Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program

Technical Standards
All individuals admitted to The College of St. Scholastica’s Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies 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 PA 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 PA. 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.