



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**Commonwealth University  
PA Program**

**Competencies for Entry-Level Practice**

**1. Clinical and Technical Skills (Competency A)**

A graduate should be able to elicit information from patients by interview, physical exam, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A graduate should be able to collect specimens, interpret basic laboratory tests, carry out diagnostic procedures, and read EKG and imaging studies. A graduate should be able to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients across the lifespan and in a variety of settings.

**2. Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Skills (Competency B)**

A graduate should be able to review pertinent data to formulate an appropriate differential and working diagnosis and develop a plan for additional workup to narrow the differential and confirm the primary diagnosis. A graduate should be able to develop a plan for therapy appropriate to the individual patient's condition.

**3. Interpersonal Skills (Competency C)**

A graduate should possess adequate communication skills, which includes verbal, nonverbal, and written exchange of information. A graduate should demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange with patients, their families, other healthcare providers, professional associates, and the healthcare system. A graduate should demonstrate emotional resilience and stability, adaptability, flexibility, and tolerance of ambiguity and anxiety.

**4. Medical Knowledge (Competency D)**

A graduate should possess an understanding of pathophysiology, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, health promotion, and disease prevention. A graduate should be able to demonstrate core knowledge about established and evolving biomedical and clinical sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care in their area of practice. A graduate should demonstrate an investigatory and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations.

**5. Professional Behavior (Competency E)**

A graduate should know their professional and personal limitations. A graduate should practice without impairment from substance abuse, cognitive deficiency, or mental illness. A graduate should demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population, and adherence to all legal and regulatory requirements.