

Sara Kate Stringfellow

Sara Kate Stringfellow, MHS, PA-C, serves as Director of Didactic Education and Curricular Innovation and faculty in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at the University of South Alabama. A graduate of the University of South Alabama Physician Assistant Studies program, she combines her academic role with continued clinical practice in pediatric emergency medicine.

Professor Stringfellow's clinical and academic interests center on the care of pediatric and other vulnerable patient populations, with particular emphasis on the recognition and prevention of abuse and neglect. She is especially interested in preparing healthcare professionals to recognize subtle or easily missed findings of maltreatment and to approach these cases with sound clinical reasoning, compassion, and an understanding of the ethical responsibilities of healthcare providers.

Her educational interests also include simulation-based learning and the preparation of learners for sensitive and emotionally complex clinical encounters. Her work focuses on using simulation and experiential learning to build not only clinical competence, but also confidence, communication skills, empathy, and emotional preparedness for challenging conversations and patient interactions, including delivering difficult news and caring for patients and families during high-stakes encounters.

Professor Stringfellow is currently pursuing a Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) degree. Her broader scholarly interests include physician assistant education, clinical reasoning, simulation, emergency medicine, professional ethics, and the role of empathy and human connection in patient care.

As an educator and practicing physician assistant, Professor Stringfellow is committed to preparing future PAs who are clinically capable, thoughtful, compassionate, and prepared to care for patients during some of their most vulnerable moments.