PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Graduate Faculty:

DiCocco, Margaret, Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, M.S. University of Texas, San Antonio, 1998. Research design, statistical analysis and interpretation and evidence-based medicine.
Diemer, Donald, Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director, DHCs, MPAS, PA-C, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1998. Family and Community Medicine.
Kelly, Cheri, Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, M.S., PA-C, Southern Illinois University, 1990, 1990. Clinical medicine, clinical anatomy, medical physiology, autism spectrum disorders, internal medicine topics.
Lloyd, Leslie, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1993; 2000
Pulver, Rhonda, Assistant Professor, M.S., Wayne State University, 2005; 2010. Emergency medicine, ACLS.

The Physician Assistant Program is offered by the School of Medicine. The Program utilizes a problem-based learning curriculum and clinical rotations to prepare primary care physician assistants to practice medicine with physician supervision. The PA Program also offers a Master’s degree Completion Program (MCP) for Bachelor’s degree prepared PAs who wish to earn a Master’s Degree. (See information about the Completion Program after the professional program information.)

The physician assistant is often the first health care provider to see a patient and perform a variety of tasks including collecting historical and physical examination data from the patient and ordering appropriate laboratory and diagnostic tests. The physician assistant synthesizes patient information and participates in formulating and executing a treatment plan to meet the patient’s needs. A physician assistant can evaluate psychological aspects of a patient’s health, counsel when appropriate, and teach patients about primary health problems. The physician assistant makes referrals when indicated and can perform procedures, such as EKGs, venipuncture, casting, suturing, and injections. The physician assistant prescribes medications as delegated by the supervising physician, according to state law. Graduates of the PA Program are trained as primary care providers and awarded the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPA) degree.

Admission
To be considered for enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program, prospective students must have at least an overall, prerequisite and science GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, be admitted to the Graduate School, complete the Program prerequisites and other requirements. This Program requires a nonrefundable $50.00 application fee (subject to change without notice by the SIU Board of Trustees) that must be submitted with the application for admissions to graduate study in the Physician Assistant Program. Applicants may pay this fee by credit card if applying electronically or by personal check, cashier’s check, or money order made out to SIU, and payable through a U.S. Bank. MSPA students will not receive the border state decrease adjustment to their tuition and fees. Therefore, all out-of-state students will pay a higher tuition rate. No advanced placement is awarded towards completion of PA Program courses, even if the applicant is licensed as a medical doctor.

Degree Requirements
Prospective students must have completed all of the following prerequisite courses before matriculation: Medical Terminology--one semester or proficiency; Chemistry or Biochemistry or Organic or Inorganic-two semesters with labs; Psychology one semester; Human Physiology-one semester (higher level preferred); Human Anatomy--one semester (higher level preferred with cadaver); Microbiology with lab-one semester; General Biology for science majors, or Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics - one semester; Statistics with Probability-one semester; English Composition-one semester; Speech or Oral Communication-one semester; CPR for Healthcare
Providers. Graduate Record Examination, the Miller’s Analogy Test and MCAT scores must have been taken within the past five years and should be submitted with application materials. Applicants must have successfully academic potential, motivation, familiarity with the PA role, oral and written communication skills, inter-personal skills, and potential for success in the SIU PA Program and the PA profession. Students will be selected by the Admissions Committee for an interview with a maximum of 34 being admitted to the professional sequence. The MSPA program is extremely rigorous and outside employment while in the Program is discouraged.

Students will be selected for the professional sequence to begin study only in the summer session. Those accepted into the Program will be notified of acceptance by the spring semester prior to the summer of entry. The curriculum is a 26 month sequence with the first 12 months (Phase I) consisting of problem-based learning activities, basic science and clinical medicine courses, and clinical experiences. The next 14 months consist of clinical rotations with seminars (Phase II) and a summer preceptorship (Phase III). All Students complete a Master’s Project before graduation. During the clinical rotation phase, students may be required to relocate to other locations, called Hubsites, throughout Illinois. These include, but are not limited to: Carbondale/Delta Region, Springfield, Decatur, Mattoon, Olney, Pekin, Quincy, or Springfield. The Master’s Seminar (559) will be Applicants should contact the Academic Advisor at the Physician Assistant Program for application information. Rolling admissions to the Physician Assistant Program is limited and based on a competitive process. Applicants will be evaluated on the overall submitted application package including GPA. More information on deadlines or other requirements can be obtained from the PA Program Academic Advisor at: paadvisement-L@listserv.siu.edu

Requirements for Major in Physician Assistant Studies Program

First Year Sequence (Phase I)……………………………………………………………………54
Second Year (Phase II & Phase III)………………………………………………………………36
Physician Assistant 545, 551, 580, 581, 582, 583, 596, 599
Total………………………………………………………………………………………………90

Curricular Guide

**PHASE I**

**SEMESTER 1 – SUMMER (UNIT 1) – 10 CREDIT HOURS**

PA 500-1  Introduction to the Profession  
PA 501-3  PBL, Unit 1  
PA 511-1  Pharmacology  
PA 521-2  Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences  
PA 531-2  Patient Evaluation  
PA 547-1  Research Methods

**SEMESTER 2 – FALL (UNITS 2 & 3) – 22 CREDIT HOURS**

PA 502-3; PA 503-3  PBL, Units 2 and 3  
PA 506-1  Patient Education/Behavioral Science  
PA 507-1  Diversity in Medical Practice  
PA 512-1; PA 513-1  Pharmacology II, III  
PA 522-2; PA 523-2  Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences II, III  
PA 532-2; PA 533-2  Patient Evaluation II, III  
PA 550-2;  Clinical Mentoring - Phase I  
PA 599-2  Master’s Seminar

**SEMESTER 3 – SPRING (UNITS 4 & 5) – 22 CREDIT HOURS**

PA 504-3; PA 505-3  PBL, Units 4 and 5  
PA 506-1  Patient Education/Behavioral Science  
PA 514-1; PA 515-1  Pharmacology IV, V  
PA 522-2; PA 523-2  Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences II, III  
PA 532-2; PA 533-2  Patient Evaluation II, III  
PA 550-2;  Clinical Mentoring - Phase I  
PA 599-2  Master’s Seminar
PHASE III

SEMESTER 7 – SUMMER – 6 CREDIT HOURS
PA 545-3 Health Care Systems
PA 596-3 Preceptorship

A limited number of electives are also available to MSPA students:

Master's Completion Program
(30 credit hours, 12 months)

This option is for those students who are PAs and hold a Bachelor's degree from an accredited PA Program. Interested candidates must be admitted to the Graduate School and complete an application to the Master's Completion Program (MCP) available through the PA Program Academic Advisor at ppa advisement-L@listserv.siu.edu.

Students are awarded the MSPA degree upon satisfactory completion of all requirements. Students enrolled in the Master's Completion Program may complete the Program via distance education with periodically scheduled seminars on campus, as required by the course syllabi. See descriptions of individual courses below.

Requirements for Master's Completion Program

First Year Sequence……………………………..22
Physician Assistant 540, 547, 548, 549, 599

Second Year Sequence………………………… 8
Physician Assistant 545, 599

Total…………………………………………………..30

MASTER'S COMPLETION PROGRAM CURRICULAR GUIDE

SEMESTER 1 – FALL – 10 CREDIT HOURS
PA 547-4 Research Methods and Evidence-Based Medicine
PA 548-4 Medicine in Practice
PA 599-2 Master's Seminar

PA Elective Courses:
PA 508 1-3 Holistic Medicine
PA 585 1-6 Independent Study

PA Continuing Enrollment:
PA 601-1
Used to complete the Master's Project if all other Program requirements are met.

SEMESTER 2 – SPRING - 12 CREDIT HOURS
PA 540-4 Ethical Issues in PA Practice
PA 549-4 Medicine in Practice
PA 599-4 Masters Seminar

SEMESTER 3 – SUMMER - 8 CREDIT HOURS
PA 545-3 Health Care Systems
PA 599-5 Master’s Seminar

A limited number of electives are also available to MCPA students:

PA Elective Courses:
PA 508 1-3 Holistic Medicine
PA 585 1-6 Independent Study

PA Continuing Enrollment:
PA 601-1 Used to complete the Master’s Project if all other Program requirements are met.

For information about problem-based learning and more information on either degree option offered by the Physician Assistant Program, visit our web site at: www.paprogram.siu.edu or www.siumed.edu/paprogram or email the Program Academic Advisor.

Courses (PA)

500-1 Introduction to the PA Profession. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of professional issues of the Physician Assistant. Students are introduced to physician assistant history, standards of quality assurance, credentialing and licensure, regulations governing practice, business issues, and contract negotiation. Students explore opportunities in professional organizations and ways to strengthen their professional development. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

502-3 Problem Based Learning Group, Unit 2. This course is designed to focus on internal medicine topics in respiratory medicine, dermatology, urology, and infectious disease. Problem based learning is used with emphasis on expanding the student’s knowledge base, enhancing clinical reasoning skills and self-directed learning, and improving interpersonal communication skills among students and patients. Six to nine students are allowed per section. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

501-3 Problem Based Learning Group, Unit 1. This course is designed to focus on medical topics in cardiology and gastroenterology. Problem-based learning is utilized with emphasis on expanding the student’s knowledge base, enhancing the student’s clinical reasoning skills and self-directed learning, and improving interpersonal communication skills among students and patients. Limited to six to nine students per section.
503-3 Problem Based Learning Group, Unit 3. This course is designed to focus on internal medicine topics in neurological and psychiatric diseases. Problem-based learning is utilized with emphasis on expanding the student’s knowledge base, enhancing the student’s clinical reasoning skills and self-directed learning, and improving interpersonal communication skills among students and patients. Limited to six to nine students per section.

504-3 Problem Based Learning Group, Unit 4. This course is designed to focus on health concerns, physiological and psychosocial issues of obstetrics, gynecology, urology, and pediatric gastroenterology. Problem based learning is utilized in expanding the student’s knowledge base, clinical reasoning skills, self-directed learning, and improving interpersonal communication skills. Limited to six to nine students per section.

505-3 Problem Based Learning Group, Unit 5. This course is designed to focus on medical topics related to endocrinology, renal disease, and metabolism. Problem-based learning is utilized with emphasis on expanding the student’s knowledge base, enhancing the student’s clinical reasoning skills and self-directed learning, and improving interpersonal communication skills among students and patients. Limited to six to nine students per section.

506-1 to 3 Behavioral Science/Patient Education. This course explores behavioral science and patient education as it applies to the practice of medicine, as well as maintenance of health and prevention of illness. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

507-1 Diversity in Medical Practice. Students examine issues that arise when delivering medical services to persons of diverse cultures, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender, and socioeconomic status. Implications for providing medical services to persons who have experienced discrimination and disadvantage will be discussed. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

508-1 to 3 Holistic Medicine. This course is designed to explore the current research, practice and applications of Mind-Body-Spirit Medicine (MBSM). Students will explore the use of various techniques for use in clinical and therapeutic settings as well as for maintaining their own personal health. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

511-1 Pharmacology I. This course introduces students to the therapeutic agents most commonly used for treatment of disorders of the cardiovascular and gastrointestinal systems. The practical aspects of dosage, schedules, therapeutic effect, adverse reactions, metabolism, method of action and excretion and investigated.

513-1 Pharmacology III. This course introduces students to the therapeutic agents most commonly used in neurology and psychiatry. The practical aspects of dosage, schedules, therapeutic effect, adverse reactions, metabolism, method of action and excretion are investigated.

514-1 Pharmacology IV. This course introduces students to the therapeutic agents most commonly used in practice involving pregnancy, neonates, infants, sexually transmitted diseases, menopause, and prostate disorders. The practical aspects of dosage, schedules, therapeutic effect, adverse reactions, metabolism, method of action and excretion are investigated.

515-1 Pharmacology V. This course introduces students to the therapeutic agents most commonly used in treating diabetes, thyroid disorders, renal disease, and fluid disorders. The practical aspects of dosage, schedules, therapeutic effect, adverse reactions, metabolism, method of action and excretion are investigated.

521-2 Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences I. This course involves the study of anatomical structures with cadaveric materials, clinical applications, physiology and pathophysiology of selected systems. Radiology, microscopy, and embryology issues will be included. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

522-2 Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences II. This course involves the study of anatomical structures with cadaveric materials, clinical applications, physiology and pathophysiology of selected systems. Radiology, microscopy, and embryology issues will be included.

523-2 Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences III. This course involves the study of anatomical structures with cadaveric materials, clinical applications, physiology and pathophysiology of selected systems. Radiology, microscopy, and embryology issues will be included.

524-2 Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences IV. This course involves the study of anatomical structures with cadaveric materials, clinical applications, physiology and pathophysiology of selected systems. Radiology, microscopy, and embryology issues will be included.

525-2 Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences V. This course involves the study of anatomical structures with cadaveric materials, clinical applications, physiology and pathophysiology of selected systems. Radiology, microscopy, and embryology issues will be included.

531-2 Patient Evaluation I. This course is designed to prepare the Physician Assistant student in taking a patient history and performing portions of the physical exam. Interview and communication skills, medical terminology, and recording patient information are also explored. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

532-2 Patient Evaluation II. This course is designed to build on student’s knowledge of pertinent physical exam skills, and increase knowledge regarding the medical
history and clinical procedures. Students continue to improve skills in areas of the patient interview, medical terminology, and recording patient information.

532-2 Patient Evaluation III. This course is designed to build on students' knowledge of physical exam skills, introduce new systems, and improve skills in areas of the patient interview, medical terminology, and recording patient information.

534-2 Clinical Procedural Skills. Students develop and expand their skills in performance of clinical procedural skills needed for competency in office and hospital-based practice. Topics will include central line placement, IV therapy, EKG, lumbar puncture, venipuncture, casting, suturing, and thoracentesis.

535-2 EKG and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). ELG/ACLS is designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed to read EKGs and to evaluate and manage the first ten minutes of an adult ventricular fibrillation/tachycardia arrest. Students learn to manage ten core ACLS cases, a respiratory emergency, four types of cardiac arrest, four types of pre-arrest emergencies, and stroke. May substitute for two credit hours of 549.

536-1 Introduction to the Surgical Setting. During this course, the student will be exposed to the various aspects of the general surgical setting. Fundamentals to be introduced include pre- and post-operative care, sterile technique, gowning and gloving, and the identification of surgical instruments. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

540-4 Ethical Issues in Physician Assistant Practice. This course is primarily for the Master's Completion student and focuses on ethical principles (beneficence, autonomy, nonmaleficence, justice, and autonomy) and the application of these to ethical dilemmas encountered in medical service provision and medical research. The student will examine federal and state legislation, policies, and practice guidelines as related to the practicing Physician Assistant. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

545-3 Health Care Systems. This course is designed to cover the following topics: delivery of health care, standards of care and guidelines as they affect practice issues, cost and effectiveness, economics of health care, insurance and health care, indigent medical care, the health workforce, access to care, health policy, and technology (electronic medical records, email, telemedicine). Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

547-1-4 Research Methods and Evidence Based Medicine (EBM). This course focuses on scientific inquiry within the Physician Assistant practice, covering the application of basic research methodology including problem formation, research designs, sampling, measurement, data analysis technical writing and dissemination of research results, and research ethics. Students will also focus on developing evidence-based medicine (EBM) skills. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

548-4 Medicine in Practice I. Students in this course study evidence-based principles and apply them to clinical practice. They also expand their knowledge of clinical procedures and therapeutics. Students log clinical hours as well as complete didactic assignments throughout this course. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

549-4 Medicine in Practice II. Students in this course continue to build upon the study of evidence-based medicine principles learned in previous courses and apply them to clinical practice. They will also expand their knowledge of clinical procedures and therapeutics. Students log clinical hours as well as complete didactic assignments throughout this course.

550-1 to 4 Clinical Mentoring—Phase I. Students gain clinical experience in the community setting by participating in a one-half day per week continuity clinic in Family Medicine with a designated mentor. Students register for this course during the first fall semester of the program. They register again for this course in the spring semester, until Phase II. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

551-1 to 5 Clinical Mentoring—Phase II. Students continue to gain clinical experience in the community setting by participating in a one-half day per week continuity clinic in Family Medicine with a designated mentor. Students register for this course during the second semester of the program. They register again for this course in subsequent semesters, until the Preceptorship. Maximum hours per term are two.

580-1 to 6 Problem Bases Learning (PBL) Group Phase II. Phase II students participate in a one-half day per week problem based learning tutor group, in which they engage in the Barrowsian method of problem-based learning at respective Hubsites. This course is designed to foster independence in clinical reasoning and knowledge synthesis by working through patient problems, as well as improving the application of knowledge to clinical practice. Restricted to Physician Assistant major.

581-3 Clinical Rotations I. This is the first (summer semester) in a three course sequence of supervised clinical experience in a variety of settings and nine specialty areas. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

582-6 Clinical Rotations II. This is the second course (fall semester) in a three course sequence of supervised clinical experience in a variety of settings and nine specialty areas.

583-6 Clinical Rotations III. This is the third course (spring semester) in a three course sequence of supervised clinical experience in a variety of settings and nine specialty areas.

585-1 to 6 Independent Study. Directed independent study in selected areas of Physician Assistant studies. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

596-3 Preceptorship. The eight week preceptorship simulates the role of the Master's prepared graduate Physician Assistant, with supervision by the clinical preceptor. This is generally completed in a primary care area of medicine.
599-1 to 15 Master's Seminar. This is a longitudinal course taken over several semesters in which students work on proposal design, development, construction, research, writing, and project presentation. The Master's Seminar culminates in defense of a Grand Rounds Presentation, Community Project Presentation, or a published Problem-Based Learning Module and Tutor Guide. Prerequisite: Limited to Physician Assistant majors. Students in Phase I must register for section 1; those in Phase II and MCP students must register for section 2.

601-1 Continuing Enrollment. For graduate students who have not completed the Program and are in the process of their Master's project. The student must have completed all other program requirements to be eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any other courses is not permitted. S/U or DEF grades only. Prerequisite: Completion of all program coursework except PA 599.