be required to communicate both verbally and non-verbally. Each student will be required to speak, write and read in English. The role of Physician Assistant will require speech clarity and recognition.

**Motor:** To be successful the student will be required to perform diagnostic maneuvers, therapeutic procedures and assist physicians in surgery or in the performance of complicated medical procedures. Motor skills must be sufficient enough to be able to perform a full physical examination (utilizing percussion, auscultation, and palpation). Therapeutic procedures include, but are not limited to injections, suturing, venipuncture, placement of catheters and tubes. The motor function of the candidate should be sufficient enough to provide both routine primary care and emergency care to the patient. The student must be able to navigate between classroom buildings, clinic and off campus rotation sites. The student must be able to stand, bend, manipulate and assist patients.

**Interpretative, Conceptual & Quantitative:** The student is required to interpret lab, x-ray, and ECG’s. The interpretation of diagnostic tests will require the student to distinguish deviations from normal. This process involves the ability to problem-solve on all levels including complex problem solving. The student must be able to measure, calculate, and to utilize reasoning, analysis and integration of data. The PA student will be required to make tentative diagnoses and decisions about management and treatment of patients. The ability to comprehend three-dimensional models and the ability to understand the spatial relationship of structures will be required. The candidate will be required to integrate the use of medical web-based resources and the use of the computer into learning.

**Behavioral & Social:** All candidates will be expected to possess emotional maturity and stability that are required to function as a professional clinician working both independently as well as with other members of the healthcare team. The delivery of sensitive, compassionate, skilled and effective care is the key to a successful Physician Assistant. Social perceptiveness and respect in delivering care to a culturally diverse population is necessary and will be expected. Candidates must be able to tolerate stressful workloads, stressful work schedules and function effectively under these conditions. The PA student will be required to demonstrate integrity, attention to detail, dependability, cooperation and self-control. Key abilities of the Physician Assistant role include adaptability and flexibility. SCU requires the Physician Assistant student to demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively and effectively as a member of an inter-professional team.