

GRADUATE CORE COMPETENCIES

Upon graduation CHA/PA students are expected to demonstrate competencies in specific areas. Performance should be commensurate with that of a new practitioner. The CHA/PA program provides educational experiences to support student development of requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes.

I. PATIENT CARE

CHA/PA graduates must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate and effective for health promotion, disease prevention and the treatment of health problems. Graduates are expected to:

- A. Communicate effectively and demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families
- B. Elicit a detailed and accurate history from their patients
- C. Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment
- D. Perform competently all diagnostic and therapeutic procedures considered essential for the area of practice, including an appropriate physical exam
- E. Develop and implement patient management plans and health care services, including plans for health promotion, disease prevention, and medical and surgical conditions
- F. Provide education and counseling to patients and families regarding health care management
- G. Use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education
- H. Work under the supervision of a physician and with other health care professionals from other disciplines to provide patient-focused care

II. MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

CHA/PA graduates must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical and clinical information (including epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences) and demonstrate the application of that knowledge to patient care. Graduates are expected to:

- A. Demonstrate an investigatory and analytical approach to clinical problem-solving
- B. Know and apply basic science and clinical knowledge appropriate to their clinical practice

III. PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

CHA/PA graduates must be able to evaluate their practice in the context of current scientific evidence. Graduates must be able to access, critically evaluate and apply this evidence to improve patient care.

- A. Analyze current practice and identify areas for practice improvement
- B. Identify, locate and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health
- C. Obtain and use information to benefit their own patient population
- D. Apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of studies and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness
- E. Use information technology to manage information, access on-line information; and support their own continued learning

IV. INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

CHA/PA graduates must be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their patients families, and professional colleagues from a variety of disciplines. Graduates are expected to:

- A. Create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients
- B. Use effective listening skills and elicit and provide information using effective nonverbal, explanatory questioning and writing skills
- C. Work effectively with others as a team member or leader of a health care team or other professional group, under the supervision of a physician
- D. Use effective communication skills to refer patients to other health care providers or systems

V. PROFESSIONALISM

CHA/PA graduates must demonstrate commitment to professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to diverse patient populations. Graduates are expected to:

- A. Demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity; responsiveness to the needs of patients and society that supersedes self-interest; accountability to patients, society and the profession; and commitment to excellence and on-going professional development
- B. Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent and business practices
- C. Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender and disabilities

VI. SYSTEM-BASED PRACTICE

CHA/PA graduates must demonstrate awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care and the ability to effectively call on system resources to provide care that is of optimal value. Graduates are expected to:

- A. Understand how their patient care and professional practices affect other health care professionals in the health care organization, the larger society and how these elements of the system affect their own practice
- B. Know how medical practice and delivery systems differ from one another, including methods of controlling health care costs and allocating resources
- C. Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
- D. Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities
- E. Know how to partner with health care managers and providers to assess, coordinate and improve health care and know how these activities can affect system performance.