

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT Master of Medical Science at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives...Personal Attention...Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Faculty

Director

Michael Dryer, PA-C, Dr.P.H., Chair and Director

Core Faculty

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Jeanette Smith, M.A., PA-C, Clinical Coordinator

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Program Support Specialists

Corrine Days, Denise Hoban, Program Support Specialist
Nicole Portzline, Cathy Schiffelbein, Patricia Simon

Master's Degrees

Master of Medical Science

Dual Degree Program: Master of Medical Science and Master of Public Health (See separate section in Graduate Catalog.)

About the Physician Assistant Program

- Two campuses: Glenside, Pa., and Christiana, Del.
- Dual Degree program with Public Health at Glenside campus
- Strong ties with regional medical communities
- Global health experiences
- Clinical simulation training
- Full Cadaver Dissection
- Electronic note service and podcasting of lectures
- Online textbooks
- Attendance at National PA Conference included in tuition

Mission: Arcadia University's Physician Assistant Program prepares graduate students from across the country for careers in today's rapidly changing medical environment. Utilizing the resources of the medical community within the Delaware Valley, the Program provides students with the foundation for professional growth through personal attention, global perspective, and a commitment to excellence.

The master's degree program in Medical Science (M.M.S.) at Arcadia University is designed to produce graduates who are well-equipped to deliver high-quality, cost-effective primary health care in a wide variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices and other community settings.

Accreditation: The Arcadia University PA program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission of Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). ARC-PA only accredits physician assistant programs. The Council on Education for Public Health is the agency responsible for accrediting public health programs. The last accreditation site visit was in Fall 2010. The Program received the maximum seven year reaccreditation.

Coursework: The first three semesters of the program consist of didactic and laboratory coursework in the basic and clinical sciences, including a 9-week anatomy course with cadaver dissection at Jefferson Medical College. First-year students are introduced into

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clinical settings as part of the Physical Diagnosis I course in the fall semester. At the conclusion of the didactic phase of the program and prior to the start of the clinical rotations, students participate in a transitional phase. During several weeks, students complete their core competency examinations and receive training in clinical procedures. The students participate in standardized patient simulation experiences. The transitional phase concludes with student attendance at the AAPA National Conference. The conference is expected to be held in Toronto in 2012, Washington, D.C. in 2013 and Boston, Massachusetts in 2014. The costs associated with attending the conference (airfare, hotel, registration) are included in the tuition.

Clinical Rotations: The clinical phase consists of seven required rotations including Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Internal Medicine, Women's Health, Pediatrics, and Surgery. In addition, there are 12 weeks of clinical electives.

During the clinical rotations, the students are visited by a faculty member to ensure that they are getting an appropriate learning experience. Every 12 weeks, the students return to campus for exams and professional practice lectures. For each required rotation, the students complete a case study. Students may be asked to present their evidence-based case study as part of the Senior Program Scholar Presentations at the end of the clinical phase.

Two campuses: The Arcadia University Department of Medical Science and Community Health operate at two campuses in Glenside, PA and Christiana, DE. The Physician Assistant Program 2006 offering Program builds on the relationships that Arcadia enjoys in the Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey medical communities.

The Christiana Campus is located in an executive center in the growing Newark area and provides an adult learning environment. The campus is immediately adjacent to the Christiana Hospital and the Delaware Academy of Medicine Library, which provides access to all Arcadia PA students. The campus includes classrooms and laboratory spaces, a Student Center, offices and meeting rooms. Arcadia University has affiliations with Delaware hospitals and numerous physician practices for the clinical education of Physician Assistant students.

The Glenside campus is the historic home of Arcadia University and serves both undergraduate and graduate students. The Physician Assistant program is located in Brubaker Hall, which offers dedicated classrooms, laboratory space, offices and a student resource room. Students at the Glenside campus have access to student services on the campus, including the Landman Library. The Physician Assistant program faculty is based at each respective campus, but the faculty share teaching and supervisory responsibilities at both campuses.

Both campuses follow the same curriculum and share many lecturers. Students from both campuses attend Anatomy class together at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and also attend the annual conference of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Combined, the two campuses offer the resources and advantages of a large program with the personal attention of smaller classes. Students come to Arcadia to pursue their careers as Physician Assistants of distinction.

General Admissions Procedures

Application Deadline: All applications are processed by the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org. Official transcripts and references are considered part of the CASPA application and should be sent directly to CASPA. A paper application is available by calling CASPA at 240-497-1895. Applications will not be accepted by CASPA after Jan. 15. Students are accepted on a rolling basis and encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Deposit: A \$500 deposit must accompany the acceptance reply. This deposit is applied to the first semester's tuition, but it is nonrefundable if the student fails to enter the program on the date for which he or she is accepted. A second deposit of \$1,000 is required by April 1. Arcadia's application deadline is Jan. 15.

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Admissions Requirements for the Physician Assistant Program

1. A Physician Assistant application to be completed through CASPA at www.caspaonline.org.Official transcripts and letters of recommendation are included as part of the application process. **Please send transcripts directly to CASPA.**
2. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a recommended GPA of 3.0 or better.
- 3.4. Students must have completed the following prerequisites:
 - a. Biological Sciences—five courses to include Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology. Biochemistry is recommended.
 - b. Chemistry—four courses to include at least one semester of Organic Chemistry.
 - c. Psychology—one course.
 - d. Statistics—one course.
 - e. Humanities—five courses, such as history, modern languages, sociology, anthropology, literature, religion, philosophy and fine arts.
5. Three letters of recommendation are submitted directly to CASPA. Ideally, one should be from a professor and one from a practicing licensed physician or physician assistant.
6. Test scores from either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), taken within the last five years. (Arcadia's GRE code is 2039.) These tests are required for all applicants, including those who already have a graduate degree.
7. A minimum of 200 hours of patient care experience.
8. Students must meet the minimal technical requirements for admission, continuation and graduation. The technical standards

are posted on the program Web page at www.arcadia.edu/pa.

9. An interview is required and is by invitation only.
10. International applicants should visit www.arcadia.edu/international for detailed information on admissions requirements and application procedures. Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS are required for all students for whom English is a second language except for non-native speakers of English who hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States is also required.
11. Arcadia performs a holistic review of each student's application. Students with exceptional clinical experience may have one or more prerequisites waived. The program does not allow students to waive courses, nor does it admit students with advanced standing. However, students who have withdrawn or who have been dismissed from the program can be readmitted and granted credit for courses they have completed successfully.

Support Services

Professional counseling services are available through the Arcadia University Counseling Center.

Expenses

Approximate costs are calculated annually and subject to change. Please note that all tuition listed is for 2011-2012.

M.M.S. (Physician Assistant)

For students entering in May of 2011, tuition for the two-year Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant) program is as follows:

- Year One: \$33,190 (includes Summer, Fall and Spring Semesters)
- Year Two: \$33,190 (Includes Summer, Fall and Spring Semesters)

Fees and Expenses Not Covered By Tuition

1. Technology/Lab Fee (paid over the life of the program): \$1,200 \$1,200

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AAPA Student Membership (required) (one-time fee that expires four months after date of graduation): \$75

1. Mandatory clearances, which include criminal background checks, immunization tracking, child abuse screening, etc. Additional costs associated with drug screening varies upon clinical rotation: \$225
2. Estimated books, supplies and medical equipment
Didactic phase: \$1,500
Clinical phase: \$500
3. Students are required to cover housing and transportation costs related to all off-campus and clinical experiences.
4. Laptop computers ****provide link to specifications

Medical Insurance: Upon enrollment into their programs, all students must provide proof of medical insurance and also provide information about their health and medical history. If needed, medical insurance can be purchased through the University. Information and applications are available in the Office of the Student Health Services.

Financial Aid

Tuition and fees for the program are billed in equal increments over the course of the program. Information on current costs is available at www.arcadia.edu/finaid. Financial aid is available to assist qualified students in covering tuition and related expenses, as well as living costs. Upon review for admission, students automatically will be reviewed by the academic department for a limited number of merit scholarships. Additionally, students can apply to receive up to \$20,500 annually through the Federal Direct Stafford Loan at a fixed interest rate. In addition to the Stafford Loan, students can choose to borrow either a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan or a private alternative student loan to cover remaining expenses. Graduate assistantships also may be available to those who qualify. For more information on available financial aid and how to apply, visit www.arcadia.edu/finaid and click on Graduate.

Program-Specific Loan Options: The National Health Service Corps offers loan repayment programs for primary care physician assistants who agree to provide service in a priority health-professional shortage area (HPSA) for a two-year period

following graduation. Other loan programs are available through the Allied Health Education Loan Program.

Scholarships: Information on the following scholarships can be obtained from the Office of Enrollment Management in Grey Towers Castle:

- Salzer Foundation: grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
- Association of Physician Assistants in Cardiovascular Surgery: scholarships for second-year students.
- Department of Veterans Affairs: full scholarships plus monthly stipends for second-year students. (Obligation is two years' service at a V.A. medical center.)
- Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants: scholarship of \$500 to students in their final year of study.
- Physician Assistant Foundation Scholarship
<http://www.aapa.org/student-academy/awards/physician-assistant-foundation-scholarship>
- National Financial Aid, Scholarships and Awards
<http://www.aapa.org/student-academy/awards/national-financial-aid-scholarships-a-awards>

Students are required to have and maintain a laptop computer, PC, or MAC that meets Arcadia University specifications.

Academic Policies and Procedures

A student accepted into the Physician Assistant program is expected to abide by the regulations set forth by Arcadia University and the written policies of the Physician Assistant program. For a discussion of the general academic policies and procedures for graduate students, see the Academic Policies section in this catalog and the Student Handbook www.arcadia.edu/handbook on the Web. The policies of the Physician Assistant program are published in the Physician Assistant Policies and Guidelines Handbook, is revised annually and provided to students at orientation. To remain in good academic standing, students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.70 in each semester. Failure to meet this standard for two consecutive semesters for two-year PA students or three semesters for three-year

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dual-degree students may result in the student being dismissed from the program. All courses in the Physician Assistant curriculum are required and are sequential, and students must receive a minimum grade of “C” in courses before progressing in the program. If a grade lower than a “C” is earned in a course, it is considered a failing grade and the student may be dismissed from the program.

In order to progress to clinical rotations, the student must have no course grades below “C” and a minimum GPA of 2.70 (“B-”). The student also must successfully complete the core competency examinations, and obtain permission of the Physician Assistant program. If this minimum GPA requirement has not been met by the end of the didactic phase, students will not be allowed to enter the Clinical Phase and will be dismissed from the program. The student also must meet all compliance issues, which include immunizations and physical examination, criminal background checks and drug screening.

In the second year of the program, the student must continue to maintain a minimum 2.70 cumulative GPA. In addition, students must pass a comprehensive written and practical exam. Students who fail any clinical rotation must repeat the rotation, meet all academic requirements, and receive Department permission before continuing into the next clinical affiliation. Permission to continue is dependent upon the cause of the unsatisfactory performance and is determined by the program in consultation with clinical preceptors, the clinical coordinators, the program director and the student. Failure of an additional clinical rotation experience may result in the student being dismissed from the program or the imposition of additional periods of clinical rotation. Students who must repeat a rotation will be billed at the prevailing credit fee.

Students who withdraw or are dismissed from the program and who want to re-enter must apply within six months of departure for readmission and receive permission from the Physician Assistant program. Based upon a review of their performance, those students may be re-admitted with the possibility advanced standing.

Student Work Policy: Due to the intensity of the PA programs, students are discouraged

from outside employment while enrolled in the PA and dual-degree programs. Employment during these programs makes it difficult to have time for social activities, hobbies and recreational activities and rest. Students are prohibited from applying compensated clinical experience toward academic credit. Additionally, students may not provide services within a preceptor’s practice apart from those rendered as part of the clinical year of the program. Students are not permitted to have clerical or teaching responsibilities within the PA program. Students may not receive compensation for any work performed within the preceptor’s site or practice.

Academic and Clinical Facilities

This program utilizes the extensive academic facilities of Arcadia University and has specialized audio-visual computer-based instructional materials, physical examination equipment and facilities for the first-year didactic and workshop activities. Human cadaver dissection is conducted at a gross anatomy laboratory at Jefferson Medical College.

Clinical training is conducted in required and elective clinical rotations in area hospitals and physician practices. The program has more than 300 clinical affiliations with hospitals, clinics and physicians’ offices.

Requirements for the Master of Medical Science Degree (Physician Assistant)

The Master of Medical Science degree is awarded after completion of the following requirements:

1. The program’s curriculum with a minimum GPA of 2.70 maintained throughout the program.
2. All courses and clinical rotations with a grade of “C” or higher.
3. Successful completion of core competency exams, comprehensive written and practical exams.

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4. Meet technical standards for admission, continuation and graduation. (Technical standards are available at www.arcadia.edu/pa.)

PA 542 Clinical Decision Making (3 credits)

Master of Medical Science Degree Requirements and Program Design

(116 credits)

Didactic Year (68 credits)

Summer (16credits)

PA 509A	Professional Practice I (1 credit)
PA 517	Human Gross Anatomy (5 credits)
PA 522	Microbiology and Immunology (3 credits)
PA 524	Mechanisms of Disease (6 credits)
PA 526A	Pharmacology and Therapeutics I (1 credit)

Fall (25credits)

PA 504	Evidence-Based Practice (2 credits)
PA 509B	Professional Practice II (1 credit)
PA 514	Physical Diagnosis I (5 credits)
PA 526B	Pharmacology and Therapeutics II (3 credits)
PA 532	Clinical Diagnostics (4 credits)
PA 536A	Medicine I (8 credits)
PA 544	Community Health and Wellness (2 credits)

Spring (27credits)

PA 505	Mental Health (3 credits)
PA 509C	Professional Practice III (1 credit)
PA 526C	Pharmacology and Therapeutics III (3 credits)
PA 530	Physical Diagnosis II (5 credits)
PA 536B	Medicine II (2 credits)
PA 538	Obstetrics/Gynecology and Pediatrics (4 credits)
PA 540	Emergency Medicine (3 credits)
PA 541	Surgery (3 credits)

Transitional Phase

Clinical Skills and Simulations
National PA Conference

Clinical Year (48 credits)

(Summer, Fall, Spring)
Core Rotations: (1 week = 1 credit)

Clinical Year (36 weeks of required rotations, 36 credits)

PA 561	Emergency Medicine (8 weeks)
PA 562	Family Medicine (8 weeks)
PA 563	Psychiatry (4 weeks)
PA 564	Internal Medicine (4 weeks)
PA 565	Women's Health (4 weeks)
PA 566	Pediatrics (4 weeks)
PA 567	Surgery (4 weeks)
PA 577-579	Electives (total of 12 weeks)

Elective Clinical Rotations from the following, 12 weeks, 12 credits)

Cardiology
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Dermatology
Forensic Medicine
Neonatology
Neurology
Neurosurgery
Orthopedics
Public Health
Radiology
Rehabilitation
Trauma Surgery

Other medical and surgical subspecialties may be arranged. With approval of the program, students may suggest as many as two of their own rotation sites. Curriculum is subject to change.

Physician Assistant Courses (PA)

504
Evidence-Based Practice
(2 credits, Fall)

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This course reviews approaches to searching the medical literature, workshops, and both practice and actual searches of assigned topics, with an introduction to clinical study designs, clinical testing parameters and epidemiology considerations.

505

Mental Health

(3 credits, Spring)

This course provides an overview of commonly seen mental health problems as well as various treatment modalities.

509A

Professional Practice I

(1 credit, Summer)

This course addresses the history, development and utilization of Physician Assistants. The course initiates the development of the student as a provider via mentored self-assessment and exposure to clinical practice.

509 B

Professional Practice II

(1 credit, Fall)

This course continues the professional development of the student through discussion regarding the history, development, and socioeconomic aspects of the delivery of health care. Issues of professionalism and the status of Physician Assistants in the U.S. and around the world are explored.

509C

Professional Practice III

(1 credit, Spring)

This course addresses the professional development of the student with specific reference to issues of bioethics and legal considerations of professional clinical practice. Students will engage in small group and individual assignments designed to inform their future interactions with patients.

514

Physical Diagnosis I

(5 credits, Fall)

This course includes lectures, demonstrations and practical exercises in the principles of medical history-taking and an introduction to the medical physical examination.

517

Human Gross Anatomy

(5 credits, Summer)

The gross anatomy segment consists of lectures, demonstrations, and cadaver dissection to identify and explore the interrelationships of gross structures of the body. Also includes small group training in radiographic anatomy.

522

Microbiology and Immunology

(3 credits, Summer)

The course begins with a review of principles and techniques in the laboratory diagnosis of infectious disease. This is followed by a systematic review of the more important infectious disease agents. Each of the major organisms is reviewed in terms of its most salient morphologic and physiologic characteristics.

524

Mechanisms of Disease

(6 credits, Summer)

Lectures and conferences cover the function of cells, tissues, organs, and systems of the human body and the pathogenesis of common human illnesses.

526A

Pharmacology and Therapeutics I

(1 credit, Summer)

This course covers chemical concepts fundamental to understanding how pharmacotherapeutic agents exert their effects, to include physiologic and pharmacologic receptors, dose-response relationships and the pharmacokinetics of drug absorption, distribution, biotransformation and excretion. Further discussion is on the autonomic nervous system and drugs that affect it.

526B

Pharmacology and Therapeutics II

(3 credits, Fall)

This course is a continuation of Pharmacology and therapeutics I. Lectures and conferences cover the pharmacology of drugs commonly used for the treatment and management of disease states.

526C

Pharmacology and Therapeutics III

(3 credits, Spring)

This course is a continuation of Pharmacology and Therapeutics I and II and includes lectures and conferences on the pharmacology of

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drugs commonly used for the treatment and management of disease states.

530

Physical Diagnosis II

(5 credits, Spring)

A continuation of PA514, this course consists of lectures, demonstrations and hands-on practical instruction in the process and techniques of physical examination, including adults, children, obstetric, gynecologic and geriatric patients.

532

Clinical Diagnostics

(4 credits, Fall)

Lectures and demonstrations provide a systematic presentation of the common clinical laboratory tests used in the diagnosis of disease. The course includes diagnostic imaging and electrocardiography.

536A

Medicine I

(8 credits, Fall)

The course covers the principles of assessment, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses commonly seen in internal medicine.

536B

Medicine II

(2 credits, Spring)

This course will be a continuation of PA 536A .

538

Obstetrics/Gynecology and Pediatrics

(4 credits, Spring)

This course will focus on women's health care and pediatrics.

540

Emergency Medicine

(3 credits, Spring)

Lectures, labs and case presentations cover the assessment and treatment of medical, pediatric and surgical emergencies. The course includes advanced cardiac life support as well as labs in suturing, casting, splinting and phlebotomy.

541

Surgery

(3 credits, Spring)

This course introduces students to the principles of managing the surgical patient. The student is exposed to the full range of

care, including the pre-surgical workup, anesthesia, operative procedures and post-operative care. The course includes general surgery as well as the surgical subspecialties including orthopedics.

542

Clinical Decision Making

(3 credits, Spring)

This is an interactive case-based course where students learn to do diagnostic work-ups, develop differential diagnoses and treatment plans for primary care patients. The students prepare their cases both individually and in teams. They learn to defend their decisions using the current medical literature.

544

Community Health and Wellness

(2 credits, Fall)

This course introduces students to the principles of preventive health care, patient education and complementary and alternative medicine.

561

Emergency Medicine

(8 credits/weeks)

The eight (8) week Emergency Medicine rotation takes place in an Emergency Department and provides the students with exposure to urgent care and acute problems. Through supervised patient contact, the student will gain experience in performing the directed history and physical examination, triage, managing episodic illness, performing lifesaving techniques, and handling emergency equipment. Emphasis is on providing the student with practical clinical experience in the management of acute medical and surgical emergencies.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the didactic year of the PA program.

562

Family Medicine

(8 credits/weeks)

The eight- (8) week Family Medicine rotation is spent with a physician, physician assistant, and/or nurse practitioner preceptor in a primary care setting. Strong attention is given to utilizing preceptors who currently employ or have previously worked with physician assistants. Through supervised exposure to patients in a family practice environment, the student is given the opportunity to apply,

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integrate, and affirm those skills necessary for becoming a certified physician assistant. During this phase, the student masters the technique of directed data collection through exposure to ambulatory medical patients. Emphasis is placed on the evaluation and management of primary care medical problems. Patient education and counseling are stressed, and the student is familiarized with the role of the physician assistant in a general practice setting.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the didactic year of the PA program.

563

Psychiatry

(4 credits/weeks)

The four (4) week Psychiatry rotation is a flexible rotation that takes place in a long-term care and/or behavioral health setting and is used to meet the program standards when not met in other rotations (i.e. FM, IM, EM). The purpose of the long-term care rotation is to provide students with practical clinical experience in managing patients who require palliative or end-of-life care and/or require assistance with their activities of daily living. The purpose of the psychiatry rotation is to provide students with practical clinical experience in identifying, evaluating, and referring patients presenting with common and/or emergent psychiatric problems. Emphasis is placed on the care provided to patients in a long-term care facility, and/or the acute and on-going care of the psychiatric patient. Competency in both long-term care and psychiatry is assessed during the end of rotation examination.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the didactic year of the PA program.

564

Internal Medicine

(4 credits/weeks)

The four- (4) week Internal Medicine rotation takes place in a hospital and/or out-patient setting. The purpose of the Internal Medicine rotation is to provide the student with practical clinical experience in working with the hospitalized or ambulatory patient who presents with acute or chronic diseases that are routinely seen by Internists. Students may be required to attend conferences, lectures, and take call.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the didactic year of the PA program.

565

Women's Health

(4 credits/weeks)

This is a required four- (4) week rotation which takes place in a hospital, clinic or private practice setting. The purpose of the Women's Health rotation is to provide the student with practical clinical experience in the differential diagnosis, evaluation, and management of normal and abnormal conditions within obstetrics and gynecology.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the didactic year of the PA program.

566

Pediatrics

(4 credits/weeks)

This four-(4) week rotation takes place in an outpatient and /or inpatient setting. Through supervised exposure to patients in a pediatric practice setting, the student is given the opportunity to become familiar with the parameters of normal growth and development, proper assessment of the newborn, immunizations schedules, nutritional requirements, the evaluation and management of common pediatric problems, and acute illness in the pediatric population.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the didactic year of the PA program.

567

Surgery

(4 credits/weeks)

The four- (4) week General Surgery rotation provides the student with the opportunity to apply basic principles of surgery. The student is provided with practical experience in data collection, and evaluation and management of surgical problems. An opportunity is afforded for development of manual skills and for exposure to basic operating room procedures and techniques. Longitudinal care is encouraged in order to provide the student with an opportunity to follow patients from admission through the post-operative process. Students may be required to attend conferences, lectures, and take call.

Prerequisite: successful completion of the didactic year of the PA program.

Electives

There are twelve (12) weeks of elective rotation time, divided into three four (4) week courses. This is an opportunity for the student to increase his/her knowledge base and skill in a field of interest, or in a complimentary medical field.

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Prerequisite: Successful completion of the didactic year of the PA program.

577

Clinical Elective I

(4 credits)

578

Clinical Elective II

(4 credits)

579

Clinical Elective III

(4 credits)