

Master of Physician Assistant Studies Degree Program Curriculum - Course Descriptions

MPAS 200. Anatomy and Physiology. 4 Units.

This course involves an advanced review and clinical application of the structure and function of the human body. The course explores external anatomical landmarks and clinical correlations to various conditions.

MPAS 201. Clinical Medicine I – Intro to Pathophysiology. 4 Units.

This course involves reinforcement of human physiology and an introduction to the clinical application of human physiology and common disease pathophysiology. This course provides a foundational and advanced understanding of disease mechanisms in preparation for clinical disease evaluation and management.

MPAS 202A. Clinical Medicine II. 4 Units.

This is the first of four courses that focus on anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, etiology, risk factors, clinical manifestations, diagnostic evaluation, diagnosis, and management of select medical conditions, syndromes, and diseases. This course requires the integration and application of knowledge obtained in other required courses.

MPAS 202B. Clinical Medicine III. 4 Units.

This is the second of four courses that focus on anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, etiology, risk factors, clinical manifestations, diagnostic evaluation, diagnosis, and management of select medical conditions, syndromes, and diseases. This course requires the integration and application of knowledge obtained in other required courses.

MPAS 203A. Clinical Medicine IV. 4 Units.

This is the third of four courses that focus on anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, etiology, risk factors, clinical manifestations, diagnostic evaluation, diagnosis, and management of select medical conditions, syndromes, and diseases. This course requires the integration and application of knowledge obtained in other required courses.

MPAS 203B. Clinical Medicine V. 4 Units.

This is the fourth of four courses that focus on anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, etiology, risk factors, clinical manifestations, diagnostic evaluation, diagnosis, and management of select medical conditions, syndromes, and diseases. This course requires the integration and application of knowledge obtained in other required courses.

MPAS 205. Preparation for Clinical Practice. 4 Units.

This is an intensive clinical preparatory course prior to the start of clinical rotations. Clinical year clearance, policy and procedure instruction. Application of clinical and procedural knowledge through various individual and team activities. Culmination evaluations of the didactic portion of the curriculum. Satisfactory completion of the culmination evaluations is required to progress to the clinical year.

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MPAS 206. Professional Aspects of Healthcare. 4 Units.

This course advances the student's understanding of the professional aspects and business of healthcare to promote a comprehensive patient-centered approach to care. The course investigates the non-clinical roles of physician assistants. This course explores theories of teaching and learning applicable to patient education within clinical practice and health sciences education. This course explores various leadership styles related to organizational, educational, and clinical leadership. This course prepares students to search, interpret and evaluate medical literature and its application to clinical practice.

MPAS 207. Population-Based Care

This course emphasizes a patient-centered inclusive approach to care with sensitivity to a patient's culture, ethnicity/race, religion/spirituality, sexual orientation, age, gender, abilities, and social determinants of health. This course explores patient, provider, and community barriers to prepare students to provide care and patient education considering these factors. Public and population health concepts related to disease prevention, health promotion, and patient-specific factors are introduced.

MPAS 211. Pharmacology and Therapeutics I. 3 Units.

This is the first of a three-semester course that focuses on general clinical therapeutic principles, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacotherapeutic application. This semester emphasizes basic pharmacological principles, drug classifications, legal aspects of prescribing, supplements and alternative medicinal therapies, and self-care concepts.

MPAS 212. Pharmacology and Therapeutics II. 3 Units.

This is the second of a three-semester course that focuses on general clinical therapeutic principles, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and pharmacotherapeutic application. This semester presents pharmacological and therapeutic concepts addressed in an organ system approach congruent with Clinical Medicine.

MPAS 213. Pharmacology and Therapeutics III. 3 Units.

This is the third of a three-semester course that focuses on general clinical therapeutic principles, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacotherapeutic application. This semester presents pharmacological and therapeutic concepts addressed in an organ system and discipline specific approach congruent with Clinical Medicine.

MPAS 215. Primary Care I. 4 Units.

Students are placed in an outpatient and/or inpatient setting to obtain exposure to primary care medicine, including health maintenance, disease prevention, patient education, and continuity of care.

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MPAS 216. Primary Care II. 4 Units.

Students are placed in an outpatient and/or inpatient setting to obtain exposure to primary care medicine, including health maintenance, disease prevention, patient education and continuity of care.

MPAS 218. Periodic and Summative Evaluations/Capstone. 4 Units.

This will be a continuing course throughout the four semesters of the clinical education phase of the program. The periodic evaluations utilize multiple modalities to assess the progress of student knowledge and skill acquisition. Summative evaluations occur within the final months of the program to verify competency for program completion. The Capstone Project, a component of the summative evaluation, consists of a critical review of medical literature for a given clinical topic culminating in a paper suitable for publication.

MPAS 219A. Advanced Clinical Skills I. 2 Units.

This is the first course in a three semester series that builds upon the basic clinical skills coursework. Instruction and application of advanced clinical and procedural skills. Integration and application of clinical reasoning and a comprehensive patient centered approach through case analysis, simulation and standardized patient encounters.

MPAS 219B. Advanced Clinical Skills II. 1 Units.

This is the second course in a three semester series that builds upon the basic clinical skills coursework. Instruction and application of advanced clinical and procedural skills. Integration and application of clinical reasoning and a comprehensive patient centered approach through case analysis, simulation and standardized patient encounters.

MPAS 219C. Advanced Clinical Skills III. 1 Units.

This is the third course in a three semester series that builds upon the basic clinical skills coursework. Instruction and application of advanced clinical and procedural skills. Integration and application of clinical reasoning and a comprehensive patient centered approach through case analysis, simulation and standardized patient encounters

MPAS 221. Behavioral and Health Sciences. 2 Units.

This course introduces the biopsychosocial model of health care. It addresses basic psychology concepts, biological and psychosocial development across the life span, stress management, basic counseling, and behavior modification principles, social determinants of health.

MPAS 223. Mental and Behavioral Health. 2 Units.

This course emphasizes evaluation and management of behavioral and mental health disorders, including disorders outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders.

MPAS 225. Primary Care/Pediatrics. 4 Units.

Students are placed in an outpatient and/or inpatient setting with a family practitioner, internist, and/or pediatrician to obtain exposure to pediatric medicine.

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MPAS 231. Professional Practice and the Health System I. 1 Unit.

This is the first of a three-semester course that explores the healthcare system from a professional, legal, economic and patient care perspective. This semester includes the history and status of the PA profession and professional organizations, the physician-PA team relationship, PA scope of practice and legal regulations. An introduction to healthcare delivery systems, health policy, and related governmental agencies. Exploration of team based patient care through interprofessional education activities.

MPAS 232. Professional Practice and the Health System II. 1 Unit.

This is the second of a three-semester course that explores today's healthcare system from a professional, legal, economic and patient care perspective. This semester emphasis is on medical ethics, legal aspects of health care, patient-provider interactions, confidentiality, risk management and malpractice. Exploration of team based patient care through interprofessional education activities.

MPAS 233. Professional Practice and the Health System III. 1 Unit.

This is the third of a three-semester course that explores today's healthcare system from a professional, legal, economic and patient care perspective. This semester emphasis is the economics of health care, including billing and coding, utilization review and electronic medical records (EMR). Exploration of team based patient care through interprofessional education activities.

MPAS 235. Primary Care/Women's Health. 4 Units.

Students are placed in an outpatient and/or inpatient setting with a family practitioner, internist, and/or obstetrician/gynecologist to obtain exposure to women's health care.

MPAS 241. Clinical Skills I. 4 Units.

This three-semester course focuses on four main topic areas: history and physical examination, diagnostic studies, application through case based learning, and procedural skills. This semester builds a foundation of student knowledge in the four topic areas through focused study in the following areas: communication, documentation, history and review of systems, fundamentals of diagnostic studies, medical microbiology, external anatomy, and utilization of diagnostic equipment. Case based discussions emphasize clinical reasoning through knowledge application.

MPAS 242. Clinical Skills II. 4 Units.

This three-semester course focuses on four main topic areas: history and physical examination, diagnostic studies, application through case based learning, and procedural skills. This semester presents the concepts in an organ system approach congruent with Clinical Medicine. Case based discussions emphasize clinical reasoning through knowledge integration and application. Organ system specific procedures are covered.

MPAS 243. Clinical Skills III. 4 Units.

This three-semester course focuses on four main topic areas: history and physical examination, diagnostic studies, application through case based learning, and procedural skills. This semester

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presents the concepts in an organ system and discipline specific approach congruent with Clinical Medicine. Case based discussions emphasize clinical reasoning through knowledge integration and application. Organ system and discipline specific procedures are covered.

MPAS 245. Primary Care/Behavioral and Mental Health. 4 Units.

Students are placed in an outpatient and/or inpatient setting with a family practitioner, internist, psychiatrist and/or other healthcare provider specializing in behavioral health to obtain exposure to behavioral health care.

MPAS 255. Internal Medicine. 4 Units.

Students are placed in an outpatient, inpatient and/or long-term care setting to obtain exposure to primary care and chronic disease management.

MPAS 265. Surgery. 4 Units.

Students are placed with general surgeons and/or surgical specialists to obtain exposure to surgical principles. Student will obtain intraoperative experience during this rotation. Pre- and post-operative care concepts may be addressed in this rotation or any other rotation.

MPAS 275. Emergency Medicine. 4 Units.

Students will be placed in a hospital-based emergency room to gain exposure to acute, urgent and emergent care.

MPAS 285. General Elective I. 4 Units.

Elective experiences may be clinical or non-clinical. Rotations may occur in any healthcare setting and in any field in which PAs practice within the state where the practice is located. The level of student involvement may vary based on discipline. Students in good academic standing will be able to complete elective rotations in a desired specialty area, if available. Non-clinical elective rotations, such as education, healthcare administration, and international PA practice, may be requested as PAs are involved in all aspects of healthcare, including roles outside direct patient care. Elective rotations may include remote, telemedicine, synchronous, or asynchronous learning activities outside direct patient care. The Program reserves the right to utilize elective rotations in the student's best interest to address knowledge or skill deficiencies.

MPAS 286. General Elective II. 4 Units.

Elective experiences may be clinical or non-clinical. Rotations may occur in any healthcare setting and in any field in which PAs practice within the state where the practice is located. The level of student involvement may vary based on discipline. Students in good academic standing will be able to complete elective rotations in a desired specialty area, if available. Non-clinical elective rotations, such as education, healthcare administration, and international PA practice, may be requested as PAs are involved in all aspects of healthcare, including roles outside direct patient care. Elective rotations may include remote, telemedicine, synchronous, or asynchronous learning activities outside direct patient care. The Program reserves the right to utilize elective rotations in the student's best interest to address knowledge or skill deficiencies.

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MPAS 287. General Elective III. 4 Units.

Elective experiences may be clinical or non-clinical. Rotations may occur in any healthcare setting and in any field in which PAs practice within the state where the practice is located. The level of student involvement may vary based on discipline. Students in good academic standing will be able to complete elective rotations in a desired specialty area, if available. Non-clinical elective rotations, such as education, healthcare administration, and international PA practice, may be requested as PAs are involved in all aspects of healthcare, including roles outside direct patient care. Elective rotations may include remote, telemedicine, synchronous, or asynchronous learning activities outside direct patient care. The Program reserves the right to utilize elective rotations in the student's best interest to address knowledge or skill deficiencies.

MPAS 293. Special Topics. 4 Units.