Technical Standards
All individuals admitted to The College of St. Scholastica’s Physician Assistant Master’s Program must possess the capabilities to complete the entire curriculum. This description defines the capabilities that are necessary for an individual to successfully complete the Physician Assistant Program curricula.

Observation and Sensation
The PA student must possess sufficient visual, auditory, and tactile sensation to receive appropriate information in the classroom, laboratory, and other educational and clinical settings. Sensation must be satisfactory to receive verbal and nonverbal communications from patients and others, and to perform inspection, auscultation and palpation techniques during the physical examination.

Communication
The PA student must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients, family members, and other clinicians in English. This includes expressive and receptive modes of verbal, nonverbal, written and electronic communication. The student must have the ability to accurately assess receptive communication in order to make appropriate and timely responses. The student must be able to communicate attentively, effectively, and sensitively to others.

Motor Functions
Students must have sufficient strength and coordination to perform the activities required of a physician assistant. These include, but are not limited to, performing a physical examination utilizing diagnostic instruments and techniques in palpation and percussion. Students must have sufficient stamina to sit, stand, and move within classroom, laboratory, examination rooms, treatment rooms, and operating rooms for long periods of time. The student must have sufficient coordination to move about patient care environments, and sufficient dexterity to use common medical instruments.

Intellectual Capability
Clinical problem solving and reasoning require the intellectual ability to accurately measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, learn, and retain information; and to make decisions in a timely manner. Students must be able to comprehend two and three-dimensional structures, and must be able to understand diagnostic testing and treatment regimens.

Behavioral and Social Proficiency
Students must possess the ability to establish and maintain appropriate professional relationships, which includes working collaboratively with all members of the health care team. This includes the ability to prioritize competing demands, to function in stressful circumstances, to exercise good clinical judgment, to act ethically, to be compassionate, empathetic, responsible, and tolerant toward patients and others. Students must have the emotional health to fully use their intellectual ability.
**Job Description**

**Typical Mental Demands**
The PA student must possess the ability to:

- Process, retain, comprehend, integrate, analyze, synthesize, and apply a large volume of data related to the art and science of medicine, including legal, ethical, and moral concepts.
- Be present during long hours in the following settings: classrooms, laboratories, clinicals, and self-directed study situations and environments.
- Respond appropriately and timely to constructive faculty feedback.
- Effectively communicate through written and verbal communication skills.
- Participate in educational activities that include tests, examinations, demonstrations, simulations, presentations, written communication skills, frequent and exacting evaluations.
- Demonstrate the ability to gather patient data and perform and report the physical examination.
- Conduct patient assessment and evaluation, formulate a treatment plan and perform patient education.
- Demonstrate perseverance to complete the PA curriculum and enter into the practice of medicine.

**Typical Physical Demands**
The PA student must possess:

- Full range of body motion including assisting patient movement, manual and finger dexterity, and eye-hand coordination.
- Normal visual and hearing acuity.
- Physical capacity to stand and walk for extended hospital and clinic visits, and during frequent and prolonged patient and professional interactions.
- Ability to respond to emergency situations quickly and appropriately.
- Physical capacity to sit for long periods during classroom and laboratory experiences.
- Capability to work in physically and mentally stressful situations with long and irregular hours and with exposures to communicable diseases and body fluids.

**Typical Working Conditions**
The PA student must be able to:

- Work in clinical and classroom environments with exposure to communicable diseases, bodily fluids, toxic substances, ionizing radiation, medicinal preparations, hostile individuals, and other such conditions common to the medical and surgical environments.
- Interact with diverse patient populations of all ages with a range of acute and chronic medical and surgical conditions.

**Student Performance Requirements**
The PA student will be required to perform in the following situations:

- Medical, surgical, pediatric, obstetric/gynecologic, and other primary care medicine settings (inpatient and out-patient) at both campus and off-campus locations.
- Didactic and clinical education and training.
● Invasive and non-invasive procedures
● Pre-, intra-, and post-operative activities
● Emergency care

The PA Student will be required to:
● Attend all classes and educational sessions
● Display an ability to perform for long hours (physical and mental stamina)
● Complete demanding didactic and clinical evaluations, examinations, etc.
● Perform at the level determined and required by the faculty
● Participate in community and/or professional service activities
● Arrange for transportation between educational and clinical settings
● Accept clinical site placements as assigned by the program
● Complete all rotations which may include extended hours of instruction including nights, weekends, holidays.
● Submit to a background check
● Sign the Academic Honesty Agreement in the Student Handbook
● Receive training in and uphold the tenets of HIPAA
● Complete other responsibilities and tasks as assigned or required

It is the responsibility of the student to affirm that they meet the technical standards. During enrollment, the program will monitor for continuing compliance with technical standards. If you have any questions regarding these standards or your ability to meet these standards, please contact the Program Director.

The College of St. Scholastica is an equal opportunity employer committed to enriching education and promoting opportunity through a culturally diverse faculty, staff and student body. The CSS PA Program will attempt to develop ways of opening its curriculum to competitive, qualified disabled individuals. In doing so, however, the program must maintain the integrity of its curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the education of a PA.