

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES, MS

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The Master of Science in physician assistant studies is a professional degree program that prepares students academically and professionally for responsibilities and services as a physician assistant.

Our entry level master's degree program consists of 122 credit hours divided into three phases that span 28 consecutive months. See our Program Curriculum page.

Our goal is to graduate high-quality and compassionate PAs who will successfully pass their certification exam, then serve their patients and their communities with pride.

The education of a PA is very rigorous. It will likely be the most demanding educational experience of your life. If you are ready for that challenge and seek to serve others, we welcome your interest in our program.

Graduate Faculty

Keith Young, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA - Founding Program Director, Clinical Associate Professor

Jeffrey Szymanski, MPAS, PA-C, APA - Director of Didactic Education, Clinical Assistant Professor

Nicole Ackley, MPAS, PA-C - Director of Clinical Education, Clinical Assistant Professor

Derien Braxton, MD, MPH - Assistant Professor

Ashley Disney, MPAS, PA-C - Clinical Assistant Professor

Julie Elsigan, MS, PA-C - Clinical Assistant Professor

Rachel Harten, MHS, PA-C - Clinical Assistant Professor

Scott Medler, PhD, - Associate Professor

Kathryn Nelson, MPAS, PA-C - Clinical Assistant Professor

Kesha Steighner, MPAS, PA-C - Clinical Assistant Professor

Admission

Application for admission to the PA program is through the Centralized Application System for Physician Assistants (CASPA). The CASPA cycle opens at the end of April every year and the deadline for our program is September 1st.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

- a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university within the United States or Canada
- an overall GPA of 3.0 and a prerequisite GPA of 3.0 for admission. A "C" or better in all prerequisite courses is required (C- is not acceptable). Advanced placement credit is not acceptable for prerequisites.
- Anatomy & Physiology I and II or an anatomy course, such as Comparative Anatomy, and a separate physiology course, such as Mammalian Physiology. (A minimum of 6 credit-hours.)
- Chemistry 2 semesters (minimum of 6 credit hours)
- one semester (minimum of 3 credit-hours) of the following:

- microbiology - with lab
- genetics
- any other biology course not listed
- humanities/social sciences
- statistics
- psychology
- Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). There is no minimum accepted score for the GRE. Competitive applicants to our program earn scores as follows:
 - Verbal: 40th percentile or higher
 - Quantitative: 40th percentile or higher
 - Analytical Writing: 4 or higher
- 500 hours (minimum) of documented and verifiable patient care experience are to be completed by the time of matriculation. Applicants with compensated hours of direct patient care will have an advantage.
- 3 letters of recommendation. One must be from a clinician (PA, MD/DO, or NP).

PLEASE NOTE: Simply meeting the admission criteria and submitting an application will not guarantee an interview or acceptance into the program. The PA Admissions Committee will decide applicants for interview and applicants selected for admission.

Accreditation

The ARC-PA has granted accreditation-provisional status to the St. Bonaventure University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by St. Bonaventure University.

Accreditation-provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding accreditation-provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-st-bonaventure-university/>

First Year					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
Program Cohorts begin in Spring		PA-500	1	PA-502	5
		PA-501	5	PA-505	3
		PA-504	3	PA-508	3
		PA-507	3	PA-511	8
		PA-510	8	PA-514	1
		PA-513	1	PA-516	1
	0		21		21
Second Year					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
PA-503	5	PA-600	4	PA-603	5
PA-506	3	PA-610	1	PA-604	5
PA-509	3	PA-601	5	PA-605	5
PA-512	8	PA-602	5		

PA-515	1			
	20		15	15
Third Year				
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	
PA-611	5	PA-608	5	
PA-606	5	PA-609	5	
PA-607	5	PA-612	2	
		PA-613	3	
	15		15	
Total Credits 122				

The order of SCPE courses will vary depending on site availability

Physician Assistant (PA)

PA-500 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE (1 Credit)

This course is designed to aid the student in the transition into the medical profession and serves as an introduction to professional practice issues. Areas of discussion include the history of the physician assistant profession, the PA-Physician team, professional organizations, licensing and credentialing, malpractice, professionalism, health care delivery systems and health policy, and reimbursement issues (including Medicaid and Medicare).

PA-501 BASIC SCIENCE I (5 Credits)

This is the first in a series of courses designed to develop an understanding of normal physiology, genetics, pathologic, and pathophysiologic concepts of diseases per organ system, and clinical anatomy with an emphasis on important anatomical landmarks required in physical evaluation of patients' anatomical relationships of structures to each other, and anatomical components of body systems.

PA-502 BASIC SCIENCE II (5 Credits)

This is the second in a series of courses designed to develop an understanding of normal physiology, pathologic, and pathophysiologic concepts of diseases per organ system, and clinical anatomy with an emphasis on important anatomical landmarks required in physical evaluation of patients, anatomical relationships of structures to each other, and anatomical components of body systems. A Genetics module will also be included in this semester course.

PA-503 BASIC SCIENCE III (5 Credits)

This is the third in a series of courses designed to develop an understanding of normal physiology, genetics, pathologic, and pathophysiologic concepts of diseases per organ system, and clinical anatomy with an emphasis on important anatomical landmarks required in physical evaluation of patients, anatomical relationships of structures to each other, and anatomical components of body systems.

PA-504 PATIENT ASSESSMENT I (3 Credits)

This is the first in a series of courses designed to develop the knowledge and skills required to obtain and record the complete medical history, use of appropriate equipment, proper techniques, and accurate medical terminology to document findings. This course will provide an overview of the medical record as well as development of writing and organizational skills for medical record keeping and oral presentation skills. Skills will be developed through lecture and structured laboratory exercises.

PA-505 PATIENT ASSESSMENT II (3 Credits)

This is the second in a series of courses designed to develop the knowledge and skills required to obtain and record the complete medical history, use of appropriate equipment, proper techniques, and accurate medical terminology to document findings. This course will provide an overview of the medical record as well as development of writing and organizational skills for medical record keeping and oral presentation skills. Skills will be developed through lecture and structured laboratory exercises.

PA-506 PATIENT ASSESSMENT III (3 Credits)

This is the third in a series of courses designed to develop the knowledge and skills required to obtain and record the complete medical history, use of appropriate equipment, proper techniques, and accurate medical terminology to document findings. This course will provide an overview of the medical record as well as development of writing and organizational skills for medical record keeping and oral presentation skills. Skills will be developed through lecture and structured laboratory exercises.

PA-507 PHARMACOLOGY I (3 Credits)

This is the first in a series of courses designed to develop skills related to the principles of pharmacology as they pertain to therapeutic agents, prescription, and non-prescription medications. Discussion will include the principal mechanisms of action of the major classes of therapeutic agents, understanding of pharmacodynamics, uses, side effects, and toxicities.

PA-508 PHARMACOLOGY II (3 Credits)

This is the second in a series of courses designed to develop skills related to the principles of pharmacology as they pertain to therapeutic agents, prescription, and non-prescription medications. Discussion will include the principal mechanisms of action of the major classes of therapeutic agents, understanding of pharmacodynamics, uses, side effects, and toxicities.

PA-509 PHARMACOLOGY III (3 Credits)

This is the third in a series of courses designed to develop skills related to the principles of pharmacology as they pertain to therapeutic agents, prescription, and non-prescription medications. Discussion will include the principal mechanisms of action of the major classes of therapeutic agents, understanding of pharmacodynamics, uses, side effects, and toxicities.

PA-510 CLINICAL MEDICINE I (8 Credits)

This is the first in a series of courses designed to provide an intensive study of human diseases and disorders, using a lifespan approach from pediatrics to geriatrics, in the areas of clinical medicine including epidemiology, etiology, pathophysiology, historical data, clinical manifestations, progression, therapeutic management, prevention, laboratory medicine, imaging, and prognosis. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices and the emergency department following the NCCPA Blueprint, and the development of differential diagnoses and plans based upon the patient's clinical presentation. This course will be facilitated through lecture, learner-centered activities and problem-based learning.

PA-511 Clinical Medicine II (8 Credits)

This is the second in a series of courses designed to provide an intensive study of human diseases and disorders, using a lifespan approach from pediatrics to geriatrics, in the areas of clinical medicine including epidemiology, etiology, historical data, clinical manifestations, progression, therapeutic management, prevention, laboratory medicine, imaging, and prognosis. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices and the emergency department following the NCCPA Blueprint, and the development of differential diagnoses and plans based upon the patient's clinical presentation. This course will be facilitated through lecture and problem-based learning.

PA-512 CLINICAL MEDICINE III (8 Credits)

This is the third in a series of courses designed to provide an intensive study of human diseases and disorders, using a lifespan approach from pediatrics to geriatrics, in the areas of clinical medicine including epidemiology, etiology, historical data, clinical manifestations, progression, therapeutic management, prevention, laboratory medicine, imaging, and prognosis. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices and the emergency department following the NCCPA Blueprint, and the development of differential diagnoses and plans based upon the patient's clinical presentation. This course will be facilitated through lecture and problem-based learning.

PA-513 MEDICAL HUMANITIES I (1 Credit)

This is the first in a series of three courses designed to develop skill in the areas of interpersonal communication, professionalism, patient counseling and education, cross cultural healthcare delivery, end-of-life care, healthcare delivery systems, health policy, reimbursement issues (including Medicare and Medicaid), medical ethics and health literacy. Topics include professionalism, hospice/palliative care, treatment of "difficult" patients, public and environmental health, medical errors, and substance abuse in healthcare providers, communication, cultural competence, patient and provider stressors, and individualized healthcare related topics.

PA-514 MEDICAL HUMANITIES II (1 Credit)

This is the second in a series of courses designed to develop skills in the area of patient communication, patient counseling, patient education, cultural diversity and how they influence all aspects of medical practice. The emphasis of PA 514 is biomedical ethics, emotional intelligence, health literacy, diversity issues, professionalism and patient counseling and education. The interpretation and lessons learned from *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* will run through the course

PA-515 MEDICAL HUMANITIES III (1 Credit)

This is the last in a series of courses designed to develop skills in the area of patient communication, patient counseling, patient education, and cultural diversity and how they influence all aspects of medical practice. Instruction this semester is focused on the detection and application of preventive measures and treatment of health risk behaviors including stress, abuse and violence, substance abuse, sexuality, end of life issues, medical and reaction to illness. We will introduce patient billing, coding and documentation along with the concepts of quality, safety, risk management, medical intervention and health care delivery systems. This course will emphasize many of the social aspects of patient care.

PA-516 MEDICAL INFORMATICS (1 Credit)

This course will provide an overview of research for physician assistants and introduce the fundamental skills required for research in the health professions. More specifically, the course will provide an introduction to research. Students will gain an understanding of the concepts of searching medical literature. Students will be prepared to critically read published reports of clinical research and identify strengths and weaknesses. The course will also provide instruction on evidence based medicine. It will include relevant statistical analysis tools. An introduction to the art of medical writing is included. This course is the beginning course leading to successful completion of the Master's Project PA 610/611/612. At the conclusion of PA 516, students should have acquired the basic skills to start a Research Project.

PA-600 CLINICAL PROCEDURES (4 Credits)

The clinical procedures course is designed to provide initial exposure to procedures that students may encounter and perform during clinical rotations. This course will focus on the basic techniques needed to be successful. Procedures during clinical rotations will be supervised by preceptors and will build on the procedures discussed and demonstrated during this course. Emphasis will be placed on common procedures seen in multiple settings of clinical practice. The student will be given the opportunity to practice hands-on clinical procedures in preparation for clinical rotation. The course will also serve as orientation for the clinical year and will ensure students' readiness for the clinical phase.

PA-601 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE FAMILY MEDICINE (5 Credits)

The Family Medicine rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of adult and pediatric patients in the outpatient setting. This course will focus on the evaluation and treatment of all age patients with focus on preventative medicine, acute and chronic illness, and patient education. Focus should be placed on history and physical techniques, along with a greater understanding of economic and social factors relating to primary care. The student will act as a member of the primary team in assessment and care of office patients. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by primary care physician assistants. Procedures during clinical rotations will be supervised by preceptors, and at no time will students replace the licensed clinicians for history, physical, or procedural intervention. Emphasis will be placed on exposure to common procedures seen in the primary care office. The student will be given the opportunity to practice hands-on clinical procedures.

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-602 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE INTERNAL MEDICINE (5 Credits)

The Internal Medicine rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of adult patients in the inpatient setting. This course will focus on the evaluation and treatment of patients with a focus on multiple disease states and conditions that require hospitalization. Focus should be placed on history and physical techniques, along with a greater understanding of economic and social factors relating to hospitalized patients. The student will act as a member of the primary team in assessment and care of patients. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by hospitalist physician assistants. Procedures during clinical rotations will be supervised by preceptors, and at no time will students replace the licensed clinicians for history, physical, or procedural intervention. Emphasis will be placed on exposure to common procedures along with management of patients over multiple days. This will include admissions notes, medical orders, problem lists and treatment plans, and discharge plans during the daily care of the patient. Students are encouraged to practice skills and take advantage of the resources provided, these skills are essential to success as a practicing physician assistant

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-603 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE PEDIATRICS (5 Credits)

The Pediatric Medicine rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of pediatric patients in the outpatient/inpatient setting. This course will focus on the evaluation and treatment of patients with a focus on well child exams, problem oriented exams, pediatric illness, and care of neonates, infants, children and adolescents. Focus should be placed on history and physical techniques, along with a greater understanding of economic and social factors relating to pediatric patient care and parental education and guidance, appropriate milestone recognition, illness, injury, and accident prevention. The student will act as a member of the primary team in assessment and care of office patients. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by pediatric physician assistants. Emphasis will be placed on exposure to common procedures and primary pediatric care. Procedures during clinical rotations will be supervised by preceptors, and at no time will students replace the licensed clinicians for history, physical, or procedural intervention.

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-604 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE EMERGENCY MEDICINE (5 Credits)

The Emergency Medicine rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of adult and pediatric patients with emergencies. This course will focus on the triage, stabilization, diagnosis, and management of acute, life-threatening injuries and illness as well as the care of less threatening conditions. The student will act as a member of the emergency team in assessment and care of emergencies. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by emergency medicine physician assistants. Procedures during clinical rotations will be supervised by preceptors, and at no time will students replace the licensed clinicians for history, physical, or procedural intervention. Emphasis will be placed on exposure to common procedures seen in the emergency department. The student will be given ample opportunity to practice hands-on clinical procedures. They will be encouraged to take full advantage of those opportunities. These skills are essential to success as a practicing PA.

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-605 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE SURGERY (5 Credits)

The Surgical rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of patients with surgical problems. This course will focus on the preoperative, surgery, and postoperative care. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by surgical physician assistants. Procedures during clinical rotations will be supervised by preceptors, and at no time will students replace the licensed clinicians for history, physical, or procedural intervention. Emphasis will be placed on exposure to common procedures seen in the surgical practice. The student will be given the opportunity to practice hands-on clinical procedures. This is your chance as a student to practice skills so take advantage of it and of the resources provided, these skills are essential to success as a practicing physician assistant.

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-606 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE WOMENS HEALTH (5 Credits)

The Women's Health rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of gynecological disorders in the outpatient/inpatient setting. This course will focus on the evaluation and treatment of patients with a focus on gynecological and obstetric care and procedures, family planning, recognition and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, cancer detection and treatment, and prenatal care. Focus should be placed on history and physical techniques, along with a greater understanding of economic and social factors relating to women's health. Rotation will include labor and delivery when possible. The student will act as a member of the primary team in assessment and care of office patients. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by women's health physician assistants.

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-607 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (5 Credits)

The Behavioral Health rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of ambulatory and/or hospitalized patients with psychiatric disorders. This course will focus on the evaluation and treatment of patients with a focus basic psychiatric evaluations, monitor medications, and support of clinical management plans. Focus should be placed on history and physical techniques, along with a greater understanding of economic and social factors relating to behavioral health. The student will act as a member of the primary team in assessment and care of patients. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by behavioral health physician assistants.

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-608 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE SELECTIVE I (5 Credits)

The elective rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of clinical settings that each student determines of clinical relevance to their future practice. This course will focus on the evaluation and treatment of patients with one of the electives listed below. Focus should be placed on history and physical techniques, along with a greater understanding of economic and social factors relating to each specialty. The student will act as a member of the primary team in assessment and care of patients. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by physician assistants. This is your chance as a student to practice skills so take advantage of it and of the resources provided, these skills are essential to success as a practicing physician assistant. Procedures during clinical rotations will be supervised by preceptors, and at no time will students replace the licensed clinicians for history, physical, or procedural intervention.

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-609 SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE Selective II (5 Credits)

The elective rotation is designed to provide the exposure to management of clinical settings that each student determines of clinical relevance to their future practice. This course will focus on the evaluation and treatment of patients with one of the electives listed below. Focus should be placed on history and physical techniques, along with a greater understanding of economic and social factors relating to each specialty. The student will act as a member of the primary team in assessment and care of patients. Contained within this course is the chance for physician assistant students to determine the job description practiced by physician assistants. This is your chance as a student to practice skills so take advantage of it and of the resources provided, these skills are essential to success as a practicing physician assistant. Procedures during clinical rotations will be supervised by preceptors, and at no time will students replace the licensed clinicians for history, physical, or procedural intervention.

Prerequisite(s): TAKE PA-600

PA-610 MASTERS PROPOSAL (1 Credit)

This is the second in the series of courses which will result in a completed Master's Research Project. The purpose of this course is to design and propose a study which could be reasonably completed in the time allowed within the program and develop a proposal to be presented to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and receive approval prior to the start of PA 611 Master's Research Data Collection

PA-611 MASTERS DATA COLLECTION (5 Credits)

This 5 week course gives the PA student time to focus on research in preparation for completion of their Master's Project. The student may engage the multiple academic departments within St. Bonaventure University outside of PA Studies for their research.

PA-612 MASTERS PROJECT DISSEMINATION (2 Credits)

This course is a follow up to Medical Informatics and the Master's Data Collection course. It is designed to allow the PA student to complete a Master's Project under the guidance of a St. Bonaventure faculty advisor. Students may identify an area of medicine, disease process or condition, conduct research, and produce a paper worthy of publication. The student will prepare and present an oral and poster presentation on their topic at the conclusion of the year.

PA-613 SUMMATIVE REVIEW (3 Credits)

This course, presented near the end of the clinical year, will include intensive board review in preparation for the PANCE, review for clinical skills testing, CV preparation, and interviewing skills. It also includes a final clinical skills exam as well as a cumulative written test, both of which must be successfully passed to graduate from the program.