



Policy Title:

Faculty as Healthcare Providers

Policy Identifier:

A3.06

Prepared by: PA Program Faculty	Creation Date: 01/01/2026
Reviewed by: PA Program Executive Committee	Review Date: 01/01/2026
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Category: Administrative Policies	

ARC-PA Standards

A3.06

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia PA students.

Policy Statement

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (USC SOMC) Physician Assistant (PA) Program strictly prohibits the Program Director, Medical Director, and Principal Faculty from providing medical care to students enrolled in the program, except in cases of emergency when no other qualified healthcare provider is immediately available.

This policy ensures impartiality in the academic and professional relationship between faculty and students and supports ethical standards consistent with higher education and healthcare best practices.

Reason for Policy

To ensure compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.06 by establishing clear boundaries that preclude the Program Director, Medical Director, and Principal Faculty from serving as healthcare providers for students, except in emergency situations. This policy is designed to preserve professional boundaries, prevent conflicts of interest, and maintain objectivity in student evaluation and assessment.

Policy Guidelines

General Provisions

- The **Program Director, Medical Director, and Principal Faculty** shall not participate in any aspect of a student’s personal healthcare, including but not limited to:
 - Physical examinations, diagnoses, or treatment of medical conditions.
 - Prescription or administration of medications.
 - Provision of mental health counseling or therapy.
 - Management of chronic health issues or preventive care.
- Faculty who are licensed healthcare providers may continue to practice clinically in non-program settings; however, they must not treat currently enrolled PA students as patients in any professional capacity, except in emergency circumstances as defined below.



Emergency Situations

In the event of an emergency requiring immediate care to prevent serious harm, faculty may provide essential first aid or emergency medical assistance until appropriate medical personnel can assume care.

Any such incident must be:

- Reported to the Program Director (if not involved) or the Assistant Dean for Clinical Graduate Programs.
- Documented in writing, including the nature of the emergency, care provided, and the transition of care to another provider.

Enforcement and Accountability

Violations of this policy may constitute breaches of professionalism and institutional ethics and will be addressed in accordance with USC SOMC policies on faculty conduct and student-faculty relations.

Students who require healthcare services will be referred to:

- The USC Student Health Center, or
- An appropriate outside healthcare provider of their choosing.

Contacts

Program Director
USC School of Medicine Columbia
Physician Assistant Program

History

Date of Change	Change
01/01/2026	Policy drafted into new template