SIU Southern Illinois University
CARBONDALE

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Doctor of Medical Science

The Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) degree is offered by the School of Medicine Department of Physician Associate Medicine. All of the courses in the DMSc degree are specific to PAs. Course activities are examined from the perspective of PAs in clinical practice and PA education. The program utilizes online learning activities and offers the choice of an education or clinical practicum. The DMSc program at Southern Illinois University will prepare medical professionals who are thought leaders working in health care, higher education, research and innovative industries, as well as public and private agencies. These PA leaders will be thoroughly grounded in knowledge base, research paradigms, practical applications, and the ethical/legal implications of their respective career paths. The DMSc program will provide a balanced mix of theory, research, and practical application in the areas of medical practice, education, and leadership.

Admission

To be considered for enrollment in the program, applicants must have a master's degree in PA studies or equivalent from a PA program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) and either be in clinical practice or an educator in a PA program in the United States or Canada. Applicants must also possess an unrestricted state license to practice as a Physician Assistant where applicable. **Direct entry** is available to PAs who received a bachelor's degree in PA Studies or equivalent during the era of this being the professional standard and are NCCPA certified, and to PAs with a master's degree in PA studies or equivalent with a P/F grade standard and are NCCPA certified. This program requires a non-refundable $75 application fee (subject to change without notice by the SIU Board of Trustees) that must be submitted with the application for admission to graduate study in the DMSc program.

Bridge Pathway

The Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) Bridge is a streamlined pathway designed to recognize the prior advanced clinical and professional accomplishments of Physician Assistants/Associates (PAs). The DMSc Bridge offers a reduced 21-credit-hour curriculum, in contrast to the standard 37-credit-hour curriculum, by waiving the Clinical Practicum course series requirement. This waiver acknowledges the significant advanced clinical training and experience applicants bring through one or more of the following:

1. Completion of a PA postgraduate **Residency**
2. Completion of a PA postgraduate **Fellowship**
3. Earned a **Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ)** with NCCPA in any specialty
4. Graduation from the **SIU Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPA)** program
5. **Ten or more years of full-time clinical experience** as a NCCPA certified Physician Assistant/ Associate

Applicants to the DMSc Bridge must meet all standard admission requirements for the SIU Doctor of Medical Science program. In addition, applicants must have at least one of the five qualifications provided above.

Degree Requirements

Students selected for the DMSc can begin study in either the Spring or Summer session. Those accepted will be notified prior to the selected session of entry. The curriculum consists of online courses and activities, a longitudinal practicum or education series, and a scholarly project course and project submission.
Clinical Track: DMSC 510, DMSC 520, DMSC 530, DMSC 540, DMSC 550, DMSC 560, DMSC 561, DMSC 562, DMSC 563, DMSC 571, DMSC 572, DMSC 573, DMSC 574
Education Track: DMSC 510, DMSC 520, DMSC 530, DMSC 540, DMSC 550, DMSC 560, DMSC 561, DMSC 562, DMSC 563, DMSC 581, DMSC 582, DMSC 583, DMSC 584

Curricular Guide
The course sequence will be delivered over 5 units of instruction. The general course sequencing for a summer start is:

Unit 1 (9 weeks)

DMSC 510: Organizational Behavior and Leadership (3 CH)
DMSC 560: Performance Improvement in Clinical Practice (3 CH)

Unit 2 (9 weeks)

DMSC 520: Healthcare Administration (3 CH)
DMSC 561: Scholarly Project I (1 CH)
DMSC 571: Advanced Clinical Practicum I (4 CH) -OR-
DMSC 581: PA Education Practicum I (4 CH)

Unit 3 (9 weeks)

DMSC 550: Disaster Medicine (3 CH)
DMSC 562: Scholarly Project II (1 CH)
DMSC 572: Advanced Clinical Practicum II (4 CH) -OR-
DMSC 582: PA Education Practicum II (4 CH)

Unit 4 (9 weeks)

DMSC 540: Global Health (3 CH)
DMSC 573: Advanced Clinical Practicum III (4 CH) -OR -
DMSC 583: PA Education Practicum III (4 CH)

Unit 5 (10 weeks)

DMSC 530: Healthcare Law (3 CH)
DMSC 563: Scholarly Project III (1 CH)
DMSC 574: Advanced Clinical Practicum IV (4 CH) -OR-
DMSC 584: PA Education Practicum IV (4 CH)

Doctor of Medical Science Courses

DMSC510 - Organizational Behavior and Leadership This course provides students with foundational studies in organizations and leadership practices. This course concentrates on fostering skills in the development, organization, and maintenance of effective teams. Topics will include organizational change, roles, conflict, leadership styles, and effective implementation strategies with emphasis on healthcare and educational organizations. Credit Hours: 3

DMSC520 - Healthcare Administration This course provides students with foundational studies in finance, resource allocation, and administration. The course concentrates on fostering skills in practical

approaches to improving healthcare within an ethical framework and management style. Topics will include identifying and reviewing existing literature; critically examining existing programs, policies, and structures; and addressing the needs of patients, staff, board members, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Credit Hours: 3

DMSC530 - Healthcare Law This course provides students with an introduction to the study of legal and policy issues in healthcare. This course concentrates on the role of the PA within healthcare in the United States. Topics may include foundational and complex legal issues, leadership roles, and professional relationships in the healthcare system, access issues, quality of healthcare, and patient protections. Credit Hours: 3

DMSC540 - Global Health This course provides students with an introduction to global health issues. This course concentrates on key infectious diseases, determinants of health, delivery structures, and the PA role in global health strategies. Topics will include acute and chronic disease, infectious disease, maternal/child health, and the effects of poverty on health, cultural issues, as well as established international models and case studies. Credit Hours: 3

DMSC550 - Disaster Medicine This course provides students with an overview of the clinical aspects of disaster medicine. This course concentrates on the role of PAs in disaster medicine and established programs in this discipline. Topics will include health issues, epidemiology, and clinical research within disaster medicine, with emphasis on the leadership roles of PAs. Credit Hours: 3

DMSC560 - Performance Improvement in Clinical Practice This course introduces the student to key principles of evidence-based research and performance improvement. This course concentrates on scientific research and performance improvement in medical practice. Topics include research design, methodology, ethics, and critical appraisal of the medical literature, and quality performance to achieve patient-centered clinical outcomes. During this course, students will begin to develop the proposal of their scholarly project. Credit Hours: 3

DMSC561 - Scholarly Project I In this course, students are introduced to the framework of the scholarly project. This course concentrates on evidence-based research as it applies to the scholarly project. Topics include project development, the proposal process, revisions, and submission of their scholarly project proposal. Students will work closely with their faculty advisor as they progress through this process. Approval of the project is accomplished prior to completion of this course. Emphasis of the scholarly project is on clinical practice, the PA profession, or PA education. Prerequisite: DMSC 560 with a grade of C or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 560. Credit Hours: 1

DMSC562 - Scholarly Project II In this course, students delve into the process of inquiry and literature review. This course concentrates on the application of concepts and methods from previous courses. Topics include synthesis of research, application of knowledge, and writing for future publication or presentation at professional conferences as the student develops and works on their scholarly project. Prerequisite: DMSC 561 with a grade of C or better or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 561. Credit Hours: 1

DMSC563 - Scholarly Project III In this course, students focus on the final preparation and submission of the scholarly project. This course concentrates on finalizing the project for submission to the DMSc program. Topics include the requirements in content, research, format, and relevancy of the scholarly project, as well as preparing the project for submission for publication in a professional journal or presentation at a professional conference. Final project grades are assigned by the student's faculty advisor. Prerequisite: DMSC 562 with a grade of C or better or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 562. Credit Hours: 1

DMSC571 - Advanced Clinical Practicum I This course will provide intensive clinical exposure in a chosen clinical specialty to further the student's clinical practice. Students will apply advanced and specialized medical knowledge beyond general practice. The basic mission of the SIU SOM PA Program is to graduate PA's who will be competent primary care providers, able to serve populations in medically underserved areas. Students in the Clinical Practicum course will be asked to define educational milestones related to patient encounters that involve rural or underserved populations. These clinical objectives will encourage students to gain the unique perspective related to healthcare issues of this

patient population. This course will be the first in the series, with the aim to provide intensive clinical exposure in a chosen clinical specialty to further the student's clinical practice. Credit Hours: 4

DMSC572 - Advanced Clinical Practicum II This course will be the second session of the Advanced Clinical Practicum and will continue to provide intensive clinical exposure in a chosen clinical specialty to further the student's clinical practice. Students will apply advanced and specialized medical knowledge beyond general practice. Prerequisite: DMSC 571 with a grade of C or better or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 571. Credit Hours: 4

DMSC573 - Advanced Clinical Practicum III This course will be the third session of the Advanced Clinical Practicum and will continue to provide intensive clinical exposure in a chosen clinical specialty to further the student's clinical practice. Students will apply advanced and specialized medical knowledge beyond general practice. Prerequisite: DMSC 572 with a grade of C or better or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 572. Credit Hours: 4

DMSC574 - Advanced Clinical Practicum IV This course will be the fourth session of the Advanced Clinical Practicum and will continue to provide intensive clinical exposure in a chosen clinical specialty to further the student's clinical practice. Students will apply advanced and specialized medical knowledge beyond general practice. Prerequisite: DMSC 573 with a grade of C or better or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 573. Credit Hours: 4

DMSC581 - PA Education Practicum I Learning Theories and Methodology: This is first in the longitudinal PA Education Practicum, which provides opportunities for development as a faculty member and/or clinical preceptor. Fellows will explore adult learning theories, such as problem-based learning (PBL), social cognitive theory, reflective practice, and transformative learning to improve their institution's student learning outcomes through the practicum experience. Because SIU is a PBL leader in medical education, emphasis will be placed on PBL methodology, facilitator techniques, learner-centered education, and group dynamics. Fellow will also define professional goals and begin obtaining multi-source evaluations of their Practicum work. Credit Hours: 4

DMSC582 - PA Education Practicum II Student Assessment Essentials: This course is the second of the PA Education Practicum and provides exposure in various student assessment techniques to apply in the practicum setting. These include formative and summative evaluations employing multiple modalities, such as standardized patient encounters, multiple choice exams, reflection, lab exams, demonstration, and oral examinations. Fellows will apply concepts from medical and educational literature to improve student assessment at their institution during the practicum experience. Fellows will build on knowledge from the DMS 981 Practicum course and continue multi-source evaluations of their work. Prerequisite: DMSC 581 with a grade of C or better or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 581. Credit Hours: 4

DMSC583 - PA Education Practicum III Program Evaluation: This course is the third of the PA Education Practicum and provides intensive PA educational experience with regard to program evaluation concepts in the medical education setting. Models of program assessment to be studied include the objectives-oriented approach, management and/or participant approaches, and the utilization-focused approach to apply program evaluation concepts to the practicum setting. Fellows will review accreditation standards applicable to their practicum setting, and lead a portion of the institution's continuous self-assessment process. Fellows will build on knowledge from the DMS 982 Practicum course and continue multi-source evaluations of their work. Prerequisite: DMSC 582 with a grade of C or better or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 582. Credit Hours: 4

DMSC584 - PA Education Practicum IV Professional Development and Scholarship: This course is the fourth of the PA Education Practicum series and provides experience in professional development in the area of PA medical education. Fellows will develop their teaching philosophy, define and reflect on service activities, identify program and PA profession research needs, as well as their own areas of expertise and scholarly goals. At the completion of this course, Fellows will summarize their progress toward integrated learning theories and methods, student assessment, program evaluation, as well as their own development as academicians throughout the practicum experiences. Prerequisite: DMSC 583 with a grade of C or better or concurrent enrollment in DMSC 583. Credit Hours: 4

Doctor of Medical Science Faculty

Barke, Halley, Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine, DMSc, Southern Illinois University, 2022, MS, PA-C Physician Assistant Studies, A.T. Still University, 2012; BS Physician Assistant Studies, Southern Illinois University, 2008.

Becker, Stacey, Adjunct Professor, DMSc Southern Illinois University, 2022; MS, PA-C Arcadia University, 2003

Butler, Joshua N., Adjunct Professor, DMSc Lynchburg University, 2020; MMS, PA-C, Arcadia University, 2006; 2004.

Davenport, Gregory, Adjunct Instructor, DHSc, AT Still University, 2012; MS Physician Assistant Studies, University of Nebraska, 2008; BA Liberal Studies, Thomas Edison University, 2008.

Diemer, Donald O., Professor and Chair, Department of Physician Associate Medicine, DHSc., AT Still University, 2011; MS Physician Assistant Studies, University of Nebraska College of Medicine 1998; BS Physician Assistant Studies, University of Nebraska 1996; BS Education, Southern Illinois University 1990.

Furgason, Ashley, Adjunct Instructor, DMSc, Lynchburg University, 2019; MMS Physician Assistant Studies, 2008; BS Biological Sciences, 2005.

Kalogerinis, Peter T., Adjunct Professor, DMSc Lynchburg University, 2019; MMS, PA-C, Methodist University, 2010.

Noel, Luna, Adjunct Professor, DMSc Southern Illinois University, 2023; MMS, PA-C Nova Southeastern University, 2013; MS in Healthcare Policy and Administration Mercer University, 1998; BA University of Colorado, 1992.

Ribbing, Jacob W., Assistant Professor and DMSc Program Director, DMSc, Lynchburg University, 2019; MS Physician Assistant Studies, Southern Illinois University 2016; BS Radiologic Science, Southern Illinois University 2012.

Scott, M. Kate, Associate Professor and Program Director Physician Assistant Program, DMSc, Lynchburg University, 2020; MPAS, PA-C, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2016; 1995.

Scott, Michael D., Adjunct Professor, Juris Doctor, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, 2002; Medical Doctor, Temple University School of Medicine, 1986; BS Chemistry, Morehouse College, 1981.

Sherrill, Jeffrey A., Adjunct Instructor, DMSc, Lynchburg University, 2020; MS Physician Assistant Studies, Southern Illinois University, 2012; BS Health and Human Services, Southern Illinois University, 2009.

Terrill, Rachel L., Adjunct Instructor, DMSc, Lincoln Memorial University, 2019; MS Physician Assistant Studies, Southern Illinois University, 2012; BS Biological Sciences, Southern Illinois University, 2010.

Treece, Chelsea E., Adjunct Instructor, DMSc, Lynchburg University, 2019; MS Physician Assistant Studies, Southern Illinois University, 2014; BS Biomedical Science, Southern Illinois University, 2012.

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