



Physician Assistant Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

MPAS PROFESSIONAL CURRICULUM – DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Semester One (Summer)

Anatomy 429 Human Anatomy Laboratory for Physician Assistants: 5 cr. Prosected specimens and supervised dissection of human cadavers.

PA 550 Fundamentals of Clinical Medicine: 3 cr. Introduces the student to information fundamental to understanding clinical medicine principles. Topics addressed include: select areas of physiology-pathophysiology, pharmacology, laboratory medicine, radiology, genetics, and common systemic disease processes.

PA 616 Professional Seminar I: 1 cr. First in a sequence of professional seminars that will occur in each semester throughout didactic and clinical year training. Focuses on introduction to the profession and professional issues specific to PAs, emphasizing the PA professional competencies. Faculty mentors are assigned; students begin to conceptualize a capstone project which will continue development throughout their didactic and clinical years.

PA 619 History and Physical Examination for Physician Assistants: 4 cr. Designed to provide physician assistant students with the knowledge and physical exam skills to evaluate patients in a variety of settings. Normal and pathological physical findings discussed. Students learn interview skills and physical exam skills applicable to primary care patients. Selected physical exam techniques emphasized.

Semester Two (Fall)

Medical Microbiology 504 Infectious Diseases of Human Beings: 3 cr. Course content covers pathogenesis, clinical descriptions, and prevention. Interdisciplinary course directed primarily to physician assistant, pharmacy, and nursing students.

PA 601 Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants I: 5 cr. Clinical medicine modules: neurology, psychiatry, hematology/oncology, ophthalmology, ENT, endocrinology, and dermatology. In-depth course, covering pathophysiology, signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, prevention, and management. Lectures given by medical school and other faculty, program staff, community physicians and certified physician assistants. Case studies assist in development of clinical problem-solving skills.

PA 610 Clinical Prevention and Community Practice I: 1 cr. Addresses individually-oriented and population-oriented preventive efforts and interaction between the two. Four major components will be addressed: evidence-based practice, clinical preventive services and health promotion, health systems and health policy, and community aspects of practice. Case examples, service-learning, problem-based learning and community-oriented primary care learning experiences are incorporated into the course.

PA 617 Professional Seminar II: 1 cr. Emphasis on principles of evidence-based medicine and research methods and design.. Case-studies and evaluation of the literature heavily utilized. Continued development of capstone project. P: PA 616.

PA 620 Advanced Patient Evaluation in the Primary Care Setting I: 1 cr. Builds on PA 619 to promote advanced comprehensive skills in physical examination, patient evaluation techniques with an emphasis on the musculoskeletal system, and advanced medical interviewing skills. P: PA 619.

PA 630 Women's Health: 2 cr. Course content includes the fundamentals of pre/postnatal care, normal/abnormal labor and delivery, gynecological problems encountered in primary care, and overriding concepts of women's health and preventive medicine.

PA 640 Clinical Pharmacology I: 2 cr. Emphasis placed on pharmacological, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of drugs and drug classes; specifically, pharmacology and clinical pharmacotherapeutics related to disease processes of the neurologic, psychiatric, hematologic/oncologic, ophthalmologic, otolaryngologic, endocrinologic, dermatologic systems, plus infectious disease, women's health and pain management. Discussion of treatment guidelines, indications, contraindications, PA prescriptive practice, prescription writing, drug law, drug information resources and case studies. Emphasis placed on interpretation of the medical literature using principles of evidence-based medicine.

PA 650 Diagnostic Methods I: ECG, Laboratory Medicine: 1 cr. Emphasizes the utilization of laboratory methods for the diagnosis and treatment of disease. ECG and laboratory medicine taught in integrated relationship to the clinical medicine course, and other focused curriculum, and in readiness for cardiology and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) in the beginning of the spring semester.

Elective: 1-2 cr. (optional)

Semester Three (Spring)

PA 602 Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants II: 6 cr. Clinical Medicine II modules: cardiology, pulmonology, gastroenterology, nephrology, urology, rheumatology, geriatrics and family medicine. In-depth course, covering pathophysiology, signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, prevention and management. Lectures given by medical school and other faculty, program staff, and community physicians and certified physician assistants. Case studies assist in development of clinical problem solving skills. P: PA 601.

PA 603 Pediatrics: 2 cr. Introductory pediatrics course which covers problems encountered in the general pediatric population and reinforces basic primary care clinical principles.

PA 611 Clinical Prevention and Community Practice II: 1 cr. Continuation of course content described in Clinical Prevention and Community Practice I; where appropriate, integration with clinical medicine and other curriculum (described above). P: PA 610.

PA 618 Professional Seminar III: 1 cr. Emphasis on epidemiology and medical ethics. Student works with faculty mentor to create and shape a clinical question/project and implement a literature search. Allows for independent focus on capstone project. P: PA 617.

PA 621 Advanced Patient Evaluation in the Primary Care Setting II: 1 cr. Sequel to PA 620 to promote advanced comprehensive skills in physical examination, patient evaluation techniques, and advanced medical interviewing skills. Emphasis on developing differential diagnoses, ordering appropriate laboratory and imaging studies, and completing assessment and plan components of a comprehensive history and physical examination. Content focuses on those aspects pertinent to the provision of ambulatory, primary care. P: PA 620

PA 641 Clinical Pharmacology II: 2 cr. Second of a two-course sequence to introduce the principles of pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease. Specific emphasis on the cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, renal, urologic, and rheumatologic systems. Consideration of the rational use of drugs in the care and treatment of pediatric, adult and geriatric patients in primary care settings. Continued emphasis placed on interpretation of the medical literature using principles of evidence-based medicine. P: PA 640.

PA 648 Emergency Medicine: 2 cr. Fundamental instruction in the diagnosis and management of both common and life-threatening patient presentations to the Emergency Department.

PA 651 Diagnostic Methods II: Heart Sounds, Radiology, Laboratory Medicine: 2 cr. Advanced evaluation of heart sounds and comprehensive radiology. Laboratory medicine content correlates with clinical medicine and other courses. P: PA 650.

PA 660 Clinical Skills Laboratory: 1 cr. Hands-on clinical skills laboratory to include: dermatologic procedures, splinting, casting, suturing, venipuncture, injections, lumbar puncture, chest tubes, central lines, knee joint injection/aspiration, asthma and diabetic education, advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) and additional topics as needed.

Semester Four (Summer)

PA 670 Fundamentals of Surgery: 1 cr. Introduction to the role of the physician assistant in surgery, fundamental principles of pre-, intra- and post-operative surgical care, operating room aseptic technique, and common strategies to avoid and to treat surgical complications.

PA 700 Rural Health for Physician Assistants: 1 cr. Examines important aspects of current healthcare issues in rural populations, including isolated patient populations, higher incidence of agricultural injuries, and challenging access-to-care. Enhanced curriculum prepares students to play a leading role in solving the medical problems in our rural areas. Student involved in field trips to rural settings, realizing first hand, the challenges facing many sub-populations in rural areas. Elective course.

PA 716 Professional Seminar IV: 1 cr. Emphasis during this course will be on refining the clinical question/project and writing an initial paper. Seminar topics on the PA profession and professional issues. Preparation for the clinical year and clinical year preceptorships will occur. P: PA 618.

Semester Five (Fall)

PA 717 Professional Seminar and Capstone I: 1 cr. Emphasis during the capstone component of this course is on completion of a capstone rough draft, paper revision and capstone presentation. Professional seminar focuses on providing senior physician assistant students information about certification and registration, employment, economics, professional organizations and political/legislative topics. P: PA 716.

Semester Six (Spring)

PA 718 Professional Seminar and Capstone II: 1 cr. Continuation of Professional Seminar and Capstone I. Emphasis during the capstone component of this course is on completion of the capstone, final paper revision and capstone presentation. Professional seminar focuses on providing senior physician assistant students information about certification and registration, employment, economics, professional organizations and political/legislative topics. P: PA 717.

Semesters Four, Five and Six: Preceptorships (Summer, Fall and Spring)

PA 729-769 Clinical Preceptorships: Intensive clinical learning experiences under the direction of physician preceptors and other licensed healthcare professionals at a variety of off-campus clinical settings.

□ Five 2-month rotations/Preceptorships

○ One each in **surgery (PA 729)**, **internal medicine (PA 749)**, **family medicine (PA 739)** and **emergency medicine (PA 759)** and one 8-week or two 4-week rotations in **elective disciplines (PA 769)**.