Department of Physician Assistant Practice
Campbell University
College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Leon Levine Hall of Medical Sciences
4350 U.S. 421 South
Lillington, NC 27546

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1090
Buies Creek, NC 27506

Phone
(800) 760-9734, ext. 1210

Academic Program
The Physician Assistant Program at Campbell University focuses on an evidence-based, patient-centered, clinically practical curriculum which will prepare students for the opportunity to enter one of the fastest growing health care professions. Students who complete the program will earn a Master of Physician Assistant Practice (MPAP) degree.

Mission Statement
Campbell University’s Physician Assistant (PA) program provides graduate clinical education in a Christian environment in the tradition of faith, learning, and service. Principles of medical science and professional ethical standards inform the education of our students. The program endeavors to meet the future needs of the PA profession and its role in the healthcare delivery system throughout the continuum of care. The program promotes patient centered, evidence-based medicine preparing students to be competent healthcare providers.

Goals
The goals of the Campbell Physician Assistant Program strive to:
1. Provide a structured didactic and clinical curriculum that prepares students for evidence-based clinical practice.
2. Provide a didactic and clinical educational environment that is conducive to learning.
3. Provide students with the medical knowledge and clinical skills to practice as a Physician Assistant with diverse patient populations within a variety of practice settings and clinical disciplines.
4. Educate students with an awareness of healthcare disparities.
5. Prepare students to provide care for the disadvantaged in medically underserved areas.
6. Promote a patient-centered approach to health and disease by emphasizing health promotion, disease prevention, and primary care.
7. Prepare students to become members of an interprofessional healthcare team.

Accreditation
Please refer to the accreditation information in the introduction section of this academic bulletin for more details.

Admission Policies
Campbell PA program applicants must use the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) online at www.caspaonline.org. The Campbell PA program CASPA code is 4575.

A supplemental application must also be submitted with a $50 application fee to the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences’ (CPHS) Admissions Office. A passport size personal photograph must be included.

All application material must be received by January 15. Once a complete application has been submitted it will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Interview and acceptance is conducted on a rolling basis. The earlier an applicant applies, the better the chances are for acceptance. A background check and a substance abuse screening test are required for students who are accepted into the program. Students will also be required to submit a non-refundable $1,000 deposit. Tuition payment will be due the first week of classes.

Admissions Requirements
- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution in the U.S.
- Recommended overall GPA ≥ 3.2
- Recommended prerequisites GPA ≥ 3.0
- Recommended GRE score of 1,100 ( > 300 revised GRE format) within the past 5 years
- Recommended 1,000 hours of health care experience (HCE) completed no later than December 31 of the year prior to matriculation.
- Three letters of recommendation—preference is given to applicants with two out of three letters from physicians, PAs or clinical supervisors, and others familiar with your clinical experience. Personal recommendations are discouraged.

Admissions Process
- All submitted material must be received by Jan. 15
- Complete online application available at www.caspaonline.org
- Submit all official college transcripts to CASPA
- Submit three letters of recommendation to CASPA
- Submit GRE scores to CPHS
- Submit supplemental application with required fee of $50 and a passport size photo to CASPA

Prerequisites
- Bachelor’s degree completed by the end of the spring semester prior to matriculation
- All prerequisites must be completed no later than December 31 of the year prior to matriculation
- All pre-professional academic work must be done at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States
- There is no advanced standing
- The Program does not accept transfer credit
- All grades “C” or better
- No time limit on completed courses

Courses:
- One semester of General Biology
- Two semesters of Human Anatomy and Physiology with labs (this may be taken as two combined A & P courses with lab, or one Anatomy course with lab and one Physiology Course)
- One semester of Microbiology with lab
- One semester of General Chemistry with lab
- One semester of Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry
- One semester of Statistics or Biostatistics
- One semester of Psychology
- One semester of Genetics is recommended
Examples of Qualifying Health Care Experience

- Athletic Trainer
- Emergency Room/Medical Technician
- Laboratory Technologist
- Medical Assistant
- Military Medic
- Nurse
- Nursing Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Radiological Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technician

International Applicants

International applicants who have completed a bachelor's degree and all prerequisite courses in a regionally accredited institution in the United States are eligible to apply to the program. International applicants may be asked to submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores directly to admissions office if English is a second language.

Financial Information

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are determined annually and are available at www.campbell.edu/paprogram. Tuition and fees are estimated and are subject to change. Any new tuition and fee schedule will become effective at the beginning of each entering class of the program. Tuition for entering students remains the same until graduation. Graduating students are responsible for the purchase of their cap and gown.

Optional Fees

- Parking permit
- Illness insurance

Refund Policy

If any student attends any class and subsequently withdraws or is suspended from the PA program for any cause, no amount of tuition or fees are reimbursed.

Meal Plan

Students have the option to purchase a declining balance meal plan. Students pay for the plan in advance at the Campbell University Business Office to have funds placed on their declining balance account. This account may be used at Marshbanks Dining Hall, Shouse Dining Hall, Oasis Grill, Chick-fil-A®, Quiznos®, Papa Johns®, Jole Mole, Starbucks® and The Groc.

Financial Aid

For specific financial aid information, please contact the student financial planning office at (910) 893-1310.

Policies and Procedures

Advanced Standing and Transfer of Credit

The PA Program does not offer advanced standing or accept transfer of credit for the Master of Physician Assistant Practice degree. All relevant coursework required for graduation must be completed in the Campbell PA Program.

Complaint Procedure

Refer to the General Information section of this academic bulletin for the complaint procedure.

Criminal Background Check

College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences (CPHS) applicants are required to self-disclose any misdemeanors or felony convictions, other than minor traffic violations, including deferred adjudications, with the understanding that non-disclosure or falsification may lead to dismissals and disclosure may prevent enrollment. Additionally, in response to requirements in the professional practice environment stating that facilities providing care to patients must minimize the risk to patients that may be presented by persons with prior criminal activity, a criminal background check will be completed on all accepted applicants prior to matriculation. Please refer to the General Information section of this bulletin for the criminal background check policy.

Immunization

Before registration, all students are required to provide a completed medical history form, and proof of immunization to Student Health Services. A completed physical examination form is required for physician assistant and pharmacy students. Students are responsible for maintaining immunizations; this is required by CPHS in order to complete all required supervised clinical practice experiences in the PA curriculum.

All students must provide proof of adequate immunization/immunity for the following:

- Hepatitis B
- Tdap
- MMR
- Polio
- Varicella
- TB skin test within one month of registration and annually thereafter
- Some clinical sites may require more frequent testing
- If the TB test is positive a chest x-ray is required

See Student Health Service immunization form for further information on timing and sequence of required immunizations (http://www.campbell.edu/content/686/immunizationform.pdf).

Infection Control

Please refer to the infection control guidelines in the General Information section of this Academic Bulletin for more details.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Refer to the General Information section of this Academic Bulletin for the sexual harassment policy.

www.campbell.edu/cphs 71
Substance Abuse Screening Protocol

Substance abuse screening is becoming mandatory at many health care facilities prior to participating in patient care either as a learner or a staff member. In light of this development, a negative substance abuse screening test is required before matriculation into the PA Program, and again before advancement to the clinical year. Therefore, applicants to the PA Program will be notified of the substance abuse screening test requirement as part of the application process. Repeated screening tests may be required as determined by the PA Program or the clinical training site.

Clinical education sites may require the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences (CPHS) to provide them with a copy of the results of any substance abuse test performed on students immediately prior to and for the duration of their placement at the site. Clinical education sites may set their own standards in regard to who they will admit based on the results of the substance abuse screening or require further screening. Students who are not willing to allow the release of the required personal information may not be able to be placed at an affiliated clinical education site, and thus cannot meet the requirements for graduation.

Procedure
1. A substance abuse screening test will be completed on all accepted applicants to the PA Program prior to matriculation.
2. The letter sent by the program to each accepted applicant, as well as to selected wait-listed applicants will include information about these requirements with the contingency that the final decision regarding matriculation will be made after institutional review of the accepted applicant’s substance abuse screening test report.
3. Appropriate authorization, with pertinent identifying information necessary to initiate the test, will be received from each accepted applicant prior to initiating a substance abuse screening test.
4. Students must have the sample collected at the Campbell University’s Student Health Services or at a CPHS approved collection site. CPHS will contract with an outside vendor for the performance of the test. Such tests will be conducted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable laws.
5. If the test result is positive, the PA Program Admissions Committee will review the information and the application. Depending on the decision of the Admissions Committee, the student’s acceptance can be rescinded or advancement to clinical year delayed based on these results.
6. All substance abuse screening tests will be maintained in a secure location to assure confidentiality. Routine access to the information will be limited to a staff member in the Office of Admissions & Student Affairs, the Associate Dean of Admissions & Student Affairs, the PA Program Director and the University General Counsel.
7. Tests will be repeated annually and the cost covered by the program; the cost of subsequent tests required by clinical sites will be the responsibility of the student.

Student Health Services

Physician Assistant students may utilize the Student Health Service for preventive services and personal health concerns. For patient privacy and confidentiality, PA students must not be treated by PA faculty who may occasionally cover the clinic. The student should identify themselves as a PA student when checking into the clinic so that they may be scheduled with a non-faculty provider.

Technical Standards for Admission

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) requires all Physician Assistant (PA) programs to publish technical standards for admission. “Technical Standards” as defined in Section 504 of the Act, “refers to all nonacademic admissions criteria that are essential to participate in the program in question.”

All PA students must possess the intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty. Because these standards describe essential functions that students must demonstrate to meet the requirements of PA education, they are prerequisites for entrance, continuation, promotion, and graduation from the PA program. The use of an intermediary, a person trained to perform essential skills on behalf of the student, is not permitted. The following technical standards are adapted from the AAMC guidelines.

Candidates for admission to and graduation from the Campbell PA Program should possess the following abilities:

Observation

The candidate must be able to observe required demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to anatomic dissection, microscopic studies, and patient demonstrations. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision, hearing, and somatic sensation.

Communication

A candidate must be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive non-verbal communication. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing in English. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Motor Abilities

A candidate must have sufficient motor function to carry out the basic laboratory techniques and to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers, perform dissection of a human cadaver, and have sufficient motor ability to use a microscope. A candidate should be able to perform a complete physical examination (including pelvic and rectal examination); diagnostic procedures (e.g., venipuncture and basic laboratory tests (e.g., urinalysis).

A candidate must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of treatment...
reasonably required of physician assistants are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the suturing of simple wounds, assisting in surgical operations, and the performance of simple, general obstetrical and gynecological procedures. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch, vision, and hearing.

**Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative**

Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physician assistants, requires that a candidate be able to learn, retrieve, analyze sequence, organize, synthesize and integrate information efficiently, and reason effectively. In addition a candidate should possess the ability to measure and calculate accurately, to perceive three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes**

A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and their family members, staff, and colleagues. Each candidate must be able to work effectively as a member of a health care team.

Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, collegiality, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admission and education processes.

Accepted students with a disability who believe they may require special accommodations should contact the Coordinator for Academic Support Services immediately upon accepting the offer of admissions. Before matriculation, accepted students must attest in writing that they are able to meet the program’s technical standards.

**Academic Standards**

**Academic Performance and Standards Committee**

The Academic Performance and Standard Committee (APSC) of the Campbell University Physician Assistant program consists of the principal faculty: the program director (chair), medical director, academic coordinator, clinical coordinator, and general faculty members. The committee meets mid-semester and prior to the end of each semester to review the academic standing of each student. Prior to the end of the didactic year the APSC convenes to recommend students for advancement to the clinical year; it convenes again prior to the end of the clinical year to recommend students for graduation. The committee will also be convened at any point in the program at the recommendation of a faculty member to discuss a student whose performance is at risk for not meeting standards.

**Retention and Promotion Criteria**

Students enrolled in the Physician Assistant program are expected to make satisfactory academic progress toward completion of degree requirements. Satisfactory academic progress is defined as successful completion of all required courses and completion of all deficiencies and/or required remedial programs in the time and manner prescribed by the Physician Assistant program faculty. Students who fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress will be placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation will be required to participate in academic counseling and/or in a remedial program of study.

**Remediation**

Students having academic difficulty can request tutoring by contacting the Coordinator for Academic Support Services at no cost. For an appointment call 910-814-5693. Advisors may refer students for tutoring as part of a remediation plan.

1. **Exam Remediation**

It is required that each student has a satisfactory understanding of all course material presented during the program in order to be a competent clinician. A student who fails an exam with a grade of less than 70% may be asked to meet with his/her faculty advisor or course coordinator, as directed by the academic coordinator. The meeting should include a review of the student’s study habits. The student must complete a written or practical remedial exam within two weeks, to ensure content competency. The completed remedial exercise will be placed in the student’s file. The exam grade will not be changed.

2. **Unit Remediation**

Clinical Medicine I, II, and III courses are composed of several units. In each unit there will be one or more exams. If a student receives a failing unit grade he or she must meet with his or her advisor. The student must successfully pass a remedial written or practical exam within two weeks of unit failure. If the student successfully remediates the unit, the grade will remain unchanged; however, the student will not be placed on academic probation. If the student fails to successfully remediate the material in the prescribed time he/she will be placed on academic probation.

3. **Course Grades**

Students must successfully complete all required courses of the Physician Assistant program with a minimum grade of 70%. A student who fails any one course will be placed on academic probation. The student will be given one opportunity to remediate the course. The student must successfully pass a remedial written or practical exam within two weeks in order to continue in the program. After successful remediation the course grade will be advanced to 70%. Failure to successfully remediate the course in the prescribed manner and time will result in dismissal from the program. Failure of any second course during the didactic year is not remediable and will result in dismissal from the program.
Remediation Records
A record of all student remediation exercises will be put in the student’s file. A record of remediation for each semester is kept in a flow sheet in the program files.

Academic Probation
Academic probation is the initial action for a student failing to make satisfactory academic progress. A student will be placed on academic probation for:
1. Failure to successfully remediate an initial course failure, in which he or she received a grade of less than 70%
2. Failure of one didactic course with a grade of less than 70%, which was successfully remediated.

A student placed on academic probation will be on probation for the semester. A didactic year student on probation will be required to meet with his/her advisor to develop a remedial study plan. The advisor may recommend referral to student services for tutoring, restricting participation in non-academic clubs, and committees or a combination of interventions. Any student who is placed on academic probation for two consecutive semesters will be dismissed from the program.

Administrative Probation
Regardless of academic standing, a didactic phase or clinical phase student may be placed on administrative probation at any time for unprofessional behavior or activity. Students on administrative probation will be required to engage in counseling as determined by the APSC. Counseling must be satisfactorily completed, as determined by the APSC, in order for the student to be removed from administrative probation.

A didactic phase or clinical phase student will be placed on administrative probation for:
1. Failure to demonstrate appropriate professional attitudes and behaviors, or
2. Documented behaviors that would preclude professional licensure.

Administrative Dismissal
A student on administrative probation who fails to complete and/or respond to required counseling in the required time will be dismissed from the program.

Academic or administrative probation, counseling, and remediation are not to be viewed as punitive, but as a means to help the student succeed. These measures are instituted in recognition that given the responsibilities of a healthcare professional, it is untenable for the program to advance a student who is not performing at a satisfactory level.

Clinical Year Remediation
End-of-Rotation Exam Remediation:
The final grade for clinical rotations is a combination of exam grades, preceptor evaluation, written assignments, and clinical coordinator’s evaluation, as outlined in the course syllabus. During the clinical phase of training, students may only remediate two failed end-of-rotation exams by passing a written remedial exam. If the student fails to successfully remediate either end-of-rotation exam, s/he will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the clinical phase of training. Failure of a third end-of-rotation exam is not remediable and is grounds for dismissal. A student placed on clinical year probation who fails any subsequent clinical course will be dismissed from the program.

Preceptor Evaluation
Clinical preceptor grades are an integral part of assessment of clinical year students. Clinical year students who receive two failing grades from preceptors on any two different rotations will be placed on probation. Students who receive a failing grade from a third preceptor evaluation will be brought before the Academic Performance and Standards Committee (APSC). The APSC will evaluate the specific circumstances of each preceptor evaluation. If the APSC decides that the evaluations are evidence that the student is unprepared for the rigors of clinical practice, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Course Remediation: Failure of a clinical rotation with a grade of less than 70% requires repeating the rotation and the student will be put on academic probation. Mandatory repeating of the clinical rotation will result in delay of graduation from the program. The student will incur additional tuition costs for the repeat rotation. Failure of a second clinical rotation is evidence that the student is unprepared for the rigors of clinical practice and will result in dismissal of the student from the program.

Clinical Year Probation
Clinical year students on probation will be required to meet with their advisor to develop a comprehensive written remedial study plan to assure comprehension of the core material.

Students will be placed on academic probation for:
1. Failing to successfully remediate an end-of-rotation exam failure, or
2. Failing a clinical rotation with a grade of less than 70%.
3. Failing two preceptor evaluations for any two rotations.

Clinical Year Dismissal
1. Being placed on clinical year probation twice during the clinical phase of the program,
2. Failure of a second clinical rotation,
3. Failure of three preceptor evaluations, following review by, and on recommendation of the APSC.
4. Failure of a third end-of-rotation exam, or
5. Failure to complete and/or respond to required counseling as a result of administrative probation.
Academic Status Appeals
Any student in the Physician Assistant program has the opportunity to appeal any decision made by the APSC. Students desiring to appeal a decision rendered by the APSC must submit a written petition to the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences’ associate dean of academic affairs within seven days of the student’s receipt of notification of the APSC decision. The decision of the associate dean is final.

Grade Appeals
Students who feel that they have a just reason for appealing a grade in a Department of Physician Assistant Practice course must first appeal to the course coordinator. If no resolution is achieved at the level of the course coordinator a student may appeal to the program director within seven days of notification of the grade. If the student feels the program director’s resolution is not just, the student must submit a written petition to the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences’ associate dean of academic affairs within seven days of the student’s receipt of notification of the program director’s decision. The petition must contain the specific variance requested and a description of any extenuating circumstances intended to justify granting the variance. The decision of the associate dean is final.

Service Hours
Service to the program, college, university, community, and profession is an integral part of the Campbell mission of faith, learning, and service. Physician Assistant students are required to earn 25 service learning hours as part of the didactic curriculum. Service hours can be earned by participating in college health fairs, the Buies Creek Elementary school health fair, PA day activities, the annual Charity Golf Tournament, adopt-a-highway program, and serving as hosts during open houses or Marshalls at graduation, among other activities. Students may also submit verified hours from service to their local churches or community groups. In addition to all other components required for successful completion of the didactic year, completion of the 25 mandatory service hours must be accomplished by the end of the Clinical Year Orientation week each year in order to advance to the clinical year and begin rotations. Failure to complete the hours as required may delay graduation.

Advancement to the Clinical Year
Advancement to the clinical year requires faculty approval and attainment of the following requirements:
1. Successful completion of all courses,
2. Maintenance of a 70% or greater overall grade average, and
3. Successful completion of the didactic year summative evaluations.
4. Completion of 25 hours of required service learning.

Graduation Requirements
Recommendation for graduation requires faculty approval and attainment of the following requirements:
1. Successful completion of all courses, requirements, and remediation,
2. Successful completion of the Campbell PA program PANCE board review seminar,
3. Successful completion of all summative clinical year evaluations, and
4. Attendance at the graduation ceremony is required.

Graduation after Deceleration
PA Students who decelerate due to approved medical leave, and are in good academic standing, may walk at the graduation ceremony with their original cohort if they lack no more than five hours of credit (one clinical rotation). The outstanding credit must be completed no later than March 15 of the year immediately following the original graduation date. Students who lack more than five hours of credit, or miss the deadline for completion, will walk at the next graduation ceremony after completion of their outstanding requirements.

Students who decelerate will receive their degree at the next University awarding period; either the May, August, or December graduation dates. Students may not sit for their NCCPA boards until after the degree has been awarded.

Attendance
Attendance is required at all classes and examinations. Attendance is a part of class participation. Excused absences include: serious illness, injury, death in the student’s immediate family, or absence due to authorized representation of the University, CPHS, or PA Program. In order to ensure student safety, if a student is ill he or she must call or email the academic or clinical coordinator as soon as possible. For authorized absences students are required to notify the coordinator 24 hours in advance. Clinical year students must also inform the clinical preceptor as soon as possible if they will miss a clinical session.

Each unexcused absence will receive a 2-point deduction from the professionalism grade for the course. Students who show a consistent pattern of tardiness for class will receive a warning. After the warning, students will receive a one-point deduction from the professionalism grade for each subsequent infraction.

Employment while in the Program
1. Outside employment during the didactic or clinical phases of the PA program is strongly discouraged.
2. Required program activities cannot be altered by outside activities. Outside obligations cannot interfere or impede class attendance or completion of assignments of program requirements.
3. Students are not permitted to perform any clerical, administrative, or physical work for the PA program as a graduate assistant.
4. Students must not substitute for faculty or staff by performing any administrative, clerical, or clinical duties while on supervised clinical educational rotations.

Assignment Completion
All course assignments must be turned in by the date and time posted by the instructor. A late penalty of 5-points per day will deducted from the assignment grade. Unless specific reasons for late submissions are approved in advance by the instructor, an assignment that is more than 6 days late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero for the assignment.
Medical Leave-of-Absence
Students who require a medical leave-of-absence must request a meeting with the program director. The circumstances of the leave will be reviewed with the Academic Performance and Standards Committee. Each case will be considered on an individual basis. A plan for deceleration, remediation, or withdrawal will be developed in discussion with the associate dean for Admissions and Student Services. Student withdrawal will follow the “Withdrawal” protocol in this bulletin.

Grade Reports, Records, and Transcripts
A report of grades attained by a student in the CPHS will be mailed to the address designated by the student at the end of each semester. The official records of each student in CPHS will be secured in the Office of the Registrar. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (PL93-380) will govern the release of information for this record which contains the transcript from Campbell University, transcripts and transcript evaluations from other educational agencies attended by the student, secondary school transcripts, scholastic aptitude, and other standardized test scores. The application for admission, general correspondence with the student and, if applicable, letters concerning misconduct or disciplinary actions at Campbell University are kept in the Office of Student Affairs. The transcript and contents of the permanent record may be examined by the student upon appointment with the Registrar.

Counseling
During the academic year orientation the Department of Physician Assistant Practice assigns a faculty member as the student’s advisor to provide guidance while students are in the program. This faculty member, the Program Director, and the staff are available to discuss academic and personal issues that may arise and provide guidance and/or referrals to other resources as necessary.

A counseling hotline is available free to all CPHS students through ProtoCall Services. Call: 866-428-3591. Counseling services are available through the coordinator for academic support services. For an appointment call 910-814-5693.

Dress Code
Business attire is appropriate for classroom and examination sessions. Men are required to wear shirts and a tie with slacks or khakis. Women’s skirt or dress length should be to the knee. Thin strap or racer back tank tops must be covered with a sweater or jacket. Sleeveless dressy tops may be worn without a sweater. Low cut tops or dresses are not permitted. Jeans and flip-flops are not permitted.

Clean scrubs are recommended for laboratory sessions. A short white lab coat and name tag is required for all clinical encounters: long hair must be pulled back. Nose, lip and eyebrow piercings are not permitted in clinical settings.

Withdrawal
In the event that a student must withdraw from the College, he or she will be responsible for obtaining the required form for withdrawal from the University registrar. It is also the student’s responsibility to complete the prescribed administrative procedures to assure notification to all individuals and offices that require this information.

In cases of serious illness, injuries, or extreme circumstances which normally would require the student’s withdrawal from the College, the student may fully withdraw from all semester coursework without receiving a grade. Such cases require adequate documentation of the circumstances.

Students who withdraw in good academic standing and have completed all the necessary documentation will be granted readmission to the program as an entering student. The student must request readmission within two academic years. In those instances of readmission, all courses must be completed and all tuition and fees will be applied.

Honor Code
Refer to the General Information section of this Academic Bulletin for the Honor Code. PA students are required to read and sign the Honor Code, attesting they understand the code, they have read and understand the bulletin, and will adhere to the policies. A signed copy of the code will be kept in the student’s file.

Curriculum
Campbell University’s Physician Assistant Program is a 28 month graduate degree program with 13 months of didactic education and 15 months of supervised clinical experience. Graduates will receive the Master of Physician Assistant Practice (MPAP) degree upon successful completion. There is a 2-3 week summative session before graduation. The program starts in mid-August. Graduation is in December, after 7 semesters of study and training. All didactic courses are held on the main campus.

The PA program curriculum is a competency-based graduate medical education curriculum. The sequence of courses is designed to start with foundation courses in the basic sciences as well as clinical skills. Following the initial foundational coursework, subsequent courses teach clinical medical, surgical and pharmacotherapeutical concepts. Curriculum content is integrated such that the study of topics in a specific clinical discipline, such as cardiology, includes cardiology in clinical medicine, cardiology diagnostics such as EKG and appropriate laboratories, and cardiology pharmacotherapeutics. The history and physical examination course is a foundation course, teaching skills and techniques; the clinical assessment course which follows is a course in which the student practices those skills in supervised settings with patients. Assessment of students in the first year is by written examinations, performance on laboratory practical examinations, and participation in small group activities.

The clinical rotations in the second year are five-week supervised clerkship experiences in the major disciplines, a seminar in evidence-based clerkship and two clinical electives. Evaluation of clinical-year students includes a preceptor assessment of performance, and student performance on written examinations or presentations given at the end of each required clinical rotation.

All students complete all didactic elements in the program at the same time. All students complete the required clinical experiences. The only elective study available in this curriculum is in the second year when students may undertake supervised clinical experiences in two five-week rotations of their choosing.
Curriculum design and operationalization is guided by the standards of accreditation for physician assistant education, as published by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The ARC-PA accreditation standards describe the required curricular components and required supervised clinical experiences for a program to receive accreditation. The curriculum described is designed to meet these accreditation requirements.

**Didactic Courses**

### Fall Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 501 - Anatomy Lecture &amp; Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 502 - Physiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 512 - History &amp; Physical</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 504 - Clinical Medicine I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 515 - Pharmacotherapeutics I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 519 - Health Policy &amp;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 508 - Radiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 512 - History &amp; Physical</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 504 - Clinical Medicine I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 515 - Pharmacotherapeutics I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 519 - Health Policy &amp;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 508 - Radiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spring Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 505 - Clinical Medicine II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 516 - Pharmacotherapeutics II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 503 - Behavioral Medicine</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 521 - Surgery</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 507 - Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 509 - Evidence-Based Med. I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summer Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 506 - Clinical Medicine III</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 514 - Orthopaedics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 510 - Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 517 - Pharmacotherapeutics III</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 518 - Clinical Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 520 - Health Policy &amp;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 521 - Surgery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 507 - Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 509 - Evidence-Based Med. I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clinical Rotations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 601 - Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 602 - Family Practice</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 603 - Internal Medicine</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 604 - Surgery</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 605 - Pediatrics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 606 - Psychiatry</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 607 - OB/GYN</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 605 - Primary Care</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 609 - Evidence-Based Med. II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 610 - Orthopaedics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 611 - Elective 1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPAP 612 - Elective 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clinical Affiliation

There are numerous clinical affiliations for PA students to complete their supervised clinical training. Students will be notified of their clinical training sites during the spring/summer semester of the didactic year. Those sites are located in Harnett and surrounding counties in North Carolina.

### Clinical Rotations at Distant Sites

While many clinical educational rotations are in Harnett and surrounding counties, it may be necessary for the program to arrange some rotations at distant sites. Every effort will be made to arrange clinical rotations that are within 90 minutes’ drive time from campus, or from a student’s home, for those who are North Carolina residents. Travel expenses are the student’s responsibility. Nevertheless, there are times when it may be necessary for the program to send some students to sites that are not within convenient driving distance. In those few instances students will be responsible for travel and may be responsible for discounted housing costs, if available through North Carolina AHEC. Distant rotations will account for no more than three of any student’s total rotations.

### Course Descriptions

#### Didactic Courses

**MPAP 501 – Human Anatomy**  
Credit: 4 hours  
This one semester clinical anatomy unit prepares the student for clinical practice with an understanding of functional human anatomy. The unit consists of a series of lectures and labs. Lectures are taught by experienced clinicians. The labs are guided by surgical faculty. The lecture and lab sections are organized in an organ system approach, correlating with the physical diagnosis unit that runs concurrently.

**MPAP 502 – Physiology**  
Credit: 3 hours  
Physiology is presented to the student to reinforce the importance of physiology and pathophysiology to the study of clinical medicine. The course is structured in an organ system approach, correlating the basic sciences with clinical applications. It is delivered in the first semester as a foundation for the clinical medicine courses. It is structured to coincide with the anatomy course and the physical diagnosis unit that runs concurrently.

**MPAP 503 – Behavior Medicine**  
Credit: 4 hours  
This course is an introduction to psychiatric disorders and behavioral medicine. Presented in lecture and seminar format the major psychiatric disorders are studied. DSM-IV classification is covered, as is interviewing and office counseling. Clinical reasoning exercises include small-group clinical case study discussions, led by experienced clinicians, which are utilized to develop problem solving skills. Standardized patients and/or objective structured clinical examinations prepare the student for clinical patient interactions.
MPAP 504 – Clinical Medicine I
Credit: 4 hours
This is the first of three didactic Clinical Medicine courses presented in the first year. The course will concentrate on the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease; organized into an organ system approach, this first course will cover preventive medicine, infectious diseases, cardiology and EKG, and hematology and oncology. The course is presented in lecture format taught by affiliated physicians and physician assistants. Clinical reasoning exercises include small-group clinical case study discussions, led by experienced clinicians, which are utilized to develop problem solving skills. Standardized patients and/or objective structured clinical examinations prepare the student for clinical patient interactions.

MPAP 505 – Clinical Medicine II
Credit: 6 hours
This is the second of three didactic Clinical Medicine courses presented in the first year. The course will concentrate on the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease; organized into an organ system approach, this second course will cover pulmonology, neurology, endocrinology, urology, gastroenterology, dermatology, ophthalmology, and otolaryngology and nephrology. The course is presented in lecture format taught by affiliated physicians and physician assistants. Clinical reasoning exercises include small-group clinical case study discussions, led by experienced clinicians, which are utilized to develop problem solving skills. Standardized Patients and/or Objective Structured Clinical Examinations prepare the student for clinical patient interactions.

MPAP 506 – Clinical Medicine III
Credit: 6 hours
This is the last of three didactic Clinical Medicine courses presented in the first year. The course will concentrate on the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease; organized in a life-cycle approach, this course will cover obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, geriatrics, and men’s health. The course is presented in lecture format taught by affiliated physicians and physician assistants. Clinical reasoning exercises include small-group clinical case study discussions, led by experienced clinicians, which are utilized to develop problem solving skills. Standardized patients and/or objective structured clinical examinations prepare the student for clinical patient interactions.

MPAP 507 – Laboratory Medicine
Credit: 3 hours
This course provides an introduction to physician office laboratory (POL) clinical procedures. Concentration is on the performance and interpretation of CLIA waived tests. Selection and interpretation of routine diagnostic tests commonly used in clinical practice is also covered. The course is designed to give the primary care provider laboratory data relevant to diagnosis and management of common diseases. Lectures are supplemented with hands on performance of common POL tests.

MPAP 508 – Radiology
Credit: 1 hour
The radiology unit will introduce the student to ordering and interpreting diagnostic imaging studies. Presented in lecture format, the student will learn the basics of radiographic science. A variety of imaging modalities including radiographs, ultrasound, CT, and MRI will be discussed. Plain and digital images will be viewed. The student will learn protocols for interpreting plain films. Case studies will integrate imaging studies with clinical pathology. Concentration will be on skeletal radiographs, basic chest x-ray, abdominal films, and head CT.

MPAP 509 – Evidence-Based Medicine
Credit: 4 hours
This one semester course is an introduction to Evidence-based Medicine (EBM), and prepares the student for EBM II which is the clinical year project. Evidence based-medicine provides tools to assist clinicians to make accurate diagnoses and select optimal treatment for their patients. This course will review statistical concepts, the epidemiologic basis for clinical research, and research ethics, and will teach students to formulate clinical questions, search and critically appraise the medical literature, and incorporate best evidence into their practice. The course content is presented in lecture format with small group discussions.

MPAP 510 – Emergency Medicine
Credit: 2 hours
This course will focus on the management of patients with emergency medical and surgical conditions requiring evaluation and treatment. Presented in lecture format, with small group case discussion sessions, the student will learn to recognize those patients with life-threatening disorders. Triage, stabilization, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and specialty consultation will be covered. As adjunctive material and in preparation for clinical year studies students will take the BLS and ACLS certification courses prior to starting the clinical year rotations.

MPAP 511 – Genetics
Credit: 1 hour
This one semester course is an introduction to medical genetics and genomics. Presented in lecture format this course explores the genetic basis of disease and clinical genetic disorders. Students will be taught to develop a genetic pedigree and understand its inherent health implications. Students will also study medical genomics, the application of which can be used to develop genotypic specific diagnoses, prevention, and therapy.

MPAP 512 – History & Physical Examination
Credit: 4 hours
This semester long course introduces the student to the art of acquiring a patient history and performing the physical examination. Using weekly lecture and laboratory format the course will detail how to obtain a medical history, and perform a complete physical examination. The small group labs will allow the student to learn history and physical skill, after they are demonstrated by the faculty. Simulated patient encounters will provide the student with the opportunity to practice their clinical skills. At the conclusion of each lab students will perform a case-based clinical scenario exercise with their lab partner and receive faculty feedback on their performance. A summative physical exam will be performed and graded.
MPAP 514 – Orthopaedics
Credit: 2 hours
This is a one semester course designed to give the student an overview of the discipline of orthopaedics. Presented in lecture and laboratory format, this course covers the basics of musculoskeletal medicine. Several procedural seminars dedicated to musculoskeletal physical examination skills, casting and splinting, and interpretation of skeletal radiographs are included. The course will cover musculoskeletal disorders of all age groups. Special emphasis will be directed to office and emergency orthopaedics as seen in primary care. Operative orthopaedics will also be discussed in preparation for the required orthopaedics rotation in the second year.

MPAP 515 – Pharmacotherapeutics I
Credit: 2 hours
This course is the introductory section of a three semester pharmacotherapeutics curriculum. This first section will introduce the student to the basic principles of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism, drug interactions, and adverse reactions. The student will also be introduced to the drug reference resources. Drugs will be introduced in conjunction with the clinical medicine units that are taught this semester. Presented in lecture format with interactive sessions, this unit will provide the student with the pharmacotherapeutic principles needed for clinical practice. The course is taught by experienced clinical doctor of pharmacy faculty.

MPAP 516 – Pharmacotherapeutics II
Credit: 2 hours
This is the second course in a three semester course. The course will concentrate on therapeutic applications of drugs for various organ systems integrated with the clinical medicine units being taught during this semester. Presented in lecture format augmented by clinical case presentations discussed in small group sessions. The course is taught by experienced clinical doctor of pharmacy faculty.

MPAP 517 – Pharmacotherapeutics III
Credit: 2 hours
This is the third semester course in Pharmacology. This course will build on the previous two courses and concentrate on the clinical pharmacotherapeutics of life cycle medicine. Presented in lecture format, with small group discussions, the unit is taught in conjunction with pediatrics, geriatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, men’s health, and integrative medicine. The course will expand on the clinical application of therapeutics specific to patients of all ages and gender. Biological and herbal medicine, as applicable to primary care, will be discussed. The course is taught by experienced doctor of pharmacy faculty.

MPAP 518 – Clinical Assessment
Credit: 3 hours
This course builds on the history and physical diagnosis course by adding a practical component. The student will be assigned to hospital and outpatient preceptors who will guide them in the history and physical exam process. The student will be assigned to interview patients and obtain a complete medical history and perform a detailed physical exam. The student will be taught how to document the history and physical in the medical record and how to structure an oral presentation. Formal history and physical write-ups will be evaluated by program faculty and course preceptors.

MPAP 519 – Health Policy & Professional Practice I
Credit: 1 hour
This two semester course introduces the student to the issues of physician assistant practice including PA history, state laws and rules, certification, licensure, DEA regulation, and malpractice insurance. The student is also taught healthcare organization, policy, ethics, and economics. The course will explore coding and reimbursement. The student will also have the opportunity to be exposed to the other members of the healthcare team.

MPAP 520 – Health Policy & Professional Practice II
Credit: 2 hours
This is the second course of a two semester course introducing the student to the issues of physician assistant practice including PA history, state laws and rules, certification, licensure, DEA regulation, and malpractice insurance. The student is also taught healthcare organization, policy, ethics, and economics. The course will explore coding and reimbursement. The student will also have the opportunity to be exposed to the other members of the healthcare team.

MPAP 521 – Surgery
Credit: 4 hours
This one semester course, presented in lecture format with weekly lab sessions is designed to introduce the student to the fundamentals of surgical practice. Lectures will cover surgical principles and common surgical conditions. The student will learn basic clinical procedures including sterile technique, anesthesia, suturing, and common office procedures. Pre-operative and post-operative patient care is presented.

Clinical Courses

MPAP 601 – Emergency Medicine
Credit: 5 hours
This 5 week rotation is located at one of our affiliated Emergency Departments. Students will participate in all aspects of emergency medical care. The student will interview, evaluate and examine patients presenting to the Emergency Department. Students will present all patients cared for to the precepting clinician. Emergency procedures and treatment will be guided by the clinical preceptor. Patient encounters must be logged with the PA program. Students will be graded on preceptor evaluations and final examination.

MPAP 602 – Family Practice
Credit: 5 hours
This 5 week rotation introduces the student to the basics of family medicine. The student will participate in all aspects of care for patients of all ages. The student will interview, examine, and treat patients under the direction of the preceptor. Special emphasis is placed upon patient education, prevention, and health maintenance.
MPAP 603 – Internal Medicine
Credit: 5 hours
This 5 week rotation gives the student the opportunity to apply medical interventions for internal medicine patients in either the inpatient and/or outpatient setting. Under the direction of a preceptor the student will analyze the patient chart, monitor the patient’s progress, perform history and physicals, and plan therapeutic interventions. In the inpatient setting the student will round with the inpatient team. In the outpatient setting the student may participate in nursing home rounds. The student will learn to order specialty tests, write orders, and request specialty consultation. They will also gain an appreciation for discharge planning and disposition regarding home care and follow up.

MPAP 604 – Surgery
Credit: 5 hours
This is a 5 week rotation located at one of our affiliated inpatient general surgical units. The student will learn pre-op, intra-operative, and post-operative patient care. The student will scrub into surgical cases and assist the surgeon as indicated. The student will participate in the management of the surgical inpatient, and assist with discharge planning. The student will be assigned to an on-call team and respond to emergency in the ED and OR with the team.

MPAP 605 – Pediatrics
Credit: 5 hours
This 5 week rotation will expose the student to the clinical practice of pediatric medicine. Rotations will either be at an affiliated inpatient facility or a private outpatient practice. Students will care for infants, children and adolescents. Duties will include routine health maintenance, physical exams, acute care, and patient education. The student will recognize normal development and appreciate common abnormalities of growth and development. Students will become familiar with the evaluation and treatment of common pediatric disorders. Emphasis will be on preventive care and family dynamics. (5 credit hours)

MPAP 606 – Psychiatry
Credit: 5 hours
This 5 week rotation enables students to see patients in either outpatient or inpatient mental health facilities. The student will develop skill counseling patients with psychiatric and psychosocial disorders. Under the direction of the preceptor the student will become familiar with the use of psychotropic therapeutics. Students will learn to identify and refer “at-risk” patients.

MPAP 607 – Obstetrics & Gynecology
Credit: 5 hours
This 5 week rotation provides the student for an opportunity to gain experience in common gynecological conditions. The student learns about screening for breast and gynecologic cancers, normal and abnormal menstrual patterns, infectious diseases, and family planning. The student participates in providing routine prenatal and obstetrical care.

MPAP 608 – Primary Care
Credit: 5 hours
This 5 week rotation introduces the student to the basics of outpatient primary care medicine. The student may rotate in an ambulatory clinic, internal medicine office, family practice, or urgent care. The student will participate in all aspects of care for patients of all ages. The student will interview, examine, and treat patients under the direction of the preceptor. Special emphasis is placed upon patient education, prevention, and health maintenance.

MPAP 609 – Evidence-Based Medicine II
Credit: 5 hours
This 5 week course is a continuation of EBM I from the didactic curriculum. This second course extends the content presented in EBM I. In EBM II students formulate a clinical question, research and assess the medical literature, and analyze the selected research studies for validity. There are weekly small group lectures and discussions. The students meet on an individual basis with a faculty mentor to refine their clinical questions and develop a final paper. The students will create a PowerPoint presentation to present findings to the faculty.

MPAP 610 – Orthopaedics
Credit: 5 hours
This is a 5 week rotation in general orthopaedics. The rotation is either with an affiliated hospital based or private community practice. The student will rotate through the various specialties within the department. The student will gain experience with common office orthopaedic disorders, pre-op, and post op care. Operative orthopaedic experience is obtained by assisting the attending surgeon during selected cases. The student will learn common orthopaedic procedures such as joint and soft tissue injections, fracture reduction, casting, splinting, wound care, suturing, and surgical assisting.

MPAP 611 – Elective I
Credit: 5 hours
The student is given the option of electing 2 rotations of their choice. They may be medical and/or surgical electives. It is proposed to select electives that will fulfill the student’s clinical interests and add to their experience preparing for the job market. A case presentation is required at the completion of the elective to be shared with the faculty and fellow students during call back day.

MPAP 612 – Elective II
Credit: 5 hours
The student is given the option of electing 2 rotations of their choice. They may be medical and/or surgical electives. It is proposed to select electives that will fulfill the student’s clinical interests and add to their experience preparing for the job market. A case presentation is required at the completion of the elective to be shared with the faculty and fellow students during call back day.
Competencies for Graduates

In order to prepare for certification and professional practice as a Physician Assistant, the PA student must graduate from a competency based, entry level, accredited PA program. The Campbell PA program consists of didactic and clinical education guided by the Standards for Physician Assistant Education, as set forth by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). Upon completion of the program the graduate should possess defined basic competencies required to deliver high quality health care in a dynamic clinical environment.

In an effort to define PA competencies the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), the ARC-PA, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), and the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) have developed a list of suggested clinical competencies for the PA profession. The competencies are based on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) model with areas specific to PA practice.

With respect to the guidelines for PA competencies specific knowledge, skills, and attitudes are addressed in PA education. Students graduating from the Campbell PA program must be able to demonstrate competence in the following areas:

Medical Knowledge

Physician Assistants are expected to:

• Demonstrate knowledge of the structure and function of the human body from conception to death
• Demonstrate knowledge of the presentation, etiologies, risk factors, pathophysiology, and epidemiology for medical and surgical conditions, applying this knowledge to patient care
• Demonstrate knowledge of the diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of diseases encountered in specialized areas of medicine
• Correlate history and physical findings and diagnostic studies to formulate a differential diagnosis
• Identify signs and symptoms of medical conditions encountered in both the inpatient and outpatient settings
• Select, order, and interpret appropriate diagnostic and laboratory studies
• Differentiate between normal and abnormal anatomic, physiological, and diagnostic test data
• Manage acute and chronic medical and surgical conditions
• Analyze the indications, contraindications, side effects, interactions and adverse reactions of pharmacologic agents
• Identify the appropriate site of care for the patients’ medical condition
• Identify cases requiring emergency treatment and those requiring referral or hospital admission
• Apply appropriate interventions for the prevention of acute and chronic medical conditions

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Physician Assistants are expected to:

• Create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients
• Communicate effectively with patients, families, and the public across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
• Apply effective listening, nonverbal, explanatory, questioning, and writing skills to elicit and provide information
• Work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group
• Demonstrate an understanding of the varieties of human behavior in response to illness and death
• Demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families
• Accurately and adequately document information in the medical record regarding the health care process for medical, legal, quality, and financial purposes

Patient Care

Physician Assistants are expected to:

• Work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals to provide patient-centered care
• Gather essential and accurate information about their patients
• Obtain a complete medical history
• Perform a complete physical examination
• Competently perform medical, surgical, and laboratory procedures (see “technical procedures taught”) including but not limited to:
  • Basic and advanced cardiac life support
  • Wound care
  • Specimen collection
  • Administration of therapeutic agents
  • Application of aseptic technique and universal precaution
  • Surgical assisting
  • Performance of office based procedures and tests
• Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment
• Counsel patients and their families in regard to medical and psychosocial issues
• Provide patient education in health promotion and disease prevention to maximize patient autonomy
• Provide health care services aimed at preventing health problems and/or maintaining health
• Provide compassionate healthcare to patients of all age groups, genders, and ethnicities

Professionalism

Physician Assistants are expected to demonstrate:

• Understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements for physician assistant practice
• Understanding of the appropriate role of the physician assistant
• Professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers
• Respect, compassion, and integrity in all clinical and professional situations
• Responsiveness to the needs of patients and society
- Accountability to patients, society, and the profession
- Commitment to excellence and on-going professional development
- Commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices
- Sensitivity and responsiveness to patients’ culture, age, gender, and disabilities
- Self-reflection, critical curiosity, and initiative

**Practice-Based Learning and Improvement**

Physician Assistants are expected to:
- Analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities in concert with other members of the health care delivery team
- Locate, appraise, and integrate evidence-based scientific studies related to their patients’ health problems
- Apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical studies on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness
- Apply information technology to manage information, access on-line medical information, maintain electronic medical records, and support continuing medical education
- Recognize that life-long learning is critical to modern medical practice
- Facilitate the learning of students and/or other health care professionals
- Recognize and appropriately address gender, cultural, cognitive, emotional and other biases; gaps in medical knowledge; and physical limitations in themselves and others

**Systems-Based Practice**

Physician Assistants are expected to:
- Utilize information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education
- Effectively interact with different types of medical practice and delivery systems
- Understand the coding systems necessary for practice reimbursement
- Understand the funding sources and payment systems that provide coverage for patient care
- Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation without compromising quality of care
- Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities
- Partner with supervising physicians, health care managers and other health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve the delivery of health care and patient outcomes
- Accept responsibility for promoting a safe environment for patient care and recognizing and correcting systems-based factors that negatively impact patient care