

USC PA Program Competencies

The program competencies reflect the knowledge, skill and professionalism each student will achieve by graduation in preparation for entry level practice. These competencies are a result of the culmination of learning over the 33 months of the program. By the completion of the program, the USC PA student will be able to:

1. Elicit a medical history and perform an appropriate physical examination based on the patient presentation.
2. Formulate an appropriate differential diagnosis based on the clinical presentation.
3. Order and interpret common diagnostic studies based on the clinical presentation.
4. Diagnose acute and chronic medical, surgical and psychological disorders through the application of scientific medical principles and based on clinical presentation and diagnostic testing results for patients across the lifespan.
5. Develop, implement and manage acute, urgent, or chronic treatment plans including pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches, counseling, therapeutic procedures, rehabilitative therapies, or other therapeutic modalities.
6. Perform common laboratory studies and clinical procedures.
7. Initiate and recommend health promotion and disease prevention measures such as disease screening, risk factor identification and education, diet and nutrition, and immunizations.
8. Recommend and provide patient education and counseling for common medical and psychological illnesses.
9. Recognize when a problem is beyond the scope of the PA provider and refer the patient to the supervising physician, appropriate specialists, and/or community resources.
10. Effectively document medical information in a variety of formats.
11. Utilize effective interpersonal skills in written, oral, and electronic forms of communication with patients, families, and other members of the health care team.
12. Utilize and apply evidence based medicine principles and skills to guide decision making in clinical practice.
13. Demonstrate sensitivity and awareness regarding the emotional, cultural and socioeconomic aspects of the patient, the patient's condition, and the patient's family.