

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Curriculum

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements for PA students include:

- Satisfactorily completing all requirements in the specified curriculum and in good academic standing
- Attainment of good professional standing
- Enrollment in the program for the time period specified by the professional accrediting body, if applicable
- Successful passage of a summative experience and final evaluation
- Recommendation for graduation by the faculty of the specific program and the general faculty
- Satisfaction of all financial obligations to Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
- Follow the approved course of study, satisfactorily completing all courses within the professional component
- Complete all courses with a cumulative 3.00 average, with no course or rotation below a "C"; a "C-" grade in any course or rotation does not meet this standard. For courses that are administered on a pass/fail basis, the student must achieve a "pass" for the course
- Repeat, as approved, and earn a minimum grade of "C" for any required course or rotation in the professional phase for which a grade of "C-" or below was earned

The PA Program requires 101 credits for successful program completion. The program curriculum contains a senior summative, one-credit course that also must be successfully completed in order to meet the program requirements for graduation eligibility.

All courses offered in the curriculum are required, and all of these courses must be successfully completed (as detailed above) to meet this eligibility for graduation.

Advanced Placement Policy

The program will not count coursework completed at a previous institution as fulfilling any of the requirements to graduate. If a student requests special exemption to this policy, it will be denied.

Work & Attendance Policy

The Penn State PA Program will not prohibit students in the program from working. The program believes each student is the correct person to make personal decisions regarding his or her life outside the program. The program is cognizant that students have made a number of personal sacrifices to matriculate into a PA program and are aware of the challenges of succeeding in a PA program. To this end, the program respects the student's personal decision regarding work. The program generally does not have mandatory attendance policy for classes — we would like you to attend class because we feel the teachers will be excellent classroom facilitators and instructors, but we respect different learning styles and the student's decision on how to best assure their success. Each course will provide information regarding attendance policy, though student are required to attend all scheduled tests. Though the program does not prohibit outside employment during the pre-clinical or clinical training, we do not encourage working because of the demands and dedication required for PA training. Students attending

clinical rotations will have a minimum of 40 hours a week at the clinical site, which may involve different shifts and weekends — which would make employment very difficult. Students are expected to conform to the schedule that individual preceptor makes, as preceptors will not alter the schedule to accommodate a student's work schedule.

Course Timeline

You'll need 101 credits total to complete our program: 55 credits in the pre-clinical year and 46 credits in the clinical year, as described below.

All courses in the curriculum are graded on a letter grade basis with the exception of the Advanced Cardiac Life Support Course, the Health Care Ethics Course, and the Evidence-Based Medicine Course in the pre-clinical curriculum. These are Pass/Fail courses.

Pre-Clinical Year: Summer

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 701	Applied Human Structure and Function I	2
PAS 702	Applied Human Structure and Function II	2
PAS 704	Clinical Medicine I	5
PAS 707	Pathophysiology I	2
PAS 710	Pharmacology I	2
PAS 713	Pharmacotherapeutics I	1
PAS 716	History and Physical Examination I	2
PAS 721	US Health Care System/Legal Medicine	1
PAS 724	Laboratory Interpretive Methods	1
Total Credits		18

Pre-Clinical Year: Fall

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 703	Applied Human Structure and Function III	2
PAS 705	Clinical Medicine II	5
PAS 708	Pathophysiology II	2
PAS 711	Pharmacology II	2
PAS 714	Pharmacotherapeutics II	1
PAS 717	History and Physical Examination II	2
PAS 719	Evidence-Based Medicine	1
PAS 723	Behavioral Medicine	1
PAS 725	Physician Assistant Professional Practice	1
PAS 728	EKG Interpretive Methods	1
PAS 730	Medical Ethics	1
PAS 731	Radiology Interpretive Methods	1
Total Credits		20

Pre-Clinical Year: Spring

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 706	Clinical Medicine III	5
PAS 709	Pathophysiology III	2
PAS 712	Pharmacology III	2
PAS 715	Pharmacotherapeutics III	1
PAS 718	History and Physical Examination III	2
PAS 720	Pediatric Studies	1
PAS 722	Women's Health Studies, Topics in At-Risk Populations	1
PAS 726	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	1
PAS 727	Clinical Skills	1

PAS 729	Emergency Studies	1
Total Credits		17

Clinical Year

During the clinical year, students will take three mandatory primary-care rotations in the area of family practice and internal medicine. Each rotation lasts five weeks.

Mandatory Rotations

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 732	Emergency Medicine Rotation I	5
PAS 734	Family Medicine Rotation I	5
PAS 737	General Surgery Rotation I	5
PAS 739	Internal Medicine Rotation I	5
PAS 741	Mental Health Rotation I	5
PAS 743	Pediatrics I	5
PAS 745	Women's Health I	5
PAS 747/748	Internal Medicine III Rotation	5
One Elective Rotation (See Below)		5
PAS 756	Summative Experience ¹	1
Total Credits		46

¹ Upon completion of the clinical training, students will participate in a one-credit Summative Experience. In addition to taking the PACKRAT examination (which does not impact student placement in the PA Program), students will participate in assessments for knowledge, technical skills, interpretation, and performance of diagnostic evaluations. The Summative Experience must be successfully completed as one of the final requirements for program completion.

Elective Rotations

Choices for the elective rotation are:

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 733	Emergency Medicine Rotation II	5
PAS 735	Family Medicine Rotation II	5
PAS 738	General Surgery Rotation II	5
PAS 740	Internal Medicine Rotation II	5
PAS 742	Mental Health Rotation II	5
PAS 744	Pediatrics II	5
PAS 746	Women's Health II	5
PAS 749	Endocrinology I	5
PAS 750	Gastroenterology I	5
PAS 751	Ear, Nose and Throat Elective Rotation	5
PAS 752	Hematology & Oncology Elective Rotation	5
PAS 753	Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Preceptorship	5
PAS 754	Trauma Elective Rotation	5
PAS 755	Dermatology Elective Rotation	5
PAS 760	Cardiothoracic (CT) Surgery I Elective Rotation	5
PAS 762	Critical Care Medicine I Elective Rotation	5