

SPRINGFIELD
COLLEGE



**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
PROGRAM**

Student Handbook

**Pre-professional
Phase
6-year track**

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INTRODUCTION

The Physician Assistant Program Student Handbook contains information on the policies, procedures, regulations, requirements, and standards required for successful completion of the Springfield College Physician Assistant Program. It is a supplement to the Springfield College Student Handbook and the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs.

The physician assistant program reserves the right to make changes in the rules and regulations of the program, its academic calendar, admission policies, procedures and standards, degree requirements, and standards necessary for successful completion of the program in its sole discretion. Additionally, change may include, but is not limited to, changes in course content, scheduling of courses offered, and canceling of scheduled classes and/or other program related activities.

The College reserves the right to make changes in admission requirements, fees, charges, tuition, instructors, policies, procedures or standards, regulations, and academic programs offered in its sole discretion. Additionally, the College has the right to divide, cancel, or reschedule classes or programs if enrollment or other factors require such action.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Springfield College Physician Assistant Program. This program provides a strenuous but rewarding educational experience. Faculty and staff of the program will work with you to help you attain the goal of certification to attempt to become a physician assistant. The Springfield College Physician Assistant Program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

The ARC-PA has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the Springfield College Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Springfield College. **Accreditation-Continued** is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2026. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

I. MISSION, GOALS, and OBJECTIVES

The mission of the Springfield College Physician Assistant Program is to educate students in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in clinical, community, and academic service to humanity by building upon its foundations of humanics and academic excellence.

The Springfield College pre-professional PA program is designed to help students develop the following characteristics prior to beginning the professional phase of the PA program:

- A. A strong academic background with a firm foundation in the sciences (ie, high GPAs in rigorous coursework)
- B. Good reasoning ability and strong critical thinking skills
- C. Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to connect well with patients from various backgrounds
- D. Compassion and a commitment to service

- E. Excellent communication skills (both written and oral)
- F. Strong leadership skills but with the ability to work well on a team
- G. A good base of knowledge about physician assistants and the healthcare field in general
- H. Integrity and high ethical standards
- I. A positive attitude and the ability to function well under stress

II. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

- A. Students must provide a local address, email, and telephone number to the physician assistant program office each year. Changes in address or telephone number should be given to the program administrative assistant and updated when necessary.
- B. Each student is required to purchase malpractice insurance each year that the student is enrolled in the professional phase of the program. The insurance is linked to tuition payment. Therefore, non-payment of tuition will result in lack of malpractice insurance, which will prevent the student from engaging in history taking and physician examination exercises with classmates and patient encounters in the didactic year and clinical rotations in the clinical year.
- C. Students are expected to secure their own transportation (reliable car) to clinical sites. This is a requirement of the professional phase.
- D. Physician assistant students are expected to follow all rules, regulations, policies, and procedures outlined in the Springfield College Undergraduate Catalog, the Springfield College Student Handbook, the Physician Assistant Program Student Handbooks, and the Springfield College Graduate Catalog.
- E. Students are not required to perform administrative or clerical duties for the program or while on clinical rotation. A clinical student will not be used in substitution for a regular clinical or administrative staff member.
- F. Some of the clinical rotation experiences in the clinical year may require travel to sites outside the Springfield area. Students are responsible for all costs associated with these clinical rotations, including travel, parking, and living expenses. Students are also responsible for the costs associated with uniforms and diagnostic equipment.
- G. Because of the intensity of the professional phase of the program, students are strongly discouraged from attempting to work. Students should bear in mind that any work undertaken outside the program is not covered by the student malpractice insurance required during the professional phase of the program. Course work and clinical experiences will not be arranged to accommodate any outside work.

III. ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICIES

A. Pre-professional Phase

1. Students must receive a grade of at least C+ (2.3) in all program requirements and prerequisite courses (see list below). Students who receive a grade of less than C+ in a program requirement/prerequisite course, must repeat the course to improve the grade and will be put on probation. A student may repeat a course only once. Failure to achieve a grade of C+ or better on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program. Because of course scheduling, the need to repeat a course may result in deceleration in the program. No more than 8 credits may be transferred in *or* repeated

for the program prerequisite courses (exceptions to this rule noted in the petition policy below).

2. Students in the pre-professional phase must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better in the program prerequisite courses. At the end of each semester the Promotions Committee will review all student grades. Failure to achieve a 3.0 minimum GPA (career/prerequisite) or a minimum of a C+ in any program requirement will result in a program probation. A registered letter will be sent to any student who has been placed on probation. The student will remain on probation until the aforementioned requirements are achieved; this must be done before the start of the professional phase (January of the senior year) or the student will be dismissed from the PA program.
3. If during the fall semester of the senior year a student is placed on probation, that student will not be allowed to enter the professional phase of the program in the spring of that year. The student will have 12 months to repeat an unsatisfactory course. If the course is successfully completed, the student may enter the professional phase in the subsequent year. If the course is not successfully completed, the student will be dismissed from the program.
4. Due to the strenuousness of the professional phase of the program, pre-professional prerequisite courses and all college requirements (general education credits) must be successfully completed prior to matriculation into the professional phase of the program. Freshmen are strongly advised to meet with their advisors to carefully plan their academic schedules to meet all College requirements. Students who meet all of the above criteria in addition to other requirements listed in the Student Handbook will be allowed to matriculate into the professional phase of the program.
5. Transfer credits for pre-professional program prerequisite courses are allowed with prior approval from the student's academic advisor and the department chair. A maximum of 8 transfer/repeated credits is allowed for substitution of program required prerequisite courses. Transfer/repeat of more than 8 credits will result in dismissal from the program (exceptions to this rule noted in the petition policy below).
6. Petition Policy
 - a) Undergraduate students in the Physician Assistant Department may petition for special consideration in their academic progress (exemption from 8 credit transfer/retake credit).
 - b) Procedure: All petitions must be submitted in writing to the Department Chairperson who will discuss with the departmental promotions committee and act as agreed upon. Each student is allowed only one undergraduate petition.
 - c) Petitions must identify:
 - (1) Reason for the petition
 - (2) Personal or academic plan to be implemented
7. Program Prerequisite Courses
 - a) General Biology I with Lab
 - b) General Biology II with Lab
 - c) General Chemistry I with Lab
 - d) General Chemistry II with Lab
 - e) Pre-Calculus or higher level math

- f) Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab
 - g) Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab
 - h) Biochemistry
 - i) Microbiology
 - j) Organic Chemistry I with Lab
 - k) Statistics
8. Additional Program Requirements (do not apply toward the 8 credit rule above)
- a) 3 Upper Level Sciences
 - b) Organic Chemistry II with Lab
 - c) UG PA Seminars
 - d) EMT course 1 & 2

B. Student Performance Review

1. A review of students enrolled in the program will be conducted by the program's Promotions Committee at least once each semester after the posting of the grades by the Registrar. All program faculty are members of the committee. The committee's recommendations will be reported to the program director. Students who are being dismissed from the program for academic or other causes will receive notification from the program director. Dismissal from the PA program is not dismissal from the College.
2. If a student feels the dismissal did not follow the protocols delineated in the document and the student was treated unfairly, the student has the right to petition the Dean of the School of Health Sciences to review the dismissal process. The petition process is outlined in the Springfield College Student Handbook (<https://springfield.edu/studenthandbook>).
3. At the end of the fall semester of a student's senior year, the student must have a career GPA of at least 3.0, a GPA of at least 3.0 in all program prerequisites, and a minimum grade of C+ in all program requirements/prerequisite courses. Failure to achieve this will result in dismissal from the physician assistant program with no option for probation, deceleration, or appeal.

C. Grading System

Unless otherwise stipulated by the individual course syllabus, the grading system followed by the physician assistant program for pre-professional courses is as follows:

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3

↑ Satisfactory Performance ↑

=====

↓ Unsatisfactory Performance ↓

C	2.0
C-	1.7

D	1.0
F	0

D. Pre-professional Phase Coursework

Refer to the curriculum outline online, the degree audit, or the course catalog.

E. Leave of Absence from the Program

1. Under extraordinary circumstances students may be allowed additional time to complete the program. This request must be made in writing to the program director, who has the sole discretion to grant or deny such a request. A Leave of Absence is only granted to students in good standing.
2. In order to be considered for Leave of Absence, the following conditions must exist:
 - a) Minimum GPA of 3.0, cumulative and program prerequisite courses, in the pre-professional phase of the program.
 - b) A grade of at least C+ in all pre-professional program core courses.
 - c) Appropriate number of all College requirements and program core requirements completed to date.
 - d) Demonstrated behavior, attitude, and ethics consistent with the professional demeanor expected of a physician assistant student as determined at the sole discretion of the program director.

F. Learning Disabilities

Several different teaching methods may be used in program courses. Regardless of the method(s) used, it is the student's responsibility to learn the material. Anyone with a documented learning disability, recognized by the College, who wishes accommodations, should identify him or herself to the Academic Success Center within the first week of classes to see whether reasonable accommodations are appropriate and/or available.

G. Credit Transfer

Students transferring undergraduate credits from other institutions during the pre-professional phase of the program must consult with their advisor and the Registrar's Office to establish individual course requirements to determine whether exemptions and substitutions for non-PA courses will be granted. All transfer students must complete 1 full-time academic year at Springfield College to be admitted into the professional phase of the program. A maximum of 8 credits of pre-professional science/math may be transferred/repeated.

H. Harassment Policy

See Springfield College's Student Handbook for the harassment policy. The program will defer to the College policy when dealing with cases of harassment.

IV. MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, CONTINUATION, AND GRADUATION

In addition to the academic standards described above, students will be expected to meet the following minimum technical standards in order to successfully complete the program. Technical standards define the attributes that are considered necessary for students to possess in order to complete their education and training and subsequently enter clinical practice. These standards are prerequisites for entrance, continuation, and graduation from the Springfield College Physician Assistant Program.

Students must possess aptitude, ability, and skills in five areas: 1) observation; 2) communication; 3) sensory and motor coordination and function; 4) conceptualization, integration, and quantitation; and 5) behavioral and social attributes. The functions described below are critically important to the student and must be autonomously performed by the student. It should be understood that these are standards for minimum competence in the program.

A. OBSERVATION

1. Students must be able to observe demonstrations and conduct experiments in the basic sciences including, but not limited to, chemical, biological, anatomic, and physiologic sciences; microbiologic studies; and microscopic studies of microorganisms. Students must be able to observe intracellular details through a microscope and observe demonstrations in the classroom including films, projected overheads, and slides or other forms of visual presentation.
2. Students must be able to accurately observe a patient near and at a distance, noting nonverbal as well as verbal signs. Specific vision related criteria include, but are not limited to, detecting and identifying changes in the color of fluids, skin, and culture media; visualizing and discriminating findings on x-rays and other imaging tests; and reading written and illustrated materials. Students must be able to observe and differentiate changes in body movement, observe anatomic structures, discriminate among numbers and patterns associated with diagnostic tests such as electrocardiograms and electroencephalograms, and competently use diagnostic instruments such as an otoscope, ophthalmoscope, and microscope.

B. COMMUNICATION

1. Students must be able to effectively relate to patients, conveying a sense of compassion and empathy. They must be able to clearly communicate with patients in order to elicit information; accurately describe changes in mood, activity, and posture of patients; and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication.
2. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. Physician assistant education presents exceptional challenges in the volume and breadth of required reading in order to master the subject area and to impart information to others. Students must be able to communicate quickly, effectively, and efficiently in oral and

written English in the classroom and later with all members of the health care team. Specific requirements include, but are not limited to, the following: rapidly and clearly communicating with the medical team on rounds or elsewhere, eliciting an accurate history and physical exam from patients, and communicating complex findings in appropriate terms to patients and to various members of the health care team. Students must learn to recognize and promptly respond to emotional communications such as sadness and agitation.

3. Students must be able to read and write efficiently and accurately and legibly record observations and plans in legal documents such as the patient record. Students must be able to prepare and communicate concise but complete summaries of individual encounters and complex, prolonged encounters including hospitalizations. Students must be able to complete forms according to directions in a complete and timely fashion.

C. SENSORY AND MOTOR COORDINATION OR FUNCTION

1. Students must possess sufficient sensory and motor function to perform physical examinations using palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. This requires sufficient exteroceptive sense (visual, auditory, touch, pain, and temperature), proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibration), and motor function.
2. Students must be able to evaluate various components of the spoken voice such as pitch, intensity, and timbre. They must also be able to accurately differentiate percussive notes and auscultatory findings including but not limited to heart, lung, and abdominal sounds. Students must be able to accurately discern, through the auditory sense, normal and abnormal findings using instruments including, but not limited to, tuning forks, stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, Doppler devices, and auditory alarms.
3. Students should be able to execute motor movements to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. The student, therefore, must be able to respond promptly to urgencies within the hospital or practice setting and must not hinder the ability of their co-workers to provide prompt care. Examples of urgent treatment reasonably required of a physician assistant include arriving quickly when called, assisting in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), administering intravenous medications, applying pressure to control bleeding, maintaining an airway, suturing uncomplicated wounds, and assisting with obstetrical maneuvers. As further illustration, CPR may require safely moving an adult patient, applying considerable chest pressure over a prolonged period of time, forcefully delivering artificial respiration, and calling for assistance.
4. Students should be able to perform basic laboratory tests such as wet mount, urinalysis, gram stain, etc and diagnostic and therapeutic procedures such as phlebotomy, venipuncture, and the placement of catheters and tubes. The administration of intravenous medications requires a certain level of dexterity, sensation, and visual acuity. Students must be able to measure angles and diameters of various body structures using

a tape measure or other devices; measure blood pressure, respiration and pulse; and interpret graphs describing biologic relationships.

5. Clinical rotations in ambulatory care settings require the ability to transport oneself to a variety of settings in a timely manner, while inpatient rounds require prolonged and rapid ambulation.

D. INTELLECTUAL, CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE, AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES

1. Problem solving, a critical skill demanded of physician assistants, requires intellectual abilities which must be performed quickly, especially in emergency situations. These intellectual abilities include numerical recognition, measurement, calculations, reasoning, analysis, judgment, and synthesis. Students must be able to identify significant findings from a patient's history and the physical examination and laboratory data, provide a reasoned explanation for likely diagnoses, and choose appropriate medications and therapy.
2. The ability to incorporate new information from many sources in formulating diagnoses and plans is essential. Good judgment in patient assessment and diagnostic and therapeutic planning is primary. When appropriate, students must be able to identify and communicate the limits of their knowledge to others.

E. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES

1. Students must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities; the exercise of good judgment; the prompt completion of all responsibilities associated with the diagnosis and care of patients; and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Empathy, integrity, honesty, concern for others, good interpersonal skills, interest in people, and motivation are personal qualities that are required. Students must possess the ability to monitor and react appropriately to their own emotional needs and responses. For example, students need to maintain emotional demeanor and organization in the face of long hours, fatigued colleagues, and dissatisfied patients.
2. Students must be able to develop professional relationships with their colleagues, as well as with patients, providing comfort and reassurance to patients when appropriate while protecting patient confidentiality. Students must possess endurance to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. All students are at times required to work for extended periods of time, occasionally with rotating schedules. Students must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the practice of medicine. Students are expected to accept suggestions and criticisms and if necessary and to respond by a modification of behavior.

V. ACADEMIC HONESTY

- A. The practice of medicine requires sound judgment, honor, and integrity. All students enrolled in the Springfield College Physician Assistant Program are expected to conform to the principles of

academic honesty. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated by the program faculty or the College.

- B. Cheating also includes plagiarism which “is the act of using another person’s ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source. It is giving the impression that you have written or thought of something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else.” (Plagiarism, Springfield College Writing Center)
- C. Further forms of cheating include but are not limited to purchasing papers and presenting the same written work for more than 1 course without the permission of the instructors of the courses in which the student is enrolled. The use of cellular phones and transmitting or recording devices during exams or exam review sessions is prohibited and will be considered academic dishonesty. Discussion among students regarding testing material is considered academic dishonesty.
- D. Any instance of cheating as defined by an instructor will be investigated and will follow the Springfield College Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy in the Student Handbook (<https://springfield.edu/studenthandbook>).

VI. ATTENDANCE

- A. Springfield college students are expected to attend all class sessions for which they are registered; they are also responsible for the material covered in each class session and completion of assigned work by the announced due dates. Instructors are responsible to clearly communicate to the students via the syllabus their policies regarding class attendance and make-up work.
- B. Certain situations are recognized as College-excused absences from class, including
 - 1. Participation in an athletic activity approved by the athletic director and on file in the Dean of Students’ office
 - 2. Participation in a scheduled curricular or co-curricular activity approved by the appropriate dean or vice-president on file in the Dean of Students’ office
 - 3. Observation of religious holidays
- C. Instructors should excuse absences of the above nature if the student follows the guidelines listed below. If possible, the instructor should allow the student to make up the class work or complete an alternative assignment. A student who anticipates absences of this nature
 - 1. Must provide his or her instructors with a list of dates of expected absences by the end of the first week of class and discuss with each instructor the impact of such absences. If the instructor deems that the absences will interfere with the student’s ability to successfully complete the objectives of the course, the student must seek to reduce the absences or withdraw from the course.
 - 2. Should arrange in advance of the absence for make-up of any work that will be missed.
 - 3. Should notify the instructor as soon as possible in the event of a sudden change of schedule (for example, participation in a game rescheduled due to rain or joining a team

mid-season) and provide documentation if requested. Again, the impact of the absence(s) must be discussed with the instructor.

- D. Absences due to illness or emergency
 - 1. In the event of a missed class, notify the professor(s) as soon as possible and discuss options for obtaining missed material. Follow the contact instructions on the class syllabus.
 - 2. In the event of an absence due to illness or emergency extending longer than 2 days, students are required to contact the Student Affairs office at (413) 748-3100 so that professors and residence life staff may be notified as necessary.

VII. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, ETHICS, AND ATTIRE EXPECTED OF STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM

- A. Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical setting on and off College property. Students should understand that their personal behavior as a member of the PA program and their future profession reflects not only on themselves but also on their fellow PA students, future colleagues, and the entire Springfield College faculty and staff.
- B. Students may express personal taste through appropriate, conservative dress while attending classes on the Springfield College campus, on clinical rotations, and when attending program-related activities.
 - 1. During the normal course of interaction with others, the wearing of a head scarf, hat, cap, hood, or other head covering in a building is unacceptable. An exception to this is when such items are required as part of medical treatment, religious observance, or clinical rotation.
 - 2. In all professional settings including the classrooms, and especially in the presence of faculty and program staff, individuals are to be addressed by their appropriate professional title.
 - 3. Unprofessional behaviors as determined at the sole discretion of the department chair including without limitation, academic or otherwise, dishonesty; disruption of class activities; expression of derogatory, disrespectful comments to instructors; confrontations with instructors or peers; or displays of temper will not be tolerated by program faculty. Observation of any of these unprofessional behaviors by program faculty will lead to immediate dismissal from the program.

VIII. USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL BY STUDENTS

- A. If a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while attending program activities, the following will take place:

1. The student will immediately be removed from the classroom or from the clinical setting and be referred to the Springfield College Health Center for evaluation.
2. The student will meet with the program director, where a warning will be issued and the student will be suspended from the program as determined at the sole discretion of the program director. The Dean of Students' office will be notified immediately.
3. If the student repeats the behavior, that student will not be allowed to continue in the program until proof is submitted to the program director that treatment is in progress for the abuse. A letter from a counselor stating that the student is well enough to return to classes is required in order to return to the program.
4. Please see the undergraduate student handbook for the College alcohol policy.

IX. ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

Occasionally, accidents will occur in the laboratory or at the clinical site. Any student or staff member injured as a result of any accident involving a student must immediately file a Springfield College Accident/Incident Report Form with the program office.

X. STUDENT HEALTH

- A. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires all educational institutions to maintain full immunization records for all enrolled students. Students who do not comply with this mandate will not be permitted to remain enrolled at Springfield College.
- B. All incoming students will be required to have documented immunizations for health care providers as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Students who choose to have private health care providers administer a vaccine must provide the Towne Student Health Center with documentation of all required immunization series. Students who wish to complete an immunization series at Springfield College may do so through the Health Center. The charge for these immunizations will be placed on the student's bill. Failure to comply with this immunization requirement will lead to immediate suspension from the program.
- C. Students must carry some form of health insurance while attending the program. Students are responsible for all medical fees incurred while enrolled in the program. All Springfield College students are required to have a medical examination by a qualified health practitioner prior to enrollment in the College. The Physical Examination Report must be completed and returned to the Towne Student Health Center no later than the first day of class in the initial fall semester. Students will not be allowed to attend class, labs, or clinical experiences until the form is completed and returned to the Health Center. Any change in health status must be documented in the health record. Because of the nature of the program and the necessity for contact with immunosuppressed patients, failure to maintain a current health record will lead to suspension from the program until the record is complete.

XI. MATRICULATION FROM THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL TO THE PROFESSIONAL PHASE OF THE PROGRAM

- A. Matriculation into the professional phase of the program is dependent upon meeting the criteria listed below. The Promotions Committee will review each student's file at the end of the year 4 fall semester and will make recommendations to the program director regarding the student's eligibility and readiness to advance to the professional phase of the program. Students must meet the following criteria:
1. A 3.0 cumulative GPA in all program required core courses, and a minimum grade of at least C+ in each pre-professional program core course with all academic probation requirements fulfilled
 2. Completion of all "All College Requirements" (General Education coursework), including having completed a minimum of 112 credits by the end of the fall semester of the senior year.
 3. A 3.0 cumulative GPA in all college courses
 4. Written documentation of a minimum of 500 hours of health care experience reviewed by the student's faculty advisor according to the following guidelines:
 - a) 470 hours of patient-related experience
 - b) 30 hours of observation of a clinically practicing PA
 - c) Documentation is due in the department by Dec 15 of student's fourth pre-professional year
 5. Demonstrated professional behavior and attitude that is consistent with the Program Code of Ethics (Appendix B) with all academic and professional probation requirements fulfilled
 6. Immunization status, yearly physical exams, and TB status must be updated in the Health Center by the start of classes in January of the professional phase. Copies of the TB status and immunizations need to be sent to the PA department as well. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up to date with the appropriate updates sent to both College and the PA program.
 7. No student on probation may matriculate into the professional phase.
- B. Final acceptance into the professional phase of the program is dependent upon receipt and review of grades by the Promotions Committee. Students who know that they need to repeat a pre-professional phase required course should notify the program director immediately to avoid tuition and other College charges.

XII. PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- A. Physician Assistant Student Organization (PASO)
Springfield College allows PA students to gather together for the purpose of friendship, support, professional development, and community service.
- B. American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)
PA students are eligible for membership in the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA). Members receive official publications of the Academy, have access to a job service, and are eligible to compete for scholarships.
- C. Massachusetts Association of Physician Assistants (MAPA)
MAPA is a constituent chapter of the AAPA. Students are chosen from the programs in Massachusetts to sit on the MAPA Board of Directors. Each year MAPA offers one or more scholarships to MAPA student members and supports student projects in a variety of ways.

Students are encouraged to join any or all of the above organizations. Special rates are available for student membership.

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM FACULTY AND STAFF

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APPENDIX A: Student Self-evaluation of Professionalism

Student: _____

Advisor: _____

Semester: _____ Year: _____

Date Completed: _____

This form will be used to allow the student to self-evaluate demonstration of defined professional behaviors. It is to be completed by the student and reviewed with the academic advisor each semester during the didactic and clinical years. The student’s advisor will review the form with the student, noting any areas that need improvement. The student and advisor will discuss strategies to remedy any deficient categories or concerns and agree upon a date or time frame to reevaluate these areas. The form will be reviewed by the program director and promotions committee regularly and as needed for significant professionalism issues. Refer to the Student Handbook for details of remediation and student progress in the Professional Phase.

Student Self-assessment Professionalism/Behavioral Categories	Always Acceptable	Usually Acceptable	Sometimes Unacceptable*	Consistently Unacceptable*
Professional Appearance (professional dress, grooming, hygiene)				
Attendance/Punctuality				
Personal Accountability/Preparedness (class, group work, labs)				
Assignment Timeliness/Completeness				
Communication Effectiveness (peers, lecturers, faculty, preceptors)				
Respect/Professional Relationships (peers, lecturers, faculty, preceptors)				
Teamwork /Cooperativeness				
Respect for Appropriate Personal Boundaries				
Responsiveness to Feedback/Constructive Criticism				
Concern for the Welfare of Patients/Others (empathy)				
Recognizes Own Limitations				
Self-Confidence				
Maturity and Self-Control				
Motivation, Initiative, Academic Curiosity				
Adaptability to Stressful/Changing Circumstances				
Reliability, Honesty, Trustworthiness (Integrity)				
Sensitivity to Diversity (culture, age, gender, disability)				
Overall Attitude (must give examples or describe incident)				

*If you indicated “Sometimes Unacceptable” or “Consistently Unacceptable” for any category, please cite example(s) or reason(s) for the rating on the back of this form.

Student Comments: (optional)

Student Signature: _____

Faculty Comments: (optional)

_____ I agree with the above student assessment/ and have reviewed the students folder. I have no further comments at this time.

Discussed with Student/Reviewed by Academic Advisor: _____

Timeframe/Date for re-evaluation: _____ Next semester (circle if ok for interval evaluation)

APPENDIX B: Ethical Code of Behavior for Physician Assistants

Members of the physician assistant profession must act in an appropriate way to monitor and maintain the integrity of the standards of the profession. The Springfield College PA Program is committed to excellence in patient care and education and the training of physician assistant students. To further this goal, staff members and students are expected to adhere to an Ethical Code of Behavior in their interactions with patients, colleagues and other health professionals, and the public.

The following code of conduct and ethics is adapted from the Dartmouth College Medical School and Hitchcock Medical Center Code.

Professional Obligations

1. Respect for Persons
 - a. Practice the doctrine of informed consent for any patient diagnostic test or therapy
 - b. Treat patients, colleagues, students, and teachers with the same degree of respect you would wish them to show you
 - c. Treat patients with kindness, gentleness, dignity, empathy, and compassion
 - d. Do not use offensive language verbally or in writing when referring to patients or their illnesses
 - e. Respect the privacy and modesty of patients
 - f. Do not harass others, physically, verbally, psychologically, or sexually
 - g. Do not prejudge others on the basis of gender, religion, race, age, or sexual preference
2. Respect for Patient Confidentiality
 - a. Do not share the medical or personal details of a patient with anyone except those health care providers integral to the wellbeing of the patient or within the context of an educational endeavor
 - b. Do not discuss patients or their illnesses in public places where conversations may be overheard
 - c. Do not publicly identify patients in spoken words or in writing without adequate justification
 - d. Do not invite or permit unauthorized persons into patient care areas of the institution
 - e. Do not share your confidential computer system password with anyone
3. Honesty
 - a. Be truthful in verbal and in written communications
 - b. Acknowledge your errors of omission and commission
 - c. Do not knowingly mislead others
 - d. Do not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise act dishonestly
 - e. Do not falsify or fabricate scientific data
4. Responsibility for Patient Care
 - a. Assume 24-hour responsibility for patients under your care; when you go off duty, assure that your patients' care is adequately covered by another practitioner
 - b. Follow-up on ordered laboratory tests and complete patient record documentation conscientiously

- c. Coordinate with your team the timing of information sharing with patients and their families to present a coherent and consistent treatment plan
 - d. Do not use alcohol or other drugs that could diminish the quality of patient care or academic performance
- 5. Awareness of Limitations, Professional Growth
 - a. Be aware of your professional limitations and deficiencies of knowledge and abilities and know when and of whom to ask for supervision, assistance, or consultation
 - b. Do not engage in unsupervised involvement in areas or situations where you are not adequately trained
 - c. Avoid patient involvement when you are seriously ill, distraught, or overcome with personal problems
 - d. Have all patient workups and orders countersigned by the appropriate supervisory personnel
- 6. Deportment as a Professional
 - a. Clearly identify yourself and your professional level to patients and staff; wear your nametag when in patient areas
 - b. Do not allow yourself, as a student, to be introduced as a physician assistant or doctor
 - c. Dress in a neat, clean, and professionally appropriate manner
 - d. Maintain a professional composure despite the stresses of fatigue, professional pressure, or personal problems
 - e. Do not have romantic or sexual relationships with your patients; recognize that if such relations develop, seek help and terminate the professional relationship
- 7. Responsibility for Peer Behavior
 - a. Take the initiative to identify and help rehabilitate impaired students, nurses, physicians, physician assistants, and other employees
 - b. Report important breaches of the Ethical Code of Behavior
- 8. Respect for Personal Ethics
 - a. You are not required to perform procedures (eg, abortions, termination of medical treatment) that you feel are unethical, illegal, or may be detrimental to the patient
 - b. Inform patients and their families of available treatment options that are consistent with acceptable standards of medical care
- 9. Respect for Property and Laws
 - a. Respect the property of Springfield College and other facilities with which you are affiliated
 - b. Adhere to regulations and policies such as fire safety, hazardous waste disposal, and standard precautions of Springfield College and all other facilities with which you are affiliated
 - c. Adhere to local, state, and federal laws and regulations