

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA)

Explanation of Course Numbers

- Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
- Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work
- Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master's, doctoral, and professional-level students
- The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

PA 6101. Clinical Assessment I. 4 Credits.

Foundations of comprehensive history taking, physical exam assessments, and the proper documentation of these components in the medical record. Integrates concepts of effective communication and basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology.

PA 6102. Clinical Assessment II. 1 Credit.

Builds upon Clinical Assessment I. Integration of effective communication and knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, clinical medicine, and pharmacology. Introduction to techniques to assess common abnormal physical exam findings. Development critical thinking skills in the areas of differential diagnoses and development of treatment plans.

PA 6103. Clinical Assessment III. 1 Credit.

Further development of clinical decision making skills and refinement of techniques involved in history taking and physical examinations. Integration of effective communication and knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, clinical medicine, and pharmacology.

PA 6104. Integration into Clinical Concepts I. 2 Credits.

Application of knowledge gained in concurrent didactic courses to clinical problems and to clinical decision making. The course is conducted by faculty facilitators in a small-group discussion format.

PA 6105. Integration into Clinical Concepts II. 2 Credits.

Application of knowledge gained in concurrent didactic courses to clinical problems and to clinical decision making. Builds upon skills learned in Clinical Concepts I. The course is conducted by faculty facilitators in a small-group discussion format.

PA 6106. Integration into Clinical Concepts III. 2 Credits.

Application of knowledge gained in concurrent didactic courses to clinical problems and to clinical decision making. Builds upon skills learned in Clinical Concepts I and II. The course is conducted by faculty facilitators in a small-group discussion format.

PA 6109. Foundations of Medicine. 5 Credits.

The Foundations of Medicine course is designed to provide the first year physician assistant student with a baseline level of knowledge of the basic sciences (biochemistry, pathology, medical microbiology, genetics, and laboratory medicine) to the study of health and disease upon which studies in medicine further build.

PA 6110. Evidence Based Practice for PA Students. 3 Credits.

Introduction to research including methodology, statistical analyses, formulating research questions, and evaluating research designs with an emphasis on studies assessing therapeutic interventions, diagnostic testing, and prognostic indicators of health and disease as part of evidence-based clinical practice.

PA 6111. Evidence Based Practice for PA/MPH Students. 1 Credit.

Advanced application of research-, statistical-, and evidence-based medicine concepts presented in public health courses. Emphasis on studies assessing therapeutic interventions, diagnostic testing, and prognostic indicators of health and disease.

PA 6112. Clinical Medicine I. 7 Credits.

A systematic review and discussion of the epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, and management of the most common diseases in humans.

PA 6113. Clinical Medicine II. 7 Credits.

This course is a systematic review and discussion of the epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis and management of the most common diseases in humans. It builds upon the foundation of basic science knowledge and clinical assessment skills.

PA 6116. Clinical Skills I. 2 Credits.

Development of diagnostic and therapeutic skills essential to clinical practice. Fundamentals of electrocardiography and interpretation of basic EKG patterns. Effects of drugs and electrolyte imbalance on EKG patterns. Interpretation of radiologic films.

PA 6117. Clinical Skills II. 1 Credit.

Development of diagnostic and therapeutic skills essential to clinical practice. Fundamentals of electrocardiography and interpretation of basic EKG patterns. Effects of drugs and electrolyte imbalance on EKG patterns. Interpretation of radiologic films.

PA 6118. Health, Justice, and Society I. 2 Credits.

Presentation and discussion of issues including social determinants of health, cultural competency, ethical principles, epidemiology, and patient safety. A related community service component is included in PA 6119.

PA 6119. Health, Justice, and Society II. 1 Credit.

Continuation of PA 6118. Students interact with community clinicians and/or members of communities with vulnerable populations, developing communication and team practice skills through participation in team projects. Prerequisites are PA 6118 for MSHS PA students; PUBH 6007 for joint degree PA/MPH students.

PA 6120. Human Behavior. 2 Credits.

Basic knowledge of psychiatry needed to enter clinical practice. Mental status examination as a tool of clinical assessment. Approaches to understanding and working with patients with mental health conditions.

PA 6121. Clinical Specialties. 6 Credits.

Foundations of patient management in surgical, pediatric, and emergency medicine.

PA 6122. Role of PA in American Health Care. 2 Credits.

The history, development, and current status of the physician assistant profession within the context of the U.S. health system, such as practice roles, legal issues, and economic aspects of the profession.

PA 6259. Introduction to Clinical Education. 2 Credits.

Practical learning that simulates the diversity of health care disciplines and services encountered during clinical training. Through lectures, role playing, and small group activities focused on scope of practice, roles and responsibilities, ethical decision making, and clinical problem solving, physician assistant students gain knowledge and skills that facilitate the transition from the academic to clinical environment and promote high quality clinical education experiences.

PA 6261. Inpatient Medicine Clinical Practicum. 5 Credits.

This is a six-week required clinical rotation for second year PA students which focuses on the role of the physician assistant in a hospital based inpatient setting. The student is actively engaged in applying the medical knowledge and clinical skills gained during the didactic year while continuing to develop clinical reasoning through an evidence-based approach to the evaluation and management of problems commonly encountered in inpatient settings. Students also work to incorporate health promotion and disease prevention as well as advocacy for healthy lifestyles, preventive medicine practices, and patient support.

PA 6262. Primary Care Practicum. 5 Credits.

The Primary Care Practicum is a six-week, required clinical rotation for second-year PA students, which focuses on the role of the physician assistant in an ambulatory care setting (clinic or private practice). The student is actively engaged in applying the medical knowledge and clinical skills gained during the didactic year while continuing to develop clinical reasoning through an evidence-based approach to the evaluation and management of primary care problems encountered in ambulatory care settings. Students also work to incorporate health promotion and disease prevention into patient care and advocate for healthy lifestyles.

PA 6263. Surgical Inpatient Clinical Practicum. 5 Credits.

This is a six-week, required clinical rotation for second year PA students, which focuses on inpatient care of the surgical patient and the role of the physician assistant on the surgical patient management team.

PA 6264. Women's Health Clinical Practicum. 5 Credits.

This is a six-week required clinical rotation for second year PA students, which focuses on the role of the physician assistant in women's health. The student is actively engaged in applying the medical knowledge and clinical skills gained during the didactic year, along with continuing to develop clinical reasoning through an evidence-based approach to the evaluation and management of health care issues commonly encountered in women's health. Students also work to incorporate health promotion and disease prevention as well as advocacy for healthy lifestyles and preventive medicine practices and patient support.

PA 6265. Pediatrics Clinical Practicum. 5 Credits.

This is a six-week required clinical rotation for second year PA students which focuses on the role of the physician assistant in a pediatric care setting. The student is actively engaged in applying the medical knowledge and clinical skills gained during the didactic year, along with continuing to develop clinical reasoning through an evidence-based approach to the evaluation and management of common medical problems and issues encountered in the pediatric medicine. Students also work to incorporate health promotion and disease prevention as well as advocacy for healthy lifestyles and preventive medicine practices and patient support.

PA 6266. Emergency Medicine Clinical Practicum. 5 Credits.

This is a six-week required clinical practicum for second year PA students, which focuses on the role of the physician assistant in the emergency department setting. The student is actively engaged in applying the medical knowledge and clinical skills gained during the didactic year while continuing to develop clinical reasoning through an evidence-based approach to the evaluation and management of common problems encountered in emergency medicine.

PA 6267. Behavioral Medicine Clinical Practicum. 5 Credits.

This is a six-week required clinical rotation for second year PA students, which focuses on the role of the physician assistant in psychiatric and/or behavioral medicine. The student is actively engaged in applying the medical knowledge and clinical skills gained and continue to develop clinical reasoning through an evidence-based approach to the evaluation and management of common problems in patients with psychiatric, emotional and behavioral disturbances. Students also work to adapt the standard medical history, physical examination, diagnostic and treatment plans to the psychiatric patient.

PA 6268. Elective Clinical Practicum I. 5 Credits.

This is a six-week required clinical rotation in a medical or surgical specialty of the student's choosing and offers the student an opportunity to explore a specialty practice in greater detail.

PA 6299. Independent Study. 1-12 Credits.

Faculty approved didactic or clinical coursework primarily used for remediation purposes.

PA 6300. Introduction to Professional Practice. 2 Credits.

Examination of contemporary issues in physician assistant practice as the student transitions to a professional role. By emphasizing continuous professional development; career trajectories; professional practice issues such as ethics, regulatory issues, credentialing, privileging, and malpractice; and maintenance of certification, the students is prepared to manage their emerging professional role and responsibilities.