



MS-PAS Course Descriptions

PA 501 Medical Science I (2 Credit Hours)

This is the first of three courses designed to develop an understanding of homeostasis and the relationship of physiology, pathophysiology, and human genetic concepts of disease as they pertain to each organ system or area of medicine covered in PA 504 Principles of Medicine I. This course will incorporate anatomy within a clinical context with an emphasis on important anatomical structure and function relevant to the physical exam, diagnosis, and development of disease and in the anatomical relationships of structures to each other. Lectures, discussions, anatomy lab participation, case studies, and a multimedia approach will be used to present the material.

PA 502 Medical Science II (3 Credit Hours)

This is the second of three courses designed to develop an understanding of homeostasis and the relationship of physiology, pathophysiology, and human genetic concepts of disease as they pertain to each organ system or area of medicine covered in PA 505 Principles of Medicine II. This course will incorporate anatomy within a clinical context with an emphasis on important anatomical structure and function relevant to the physical exam, diagnosis, and development of disease and in the anatomical relationships of structures to each other. Lectures, discussions, anatomy lab participation, case studies, and a multimedia approach will be used to present the material.

PA 503 Medical Science III (3 Credit Hours)

This is the third of three courses designed to develop an understanding of homeostasis and the relationship of physiology, pathophysiology, and human genetic concepts of disease as they pertain to each organ system or area of medicine covered in PA 506 Principles of Medicine III. This course will incorporate anatomy within a clinical context with an emphasis on important anatomical structure and function relevant to the physical exam, diagnosis, and development of disease and in the anatomical relationships of structures to each other. Lectures, discussions, anatomy lab participation, case studies, and a multimedia approach will be used to present the material.

PA 504 Principles of Medicine I (3 Credit Hours)

This is the first in a series of courses designed to provide the study of human diseases and disorders by organ system, using a lifespan approach from newborn to the elderly. The course includes epidemiology, etiology, history, clinical signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, diagnosis, diagnostic studies, therapeutic management, prevention, and prognosis of disease in clinical medicine. Organ systems covered include dermatology, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, and hematology. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices using lectures, case study, and a problem-based learning approach.

PA 505 Principles of Medicine II (5 Credit Hours)

This is the second in a series of courses designed to provide the study of human diseases and disorders by organ system, using a lifespan approach from newborn to the elderly. The course includes epidemiology, etiology, history, clinical signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, diagnosis, diagnostic studies, therapeutic management, prevention, and prognosis of disease in

clinical medicine. Organ systems covered include cardiovascular, pulmonary, endocrinology, gastroenterology/nutrition, and nephrology. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices using lectures, case study, and a problem-based learning approach.

PA 506 Principles of Medicine III (5 Credit Hours)

This is the third in a series of courses designed to provide the study of human diseases and disorders by organ system, using a lifespan approach from newborn to the elderly. The course includes epidemiology, etiology, history, clinical signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, diagnosis, diagnostic studies, therapeutic management, prevention, and prognosis of disease in clinical medicine. Modules covered include obstetrics and gynecology, genitourinary, neurology, orthopedics, rheumatology, and infectious disease. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices using lectures, case study, and a problem-based learning approach.

PA 507 Pharmacology I (1 Credit Hour)

This is the first in a series of three courses designed to provide the student with an understanding of the mechanisms by which drugs alter the function of living cells to relieve symptoms and physiologic manifestations of disease. This course will begin with an introduction to general principles of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics, and then concentrate expressly on the pharmacotherapeutics germane to the organ system modules covered in this semester. At the end of the course, students will understand the general properties of drug categories and prototypical drugs used to treat diseases of these body systems and apply these pharmacologic concepts to clinical situations. Through lecture and case study, special emphasis will be placed on the development of problem-solving and medical decision-making skills as they relate to the clinical use of pharmacotherapeutics.

PA 508 Pharmacology II (2 Credit Hours)

This is the second in a series of three courses designed to provide the student with an understanding of the mechanisms by which drugs alter the function of living cells to relieve symptoms and physiologic manifestations of disease. This course will concentrate expressly on the pharmacotherapeutics germane to the organ system modules covered in this semester. At the end of the course, students will understand the general properties of drug categories and prototypical drugs used to treat diseases of these body systems and apply these pharmacologic concepts to clinical situations. Using lectures and case studies, special emphasis will be placed on the development of problem-solving and medical decision-making skills as they relate to the clinical use of pharmacotherapeutics.

PA 509 Pharmacology III (2 Credit Hours)

This is the third in a series of three courses designed to provide the student with an understanding of the mechanisms by which drugs alter the function of living cells to relieve symptoms and physiologic manifestations of disease. This course will concentrate expressly on the pharmacotherapeutics germane to the organ system modules covered in this semester. At the end of the course, students will understand the general properties of drug categories and prototypical drugs used to treat diseases of these body systems and apply these pharmacologic concepts to clinical situations. Using lectures and case studies, special emphasis will be placed on the development of problem-solving and medical decision-making skills as they relate to the clinical use of pharmacotherapeutics.

PA 510 Patient Assessment & Clinical Reasoning I (2 Credit Hours)

This is the first in a series of three courses designed to develop the knowledge and skills required to elicit, perform, and document a complete medical history and physical exam with use of appropriate equipment, proper exam techniques, and accurate medical terminology. The course will provide an overview of the medical record as well as the development of writing and oral

presentation skills. Students will learn the skills needed to recognize normal anatomy, normal anatomical variation, and disease states as they pertain to each organ system or area of medicine covered in PA 504 Principles of Medicine I. Organ systems covered include hematology, dermatology, and HEENT. History-taking, physical examination, clinical reasoning skills, and documentation skills will be developed through lectures and structured small group workshop exercises.

PA 511 Patient Assessment & Clinical Reasoning II (3 Credit Hours)

This is the second in the series of three courses designed to develop the knowledge and skills required to elicit, perform, and document the complete medical history and physical exam with use of appropriate equipment, proper exam techniques, and accurate medical terminology. The course will continue to provide an overview of the medical record as well as the development of writing and oral presentation skills. Students will learn the skills needed to recognize normal anatomy, normal anatomical variation, and disease states as they pertain to each organ system or area of medicine covered in PA 505 Principles of Medicine II. Organ systems covered include cardiovascular, pulmonary, endocrinology, gastroenterology/nutrition, and nephrology. History-taking, physical examination, clinical reasoning skills, and documentation skills will be developed through lectures and structured small group workshop exercises.

PA 512 Diagnostic Medicine I (3 Credit Hours)

This is the first of two courses designed to develop a functional understanding of the appropriate uses and interpretations of clinical diagnostic testing, to include serologic, microscopic studies and radiographic and EKG interpretation. Students will learn to select, interpret, and apply appropriate laboratory, imaging, and other diagnostic tests and determine clinical significance. Skills will be developed through lectures and structured small-group workshops. EKG interpretation is taught in this course.

PA 513 Diagnostic Medicine II (2 Credit Hours)

This is the second of two courses designed to develop a functional understanding of the appropriate uses and interpretations of clinical diagnostic testing, to include serologic, microscopic studies, and radiographic interpretation. Students will learn to select, interpret, and apply appropriate laboratory, imaging, and other diagnostic tests and determine clinical significance. Skills will be developed through lectures and structured small group workshops.

PA 514 Professional Practice (1 Credit Hour)

This course is designed to discuss the role of the Physician Assistant in the context of the healthcare system, as well as issues pertaining to the Physician Assistant's practice of medicine within an interprofessional team. This course will include interpersonal skills and communication, history of the Physician Assistant profession, introduction to PA professional organizations, patient safety, and medical and professional ethics. Instruction for this course will consist of lectures, case studies, and small-group discussions.

PA 516 Evidence-Based Medicine and Public Health (3 Credit Hours)

This course will introduce the theory and practice of evidence-based medicine and the complementary field of public health. Students will learn to search, interpret, and evaluate medical literature critically, developing the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate evidence-based answers into clinical practice. Students will also demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate these evidence-based concepts to peers and patients. This course will allow students to appreciate the public health system through understanding selected public health topics. Students will examine their role, as future health care providers, in the prevention of disease and maintenance of population health.

PA 517 Behavioral/Mental Health Medicine (2 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to provide the study of human disease and disorders associated with mental and behavioral diseases and introduces the special needs and care of the mental health patient with an emphasis on disease management with the goal of improving the functional status of individuals with mental health diseases. The student will also consider social, personal, and cultural attitudes toward mental illness. Course will be taught using lecture, case study, interviewing, and problem-based approach.

PA 518 Physical Assessment & Clinical Reasoning III (2 Credit Hours)

This is the third in the series of three courses designed to develop the knowledge and skills required to elicit, perform, and document the complete medical history and physical exam with use of appropriate equipment, proper exam techniques, and accurate medical terminology. The course will continue to provide an overview of the medical record as well as the development of writing and oral presentation skills. Students will learn the skills needed to recognize normal anatomy, normal anatomical variation, and disease states as they pertain to each organ system or area of medicine covered in PA 506 Principles of Medicine III. Organ systems covered include obstetrics and gynecology, genitourinary, neurology, orthopedics, rheumatology, and infectious disease. History-taking, physical examination, clinical reasoning skills, and documentation skills will be developed through lectures and structured small group workshop exercises.

PA 521 Clinical Skills & Procedures I (2 Credit Hours)

This course will prepare the student for the upcoming clinical year. The focus will be on procedures including sterile technique, venipuncture, IV placement, injections, urinary bladder catheter insertion, local anesthesia, suturing along with wound management and closure. Instruction for this course will consist of lectures and structured small group clinical skills exercises.

PA 522 Clinical Skills & Procedures II (2 Credit Hours)

This course will further prepare the student for the upcoming clinical year. The focus will be on review of procedures including airway management and endotracheal intubation, chest tube insertion, central line placement, nasogastric tube placement, lumbar puncture, bandaging, casting, and splinting. Instruction for this course will consist of lectures and structured small group clinical skills exercises. ACLS certification will also be included in this course.

SPAN 523 Medical Spanish (2 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to improve students' communication in clinical situations with patients whose native language is Spanish. The focus of the instruction will be on learning basic conversational skills in order to elicit clinical histories, conduct physical examinations, and give instructions to Spanish-speaking patients. Instruction for this course will consist of lectures and class discussion.

PA 524 Healthcare Delivery (2 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to expose the student to current trends in the U.S. healthcare system. The focus of instruction will be given to healthcare delivery systems and policy, healthcare information systems, interprofessional healthcare teams, and healthcare outcomes. As the student transitions from the didactic to the clinical year, topics on patient safety, prevention of medical errors, ethical dilemmas, risk management and quality improvement germane to clinical practice will be discussed. Instruction regarding the financing of healthcare, electronic medical records, reimbursement, coding, and billing will also be taught in this course. The format for this course will consist of lectures, case studies, and discussions.

PA 525 Clinical Medicine Across the Lifespan (4 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to provide the study of primary care, which is defined as the comprehensive first contact and continuing, coordinated care for persons with any undiagnosed sign, symptom, or health concern, not limited by problem origin (biological, behavioral, or social), organ system, or diagnosis. The focus will be on patient-centered, interprofessional, and cost-effective care, with an emphasis on the approach to, unique needs of and management issues for specific patient populations, including Prenatal care, Infants, Children, Adolescents, Adult Medicine, Women's Health, and Geriatrics. The course will be taught using lectures and case studies. The goal of this course is to assimilate the information learned in didactic courses to prepare the students for their transition to clinical practice.

PA 526 Surgery/Emergency Medicine (2 Credit Hours)

This course will explore the injuries, diseases, and other conditions relating to the various medical disciplines (i.e., cardiology, gastroenterology, pulmonology) as they present and are managed in an emergency department setting. The course will also introduce surgical concepts, including inpatient and outpatient management of the surgical patient, types of surgical procedures, and conditions treated by the general surgery and surgical subspecialties. Course information may be presented via lectures, group discussions, presentations.

PA 527 Clinical Practicum (2 Credit Hours)

This course incorporates experiential learning to prepare the student for clinical rotations and eventually clinical practice. It continues to facilitate the transition of knowledge and skills from the academic phase to the clinical phase, giving students the opportunity to hone teamwork and patient care skills. Students will be placed in healthcare settings for 2-hour sessions multiple times throughout the semester. This course will also include a volunteer opportunity, open-lab opportunity, lecture series, an Objective Structures Clinical Examinations (OSCE), a didactic year summative assessment and an interprofessional patient care activity with other graduate health care professions graduate students.

PA 528 Professional Development I (1 Credit Hour)

This course is the first in a series of three designed to help students in applying the knowledge learned in their didactic courses to their clinical experiences, as well as to provide ongoing preparation for the PANCE. Other topics to be covered will include professionalism, effective communication, patient safety, ethics, adherence to regulations, and teamwork. The course will also help prepare the students for the transition from student to health care professional, including licensing, job search, interviewing skills, professional etiquette, contracts, self-care strategies, and work-life balance. The course will be a blend of online assignments and discussions while on Rotations, along with lectures and group activities on call back days.

PA 529 Professional Development II (1 Credit Hour)

This course is the second in a series of three designed to help students in applying the knowledge learned in their didactic courses to their clinical experience, as well as to provide ongoing preparation for the PANCE. Other topics to be covered will include professionalism, effective communication, patient safety, ethics, adherence to regulations, and teamwork. The course will also help prepare the students for the transition from student to health care professional, including licensing, job search, interviewing skills, professional etiquette, contracts, self-care strategies, and work-life balance. The course will be a blend of online assignments and discussions while on Rotations, along with lectures and group activities on call back days.

PA 530 Professional Development III (1 Credit Hour)

This course is the third in a series of three designed to help students in applying the knowledge learned in their didactic courses to their clinical experiences, as well as provide ongoing

preparation for the PANCE. Other topics to be covered will include professionalism, effective communication, patient safety, ethics, adherence to regulations, and teamwork. The course will also help prepare the students for the transition from student to health care professional, including licensing, job search, interviewing skills, professional etiquette, contracts, self-care strategies, and work-life balance. The course will be a blend of online assignments and discussions while on Rotations, along with lectures and group activities on call back days.

PA 541 - Family Medicine (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in family medicine. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to care for patients across the lifespan under the supervision of board-certified physicians and/or advanced practice practitioners. This rotation will emphasize evaluation and treatment of common conditions at the primary care level as well as appropriate health maintenance and disease prevention interventions. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.

PA 542 - Emergency Medicine (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in emergency medicine. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to care for patients in an acute care situation under the supervision of board-certified physicians and/or advanced practice providers. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.

PA 543 - Internal Medicine (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in internal medicine. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to care for adult and elderly patients under the supervision of board-certified physicians and/or advanced practice providers. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.

PA 544 – Pediatrics (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in pediatrics. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to care for infants, children and adolescents under the supervision of board-certified physicians and/or advanced practice providers. This rotation will emphasize the growth and development of children as well as appropriate health maintenance and disease prevention interventions in childhood. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.

PA 545 - Women’s Health (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in women’s health. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to care for female patients while under the supervision of board-certified physicians and/or advanced practice providers. This rotation will emphasize gynecologic and prenatal care of the female patient. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.

PA 546 - Surgery (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in surgery. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to care for patients in the surgical settings under the supervision of board-certified physicians and/or advanced practice providers. This rotation will emphasize pre-, intra- and post-operative care. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.

PA 547 - Behavioral Health (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in behavioral health. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to provide mental health care to patients. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.

PA 548 - Elective I (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in an elective medical specialty. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to care for patients under the supervision of board-certified physicians and/or advanced practice providers. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.

PA 549 – Elective II (5 Credit Hours)

This course includes the 5-week clinical rotation in an elective medical specialty. This course is designed to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes required to care for patients under the supervision of board-certified physicians and/or advanced practice providers. Students will complete the rotation with a minimum hour requirement. They will attend mandatory callback day session following the rotation to complete testing and various other in person programmatic/course requirements.