

## 5.7 PROGRAM REQUIRED COMPETENCIES FOR ENTRY LEVEL PRACTICE

The following list defines the USF PA Program's competencies, or the medical knowledge, interpersonal, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, and clinical reasoning and problem-solving abilities required for entry level practice. These competencies are consistent with the competencies as defined by the PA profession (<https://www.aapa.org/download/90503/>) (A3.12g):

1. Embrace the role of a physician assistant and recognize personal limitations while practicing.
2. Apply critical thinking and medical decision-making strategies to all aspects of acute and chronic patient care.
3. Practice evidence-based medicine which incorporates life-long learning and current clinical guidelines.
4. Communicate effectively with patients and families by utilizing patient centered interpersonal skills that incorporate mutual respect with the patient, effective provider-patient interactions, and cultural awareness.
5. Accurately complete written documentation of patient care, to include orders and referrals to other specialty care providers.
6. Elicit a patient-centered problem-oriented or comprehensive history from a patient of any age and gender utilizing appropriate interpersonal skills and cultural awareness.
7. Perform an appropriate focused and comprehensive physical examination for a patient of any age and gender recognizing normal and abnormal findings.
8. Possess a thorough understanding of medical ethics and the legal aspects of professional practice.
9. Integrate findings of the history, physical examination, risk factors, and epidemiology to formulate an appropriate problem list and differential diagnosis.
10. Effectively orally present a patient to collaborating provider incorporating cultural sensitivity regarding diverse patient populations.
11. Perform patient education which considers social determinants and encourages treatment adherence and lifestyle modification.
12. Practice preventive care including age-appropriate screening, immunization recommendations, patient education, and behavioral modifications.
13. Identify, order, and interpret laboratory and diagnostic studies to appropriately address a patient's differential diagnosis.
14. Prepare, implement, and monitor cost-effective treatment plans that utilize pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapeutic modalities in a variety of patient care areas across the life span.
15. Appropriately perform diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures and counsel patients regarding procedure, side effects, follow-up care, and informed consent.
16. Utilize medical knowledge of acute and chronic medical and surgical conditions including anatomy, physiology, etiology, pathophysiology, incidence, risk factors, clinical presentation, differential diagnosis, and treatment strategies to effectively manage a patient across the life span.
17. Distinguish between emergent and non-emergent patient presentation and appropriately initiate evaluation and clinical intervention in life-threatening situations.
18. Implement public health and patient safety approaches to improve the quality of patient care.
19. Practice professionalism in all aspects of clinical practice while advocating for the patient.
20. Perform as an interprofessional team member and understand the roles of other health care professionals.