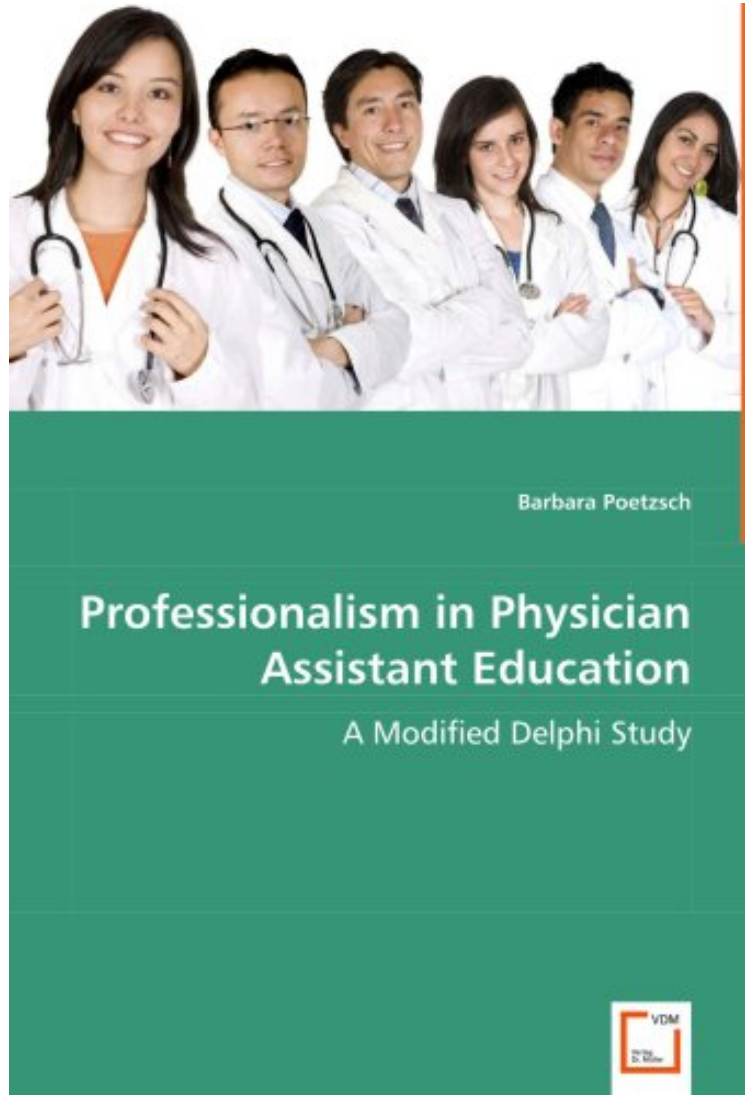


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Professionalism in Physician Assistant Education: A Modified Delphi Study

Barbara Poetzsch

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Development of professional dispositions and behaviors is part of the professional training for physician assistant students. In addition to a sound knowledge base and technical skills, future physician assistants need professional and interpersonal skills in order to function competently in today's health care system. If physician assistant programs are to produce graduates who embrace and exemplify these professional and interpersonal skills, then we must have a better understanding of how we as a profession interpret the concept of professionalism. This book provides a perspective on professionalism that focuses on the behaviors of students. A consensus understanding of the behaviors of professionalism for physician assistant students was derived by polling the leaders in PA education via the Delphi technique. The resulting list of behaviors should be especially useful to physician assistant educators as they continue to develop their curricular efforts in the area of professionalism.

About the Author Barbara Poetzsch, PhD, RPA-C has been a PA for 28 years, and is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. She currently works as an Assistant Professor at the Albany Medical College, Center for Physician Assistant Studies in Albany, NY. She completed her doctoral education at Capella University.