

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Curriculum

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements for PA students include:

- Enrollment in the program for the time period specified by the program and approved by accrediting body for completion
- Satisfactory completion of all curricular requirements in good academic standing
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
 - No course or rotation grades below a "C" or "Low Pass"
 - Repeat and receive a "C" or higher in any course or rotation in the program for which a grade of "F" was earned.
- Attainment of good professional standing
- Successful completion of all components in the summative experience
- Meet or exceed the minimum requirements for clinical experiences and competencies.
- Recommendation for graduation by program faculty
- Satisfactory fulfillment of all financial obligations to the Penn State College of Medicine and Penn State University

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 Penn State College of Medicine PA Program is a full-time academic program administered in a sequential fashion that builds on courses completed in the prior term. The program **does not** award credit for experiential learning or advanced placement, nor does the program accept transfer credits.

Student Roles and Policy on Employment During Program Enrollment

Students are strongly discouraged from working while enrolled in the PA program. It is expected that the PA Program is the student's primary responsibility. Concessions for missed classes, late assignments, scheduled assessments, and clinical rotation obligations due to work outside of the program will **not** be made.

Students are not permitted to work for the PA Program in any capacity while enrolled as a student at the Penn State College of Medicine.

Students may not substitute for, or function as, instructional faculty, clinical staff, or administrative staff while enrolled as a student at the Penn State College of Medicine.

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 Evidence-Based Medicine Course in the didactic year and the Summative Experience in the clinical year. These are both Pass/Fail courses. Course descriptions can be found in the Penn State Graduate Bulletin (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/medicine/pas/>).

Didactic Year: Summer

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 701	Applied Human Structure and Function I	3
PAS 700	PA Professional Practice I	1
PAS 783	Inclusive Healthcare Practices	1
PAS 736	Introductory Concepts in Medicine	2
PAS 763	Principles of Immunology, Hematology and Oncology	3
PAS 784	Principles of Dermatology	2
PAS 785	Principles of Infectious Disease	3
PAS 786	Principles of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology	2
Total Credits		17

Didactic Year: Fall

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 702	Applied Human Structure and Function II	3
PAS 721	PA Professional Practice II	2
PAS 787	Principles of Endocrinology	2
PAS 789	Principles of Pulmonology	3
PAS 788	Principles of Nephrology/Urology	2
PAS 790	Principles of Cardiology	4
PAS 791	Principles of Gastroenterology	3
Total Credits		19

Didactic Year: Spring

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 719	Evidence-Based Medicine	1
PAS 725	PA Professional Practice III	1
PAS 723	Principles of Behavioral Medicine	2
PAS 792	Principles of Neurology	3
PAS 793	Principles of Rheumatology and Orthopaedics	4
PAS 722	Principles of Human Sexuality and Reproductive Health	3
PAS 729	Principles of Emergency Medicine	3
PAS 794	Principles of Surgery	2
Total Credits		19

Clinical Year

During the clinical year, students will complete three mandatory primary-care rotations. Each rotation is 5 weeks.

Mandatory Clinical Year Courses (1 credit)

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 756	Summative Experience	1

Mandatory Clinical Rotations (40 Credits)

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 741	Behavioral Health Rotation I	5
PAS 732	Emergency Medicine Rotation I	5
PAS 734	Family Medicine Rotation I	5
PAS 739	Inpatient Internal Medicine Rotation I	5
PAS 735	Ambulatory Care Selective	5
PAS 737	General Surgery Rotation I	5
PAS 743	Pediatrics I	5
PAS 745	Reproductive Health I	5

Elective Clinical Rotations (select 1 for 5 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
PAS 776	Medicine Specialty Rotation	5
PAS 777	Surgical Specialty Rotation	5

Students enrolled in the PA program will have the opportunity to complete an elective rotation in either a medical or surgical specialty.

Students in good academic standing may select from a variety of specialties; including but not limited to additional time in a mandatory rotation listed above or experience another specialty such as burn, cardiology, critical care, dermatology, endocrinology, ENT, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, infectious disease, interventional radiology, nephrology, neurology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, palliative care, prison medicine, radiation oncology, trauma, cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, plastic & reconstructive surgery, physical medicine & rehabilitation, or vascular surgery.

Students with identified deficiencies during clinical year may have their elective rotation assigned to them by the clinical year team to ensure minimum program requirements for graduation have been met.

Summative Experience

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 be evaluated on their professionalism and 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.

Total credits: 46