



Student Role in Classroom and SCPEs

* Last Evaluated: October 2017

* Scheduled Review: October 2018

Purpose and Background:

Physician Assistant students often bring knowledge and prior experiences and skills that are valuable to contribute in a learning environment. The purpose of this policy is to outline the student's role in the learning environment and establish boundaries for how these contributions can be utilized.

Policy Statement:

The role of the Physician Assistant student during the course of their studies is that of a learner. Therefore, students are not permitted to assume functions that should be fulfilled by organizational employees. In compliance with the associated standards, the UC PA Program:

1. Does not permit students to substitute for or function as instructional faculty. Students may assist faculty in didactic and laboratory sessions so the benefits of their knowledge and skills can be realized. However, they are not permitted to be the primary instructor or instructor of record for any component of the curriculum.
2. Does not permit students to substitute for clinical or administrative staff during supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs). This is outlined in the PA Program Faculty and Preceptor Handbook that is provided to SCPE sites.

There are multiple physical examination and skills activities that occur throughout the program. In addition to training students in the role of practitioner, having students fill the role of patients during these activities helps them to become sensitive to the patient perspective. Additionally, active participation and repetition reinforce learning.

Therefore, the UC PA Program:

1. Requires the participation of students as human subjects during selected courses of the preclinical phase. We expect students in this Program to willingly participate in all aspects of physical exam and technical skills training in a professional and cooperative manner. At various times, students will be asked to wear clothing that will easily allow physical examination by another student. Females will be asked to wear a modestly appropriate sports bra and shorts, and males will be asked to wear shorts.
2. Requires students to sign a form signifying understanding of this policy and a willingness to abide by it (See [Human Subject Consent Form](#)) .

ARC-PA Associated Standards:

- A3.05 – Students must not substitute for or function as instructional faculty
- A3.06 – Students must not substitute for clinical or administrative staff during supervised clinical practical experiences (SCPEs)