

Policy - Student Role in Classroom and SCPEs

Origin Date: November 25, 2013

Last Evaluated: March 2025

Responsible Party: Program Director

Minimum Review Frequency: Biennially

Approving Body: Principal Faculty

DPAS Associated Forms:

DPAS Active Student Participation in Classroom
Student Handbook Section V Acknowledgement Agreement

ARC-PA Associated Standards:

A3.05

The program *must* define, publish, make *readily available* and consistently apply a policy that PA students *must* not substitute for or function as:

- a) *instructional faculty* and
- b) *clinical or administrative staff*.

Purpose and Background

Physician Assistant students come from diverse backgrounds with varying life and professional experiences, which will prove beneficial in the educational setting. The purpose of this policy is to define the role of the physician assistant student during program enrollment and to define boundaries as to the appropriate use of a student's prior knowledge and skills

Policy Statement

While enrolled in the physician assistant program at High Point University, students are to assume the role of a learner. Therefore, students should not be utilized to fulfill faculty or clinical staffing duties that would otherwise be provided by an employee of the University or outside organization. In compliance with the ARC-PA standards stated above, the High Point University Physician Assistant Program:

- o Does not permit students to substitute for or function as instructional faculty (paid or volunteer). Students may actively participate with faculty and are encouraged to share their professional

experiences/knowledge as well as any technical skills they may possess that contribute to the enhanced learning of fellow classmates in didactic, laboratory and technical skills lab settings. However, students may not be the primary instructor for any component of the program curriculum. Students may also not participate in the primary assessment of other students, except as indicated in the student reflection activities.

- Does not permit students to substitute for clinical or administrative staff during supervised clinical practice experiences. Patient care provided by the student must be directly supervised. This is outlined in the Preceptor Handbook which is provided to each preceptor/clinical site as well as the Student Handbook provided to all students.

As part of the program's preclinical curriculum, students are taught how to perform physical exam and various technical skills that require student involvement and participation. Having students actively participate not only in the role of the provider, but also that of the patient, allows students to develop an appreciation of the patient's perspective, hence, producing a more sensitive clinician. Additionally, active participation and repetition reinforce learning. Therefore, the High Point University Physician Assistant Program:

- Requires active participation of students in the role of provider and patient during selected clinical skills courses within the curriculum. Students are expected to willingly participate in a professional manner. On occasion, it will be requested that students wear appropriate clothing that will easily facilitate physical exam by fellow classmates. For females, this will consist of an appropriate sports bra or tank top and shorts, and males will be requested to wear shorts. Students who require accommodations related to this policy should meet with the course instructor and provide reasonable justification for an alternative approach that allows the student to comply with the intent of the policy to the best of their ability.
- Requires students to sign the HPU DPAS Active Student Participation in Classroom form at the start of the program, and the Student Handbook Section V Acknowledgement Agreement at the start of the clinical year, documenting their understanding of and compliance with this policy.

Please see the Policy on Student Attendance, Participation and Inclement Weather for additional expectations of students in the classroom and during SCPEs.

Approved By: Principal Faculty

Modified: February 5, 2015, April 2017, April 2019, April 2021(ARC Standards Updated), April 2023

Next Review: Spring 2027