



Course Catalog Descriptions

DIDACTIC YEAR COURSES

PAS 6010 - Diagnostic Medicine I

Credits, 1 sem. hr.

This is the first of a multi-semester course covering medical interviewing and communication techniques, components of the health history, introduction to imaging and clinical laboratory tests, and other diagnostic methods. The initial semester focuses on the completed history and emphasizes radiographic anatomy, the practical application of medical history-taking and the recording and presentation of clinical information. Teaching methods include small group demonstration/lectures, team-based learning, and clinical assignments

PAS 6011 - Diagnostic Medicine I LAB

Credits, 1 sem. hr.

This is the first of a multi-semester series of labs where students gain practical skills in medical interviewing, physical diagnosis, radiology, imaging, clinical laboratory tests, electrocardiography (ECG), and other diagnostic methods. The initial semester emphasizes radiographic anatomy, the practical application of medical history-taking and the recording and presentation of clinical information.

PAS 6020 - Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics I

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the first in a multi-semester course. This semester introduces basic principles of pharmacology, including pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, foundations of drug categorization and prescription writing. Drugs will be introduced by class. Information presented will include indications, contraindications, interactions, side effects, mechanism of action, required monitoring, available formulations and dosing for selected drugs common to the primary care setting. Special population dosing will also be covered. This semester will include antibiotics, antifungals, non-opioid analgesics, antipyretics and corticosteroids. Teaching methods include lecture and discussions.

PAS 6030 - Fundamentals of Medical Science I

Credits, 3 sem. hrs.

This is the first of a multi-semester course. It is a foundational course that is designed to prepare the student for the study and future practice of clinical medicine. Course sections are delivered in conjunction with the Clinical Medicine curriculum throughout the preclinical phase. Course content will therefore vary each semester. The first semester focus is on the key concepts and principles of cell biology, microbiology, genetics, and immunology. The foundations of anatomy, physiology and key pathophysiologic concepts of the organ systems being concurrently taught in clinical medicine will be introduced. Genetic disorders will be the focus for the individual project this semester.

PAS 6040 - Professional Development I

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the first of a multi-semester course taught throughout the preclinical phase. Topics covered in the first semester include the history & future of the PA profession, clinical and professional ethics, the role of the PA in health care, health delivery systems and introductory communication. Meetings may also reinforce principles and practices taught in concurrent courses. Students will be assigned to teams with a faculty mentor. Team meetings and team-based learning activities are included in this course.

PAS 6050 - Behavioral and Community Medicine I

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the first of a multi-semester course. The initial semester emphasizes the study of community and population health. The course will also explore health promotion, disease prevention and principles of risk assessment. Students will be required to complete a service learning project. Teaching methods include lecture, discussion, and learning team exercises.

PAS 6100 - Clinical Medicine I**Credits, 7 sem. hrs.**

This is the first of a multi-semester course that focuses on the essentials of diagnosis and management of the most common clinical problems seen by primary care practitioners. Using an organ systems and life stages approach, clinical information is presented in conjunction with appropriate correlative lectures in emerging treatment and preventive care. Patient cases are used in the small group setting to enhance readings and lectures. This is a core course around which most other courses are organized.

PAS 6110 - Diagnostic Medicine II**Credits, 2 sem. hrs.**

This is the second of a multi-semester course. This semester continues covering medical interviewing, physical exam and other diagnostic methods using a systems-based approach. There is a focus on the problem-focused encounter and physical examination techniques of individual organ systems and correlation between disease process and interpretation of clinical laboratory diagnostic tests. Teaching methods include small group demonstration/lectures, team-based learning, and clinical assignments.

PAS 6111 - Diagnostic Medicine II LAB**Credits, 2 sem. hrs.**

This is the second of a multi-semester series of labs where students gain practical skills in medical interviewing, physical diagnosis, radiology, imaging, clinical laboratory tests, electrocardiography (ECG), and other diagnostic methods. Includes demonstration and practice of various physical examination and laboratory methods including ECG theory and interpretation. Students complete practical exams throughout the semester, including and end of term encounter with a standardized patient. Various anatomical models are also used to gain experience for sensitive exams.

PAS 6120 – Pharmacology & Pharmacotherapeutics II**Credits 2 sem. hrs.**

This is the second semester of a multi-semester course. Drugs will continue to be introduced by class. Information presented will include indications, contraindications, interactions, side effects, mechanism of action, required monitoring, available formulation and dosing for selected drugs common to the primary care setting. Special population dosing will also be covered. This semester will include antihistamines, antihypertensives, Anti-anginal drugs, antiarrhythmics, lipid lowering agents, anticoagulants, antiplatelet and thrombolytic drugs, bronchodilators, mast cell stabilizers, Leukotriene receptor antagonists, among others.

PAS 6130 - Fundamentals of Medical Science II**Credits, 1 sem. hr.**

This is the second semester of a multi-semester course. It is a foundational course that is designed to prepare the student for the study and future practice of clinical medicine. Course sections are delivered in conjunction with the Clinical Medicine curriculum throughout the preclinical phase. Course content will therefore vary each semester. The foundations of anatomy, physiology and key pathophysiologic concepts of the organ systems being concurrently taught in clinical medicine will be introduced. Immunologic disorders will be the focus for the individual project this semester.

PAS 6140 - Professional Development II**Credits, 1 sem. hr.**

This is the second of a multi-semester course that is designed to help physician assistant students navigate through the PA profession. This semester focuses on licensure and laws pertaining to PA Practice in the state of Mississippi, as well as the differences between NP and PA training and practice. CME requirements and fundamentals of healthcare reimbursement, with a focus on Medicare & Medicaid are discussed. Additionally, students will participate in skills labs that will aid in the development of clinical and procedural skills to better prepare them for clinical encounters. Clinical Skills labs are incorporated and align with clinical medicine content.

PAS 6151 - Evidence Based Medicine I**Credits, 3 sem. hrs.**

This is the first of a two-semester course. The second semester occurs in the clinical year. This didactic year course is a lecture and seminar course that provides a practical approach to making sound medical decisions on the basis of current evidence in the medical literature. Through a series of didactic presentations, group exercises, and reading, students will learn the basic principles of evidence-based medicine. Basic skills in using MEDLINE and other medical databases will be emphasized and practiced. Research principles, research ethics, and basic statistical review are introduced.

PAS 6160 - Cross-Cultural Medicine**Credits, 2 sem. hrs.**

This course examines cultural and language differences leading to health disparity, diverse ways in which societies throughout the globe view and manages human disease and the implications this has for health care and medicine. The focus of the course is on the development of attitudes and skills that will empower the learner to become an

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effective clinician in a variety of cultural settings. The course will serve as a foundation for learners to begin developing cultural competence. This course combines traditional lectures and directed self-learning activities.

PAS 6200 - Clinical Medicine II

Credits, 7 sem. hrs.

This is a multi-semester course that focuses on the essentials of diagnosis and management of the most common clinical problems seen by primary care practitioners. Using an organ systems and life stages approach, clinical information is presented in conjunction with appropriate correlative lectures in emerging treatment and preventive care. Patient cases are used in the small group setting to enhance readings and lectures. This is a core course around which most other courses are organized.

PAS 6210 - Diagnostic Medicine III

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the third semester of a multi-semester course. This semester continues covering medical interviewing, physical exam and other diagnostic methods using a systems-based approach. There is a focus on the problem-focused encounter and physical examination techniques of individual organ systems and correlation between disease process and interpretation of clinical laboratory diagnostic tests. Teaching methods include small group demonstration/lectures, team-based learning, and clinical assignments.

PAS 6211 - Diagnostic Medicine III LAB

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the third of a multi-semester series of labs where students gain practical skills in medical interviewing, physical diagnosis, radiology, imaging, clinical laboratory tests, electrocardiography (ECG), and other diagnostic methods. Includes demonstration and practice of various physical examination and laboratory methods including ECG theory and interpretation. Students complete practical exams throughout the semester, including an end of term encounter with a standardized patient. Various anatomical models are also used to gain experience for sensitive exams.

PAS 6220 – Pharmacology & Pharmacotherapeutics III

Credits 2 sem. hrs.

This is the third semester of a multi-semester course. Students will continue to learn drugs by class. Information presented will include indications, contraindications, interactions, side effects, mechanism of action, required monitoring, available formulation and dosing for selected drugs common to the primary care setting. Special population dosing will also be covered. This semester will include proton pump inhibitors, anti-diarrheal agents, anti-emetics, prokinetics, antidepressants, antipsychotics, anxiolytics, anticonvulsants and others.

PAS 6230 - Fundamentals of Medical Science III

Credits, 1 sem. hr.

This is the third semester of a multi-semester course. It is a foundational course that is designed to prepare the student for the study and future practice of clinical medicine. Course sections are delivered in conjunction with the Clinical Medicine curriculum throughout the preclinical phase. Course content will therefore vary each semester. The foundations of anatomy, physiology and key pathophysiologic concepts of the organ systems being concurrently taught in clinical medicine will be introduced. The focus for the individual project this semester will require students to present cellular mechanisms of disease process along with therapies targeted to that pathway.

PAS 6240 - Professional Development III

Credits, 1 sem. hr.

This is the third of a multi-semester course. This semester is designed to educate students on various topics essential for clinical practice. This semester will focus on various professional practice issues, including (but are not limited to) reimbursement, clinical billing and coding, the electronic medical record, preventing medical errors, quality improvement and medical decision-making skills. Continuous with previous semesters, students will also participate in skills labs that will aid in the development of clinical and procedural skills to better prepare them for clinical encounters.

PAS 6250 - Behavioral and Community Medicine II

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the second of a multi-semester course. This semester is primarily focused on the concepts and practices related to evaluation and management of psychiatric diseases and conditions as well as behavioral issues that impact upon the health and well-being of patients. Substance abuse and addictive behaviors are covered. Topics in psychiatric medicine with an emphasis on clinical diagnosis and management are also presented. Service learning projects will continue and a special topic presentation will be required.

PAS 6270 - Essentials of Musculoskeletal Care

Credits, 1 sem. hr.

This course focuses on the essentials of diagnosis and management of the most common musculoskeletal and rheumatologic conditions commonly seen by primary care practitioners. Topics include auto-immune diseases and

diseases of the bones and soft tissues. This course is designed with clinical information being presented in conjunction with appropriate correlative lectures in emerging treatment and preventive care. A thorough review of musculoskeletal radiographic imaging accompanies this course.

PAS 6300 - Clinical Medicine III

Credits, 6 sem. hrs.

This is a multi-semester course that focuses on the essentials of diagnosis and management of the most common clinical problems seen by primary care practitioners. Using an organ systems and life stages approach, clinical information is presented in conjunction with appropriate correlative lectures in emerging treatment and preventive care. Patient cases are used in the small group setting to enhance readings and lectures. This is a core course around which most other courses are organized.

PAS 6310 - Diagnostic Medicine IV

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the fourth of a multi-semester course. This semester continues covering medical interviewing, physical exam and other diagnostic methods using a systems-based approach. There is a focus on the problem-focused encounter and physical examination techniques of individual organ systems and correlation between disease process and interpretation of clinical laboratory diagnostic tests. Teaching methods include small group demonstration/lectures, team-based learning, and clinical assignments.

PAS 6311 - Diagnostic Medicine IV LAB

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the fourth of a multi-semester series of labs where students gain practical skills in medical interviewing, physical diagnosis, radiology, imaging, clinical laboratory tests, electrocardiography (ECG), and other diagnostic methods. Includes demonstration and practice of various physical examination and laboratory methods including ECG theory and interpretation. Students complete practical exams throughout the semester, including an end of term encounter with a standardized patient. Various anatomical models are also used to gain experience for sensitive exams.

PAS 6320 – Pharmacology & Pharmacotherapeutics IV

Credits 2 sem. hrs.

This is the fourth semester of a multi-semester course. Students will continue to learn drugs by class. Information presented will include indications, contraindications, interactions, side effects, mechanism of action, required monitoring, available formulation and dosing for selected drugs common to the primary care setting. Special population dosing will also be covered. This semester will include drugs affecting the central nervous system, selected biologics, anesthetic drugs and others.

PAS 6330 - Fundamentals of Medical Science IV

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the fourth semester of a multi-semester course. It is a foundational course that is designed to prepare the student for the study and future practice of clinical medicine. Course sections are delivered in conjunction with the Clinical Medicine curriculum throughout the preclinical phase. Course content will therefore vary each semester. The foundations of anatomy, physiology and key pathophysiologic concepts of the organ systems being concurrently taught in clinical medicine will be introduced. New and emerging concepts in medicine will be the focus for individual topic presentations this semester.

PAS 6340 - Professional Development IV

Credits, 2 sem. hrs.

This is the fourth of a multi-semester course. This semester will aid in preparing students for clinical rotations and clinical practice. There will be an emphasis on safety in the clinical setting, in addition to reinforcement of principles and practices taught in concurrent courses, such as note writing and oral case presentation. In preparation for clinical rotations, this course will include a review of the clinical manual/handbook and development of a curriculum vitae or résumé. Students will also participate in focused skills labs; complete a comprehensive summative evaluation required for promotion to clinical phase; and complete the PACKRAT exam.

PAS 6350 - Behavioral and Community Medicine III

Credits, 1 sem. hr.

This is the third of a multi-semester course. This semester emphasizes the importance of ethical practice; compassionate and empathetic communication with patients; appropriate and timely pain treatment and referral; palliative care and end of life care, difficult conversations, and advanced directives. Students will participate in service learning activities and present their experience to the class. They will also complete a special topics assignment.

PAS 6370 - Emergency Medicine**Credits, 3 sem. hrs.**

This course presents a systematic approach to the evaluation, recognition and management of medical and surgical emergencies which might be frequently encountered by the primary care physician assistant in the emergency department. Using a formal lecture/discussion format, the course focuses on etiology, evaluation, and emergency treatment and stabilization of more common emergency injuries and disease presentations. BLS & ACLS certification are included in this course.

PAS 6901, 6902, 6903, 6904 - Selected Topics in Medicine I-IV**Variable credit hours**

This course will be awarded Credit (CR) if successfully completed or No Credit (NC) if the attempt is not successful. This course series is part of the Deceleration & Remediation Track and is individualized for the student taking the course. It may serve as a remedial course for a failed course or course module(s). It may also be used to decelerate students who fail to demonstrate appropriate levels of medical knowledge, even if they passed all coursework. This option may be invoked during didactic or clinical phases of the program. The course content will be decided on by the course director and will focus on the specific areas of demonstrated weakness by the student. Successful completion of selected courses in this track, in addition to all courses required for the standard track will be counted toward the degree Masters of Science in Medicine (Physician Assistant Studies) degree. Remediation/deceleration coursework may be assigned from any of the following topics: clinical medicine, laboratory medicine, physical exam, diagnostic skills and professionalism. In addition, coursework may be assigned from any content from any standard track course, as deemed appropriate by the Physician Assistant Progress & Promotions Committee. Areas of individual student deficiency may be identified by performance on exams, clinical practical topics, in-class assignments, summative exams, rotational assignments, professional evaluations, etc. Failure to achieve at least an 80 in all areas of this track will result in a grade of NC and the student may be dismissed from the program.

CLINICAL YEAR COURSES**PAS 6152 - Evidence Based Medicine II****Credits, 2 sem. hrs.**

This is the second of two evidence-based medicine (EBM) courses in the curriculum. The first semester is taught during the didactic year. In this clinical year course, students complete an evidence-based reflection 'portfolio' as part of their Capstone project. Completion of this Capstone assignment allows the student to explore and reflect on their educational and professional journey and its alignment with the Program's published competencies for new graduates in the domains of medical knowledge, communication skills, patient care, professionalism, practice-based learning, and systems-based practice.

PAS 6510-6580 Clinical Practicum I-VIII**Credits, 5 sem. hrs. each**

The clinical rotations are administered as individual assignments within the Clinical Practicum Courses. While the rotations are generally 6 weeks in length, some may be longer or shorter depending upon the needs of the student and the experiences gained at the rotation site.

Family Medicine (outpatient)

This course is designed to provide the student with the basics necessary to build a solid foundation for the evaluation, documentation, diagnosis and treatment of problems common in primary care/family medicine. Students learn the skills necessary to evaluate and manage the effects of chronic disease on multiple body systems and to perform or assist in procedures commonly used in providing care across the age spectrum. The student will develop proficiency in office procedures commonly performed in a family medicine office.

Internal Medicine (inpatient or outpatient)

The focus is on in-depth evaluation and ongoing treatment of adult patients with complex problems and/or chronic illness. Students learn the skills necessary to evaluate and manage the effects of chronic disease on multiple body systems and to perform or assist in procedures commonly performed in internal medicine. This rotation also includes in-depth evaluation and ongoing treatment of geriatric patients with complex problems and/or chronic illness. Students learn the skills necessary to evaluate and manage the effects of chronic disease on multiple body systems and to perform or assist in procedures commonly used in providing care to the geriatric population.

General Surgery

Students will develop the skills necessary to evaluate and manage patients with a variety of surgical problems. Exposure will include pre-, intra- and post-operative patient care. The rotation will provide students the opportunity to develop an understanding of the role of the surgeon, anesthesiologist, assistant surgeon, circulating nurse, scrub nurse, scrub technician, recovery room and surgical floor nurses, aides and technicians in the care of the surgical patient.

Pediatrics

This clinical rotation is designed to provide the student with outpatient and inpatient experience in pediatrics. The student will learn to perform evaluations of the healthy pediatric patient, recognize, evaluate and treat the common illnesses and problems experienced by the neonate, infant, small child and adolescent to age 18. Additionally, the student will learn to identify and manage problems in growth and development of these age groups and recognize and manage pediatric emergencies.

Women's Health

This rotation is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive experience in the area of care of the female patient, especially in the areas of women's health and prenatal care and the impact of disease processes on the reproductive system. The student will develop the skills and knowledge necessary to evaluate, manage and educate the patient in areas such as annual exams, birth control, infertility, menstruation, sexuality, pregnancy, pre- and post-natal care, menopause, and relationships.

Behavioral Health

The student will develop the skills necessary to evaluate and manage patients with a variety of behavioral and psychiatric problems. The rotation will provide students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the role of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and nurses in the care of the psychiatric patient. Students will learn the appropriate use of selected psychoactive pharmaceuticals. There will be ample opportunity for the student to practice the skills necessary to perform a psychiatric interview and mental status examination and make referrals for specialized psychiatric treatment.

Emergency Medicine

The student is introduced to triage and the stabilization of patients with life threatening conditions and the procedures performed in the emergency department. Emphasis is placed on skills required to perform and document a problem-oriented history and physical; formulate a differential diagnosis; order and interpret the tests necessary to confirm or rule out a primary diagnosis and give appropriate patient education. The student will also learn strategies for interacting with patients and/or families in various levels of stress.

Elective

In association with the Clinical Director, each student will choose from a list of elective rotations (i.e., primary care, hospitalist medicine, nephrology, interventional radiology, etc.). Each student will choose three rotations and be placed according to availability. No student will be required to acquire his/her own clinical rotation site. If a student has a particular clinical rotation site he/she wishes to develop, this may be done in association with and at the discretion of the Clinical Coordinator.

PAS 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670 - Advanced Professional Seminar I – IV

Credits, 2-4 sem. hrs.

The focus of this course is to address various topics related to professional development during the clinical year as well as to prepare for success on the PANCE after graduation. In learning team and lecture settings, students review clinical cases, common medical topics and procedures. Teams may review concepts and procedures from previous or upcoming clinical rotations to include various clinical skills labs. Topics include (but are not limited to) the various roles of a PA in the clinical year, patient education, CPT coding, reimbursement, billing in the medical office, risk management, quality assurance, employment and contract negotiations, interview skills, CV development, important aspects of the job search, certification & recertification, concepts in credentialing and licensure, board review, and hospital privileges. Students will be working on various methods for self-directed study skills in preparation for the PANCE examination. Students will begin working on their Capstone project by choosing a clinical topic and developing a clinical question. Students will also begin to gather relevant articles upon which to base their literature review by utilizing library searches and databases. Students will begin writing the Capstone paper by writing the Introduction section.

PAS 6700 – Advanced Clerkship**Credits, 14 cr. hrs.**

The capstone of the clinical phase is the Advanced Clerkship. During this course, students choose specific areas of concentration and spend the entire semester at those training sites. The focus of this clerkship is to allow physician assistant students to acquire advanced skills for clinical practice in primary care or a specialty area of interest. The student is provided with an opportunity for an in-depth analysis of clinical practice in his/her specific area of interest. The student then returns to campus for one to two weeks for final testing and assessment prior to graduation.

PAS 6910, 6920, 6930, 6940 - Selected Clinical Experiences I-IV**Variable credit hours**

This course series is part of the Deceleration & Remediation Track and is individualized for the student taking the course. It may serve as a remedial course for a failed rotation or clinical course module. It may also be used to decelerate students who fail to demonstrate appropriate levels of medical knowledge, even if they passed all coursework. This option may be invoked during didactic or clinical phases of the program. The course content will be decided on by the course director and will focus on the specific areas of demonstrated weakness by the student. Successful completion of selected courses in this track, in addition to all courses required for the standard track will be counted toward the degree Masters of Science in Medicine (Physician Assistant Studies) degree. Remediation/deceleration coursework may be assigned from any of the following topics: clinical medicine, laboratory medicine, physical exam, diagnostic skills and professionalism. In addition, coursework may be assigned from any content from any standard track course, as deemed appropriate by the Physician Assistant Progress & Promotions Committee. Areas of individual student deficiency may be identified by performance on exams, clinical practical topics, in class assignments, summative exams, rotational assignments, professional evaluations, etc. Failure to achieve at least an 80 in all areas of this track will result in a grade of NC and the student may be dismissed from the program