



# MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
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Dear Valued Preceptors,

Amid the nationwide unrest surrounding systemic social and racial injustice, we aim to remind all preceptors of cultural diversity and the effects of implicit and explicit bias on the clinical teaching environment. Attitudes, perceptions, and stereotypes of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, etc. permeate human behavior. Healthcare providers' implicit (unconscious) and explicit (conscious) biases can influence patient care management and students' clinical training.

The Physician Assistant (PA) program at Midwestern University promotes and trains its students in supporting diversity and healthcare equality. Students receive training on social determinants of health, cultural competency, and ethical practice. An essential skill for our graduates is to have an awareness of unconscious biases.

All healthcare providers must be sensitive and knowledgeable of cultural diversity. As clinical preceptors, we hope that you will model exemplary ethical and moral behavior in your clinical practice and precept students free of bias. Efforts to remove bias include raising awareness of one's own biases, affirming differences, yielding sensitivity, and demonstrating cultural humility.<sup>1</sup> We encourage you to take the opportunity to provide teachable moments and support a learning environment of inclusion and respect.

Sincerely,

The Clinical Team at MWU PA Program  
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Rust G, Kondwani K, Martinez R, et al. A crash-course in cultural competence. *Ethn Dis.* 2006;16(2 Suppl 3):S3-36.