



POLICY TITLE

Student Substitution as Instructional, Clinical or Administrative Staff Policy

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy outlines the policy and procedures addressing PA students functioning as instructional faculty, clinicians or administrative staff. This policy also stipulates that students are not required to work for the program.

ARC-PA STANDARD ADDRESSED

A3.04: The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply a policy that PA students must not be required to work for the program.

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 b) clinical or administrative staff

RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE

This policy will be reviewed in even-numbered year as needed by the Directors of Pre-Clinical and Clinical Education, elevating any policy amendments to the Program Director for approval.

DEFINITIONS

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 appropriate use of the student's prior knowledge and skills that they may possess.

POLICY

While enrolled in the physician assistant program at UNC, students are to assume the role of a learner. At no time is a student to be substituted for an instructional faculty (paid or volunteer) or clinician. Students must ensure all services provided to patients are directly supervised. 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 the didactic, laboratory and technical skills lab settings. However, students may not participate in the primary assessment of other students, except as indicated in the student reflection activities.

UNC Students will not serve or perform as administrative staff members of the program unless they are part of a specific federal, state, or College/University work-study program. Students are not to perform required work for the program. Work study students are not permitted to have access to confidential student records or student information and/or testing materials.

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 UNC 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.

As part of the program's clinical curriculum, students in the UNC PA program will rotate in seven mandatory specialties including Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Women's Health and Behavioral Health/Psychiatry. These clinical rotations will offer students the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of illness and injury states as well as being exposed to various patient populations.

The student is not considered an employee of any clinical affiliate and should not be a substitute for, or take on any responsibilities of, regular staff. Patient care provided by the student must be directly supervised. If a student has a concern about the responsibilities assigned by the clinical site, the Director of Clinical Education should be contacted immediately.

PUBLISHED

- UNC PA Program Policies and Procedures web page: <https://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/unc-pa/students/policies-procedures/>
- UNC PA Program Student Handbook

HISTORY OF APPROVAL AND UPDATES

Initially approved by Program Director, 7 August 2020