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### Physician Assistant Studies

The Physician Assistant (PA) Program is offered by the School of Medicine Department of Family and Community 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 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. 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 overall, prerequisite, and science GPAs 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 \$65 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. Accepted applicants will be required to submit a nonrefundable enrollment deposit to reserve a position in the class. The deposit is due within 10 days of the program's invitation to the applicant. The deposit will be applied to the student's Bursar account two weeks after matriculation. If an applicant, who has accepted an offer for admission, decides to drop, the enrollment deposit will not be refunded. 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 with labs - two semesters (select from General, Inorganic, Organic, or Biochemistry); Psychology - one semester; Human Physiology - one semester (higher level preferred); Human Anatomy – one semester (higher level with cadaver lab preferred); Microbiology with lab-one semester; General Biology for science majors, - one semester (may also select from Genetics or Cell and Molecular Biology); Statistics-one semester; English Composition - one semester; and CPR for Healthcare Providers. Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or MCAT scores must be submitted with application materials. Applicants must have successfully completed all the required prerequisites by the fall term prior to matriculation, with the exception of medical terminology and CPR for Healthcare Providers. Those must be completed by the end of the Spring term prior to matriculation.

Students who have completed or will soon complete a Bachelor's degree and prerequisite course requirements should contact the program advisor or consult the program website for the most current application information.

Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program is limited and based on a competitive process. Applicants will be evaluated on the overall submitted application package, including overall, science, and prerequisite

GPA's that must each be a 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, academic potential, motivation, familiarity with the PA role, oral and written communication skills, interpersonal skills, and potential for success in the SIU Carbondale PA Program and the PA profession. Students will be selected by the Admissions Committee for an interview with a maximum of 40 being admitted to the professional sequence. The MSPA Program is extremely rigorous and outside employment while in the Program is discouraged.

Students selected for the professional sequence will begin study 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. More information on deadlines or other requirements can be obtained from the PA Program Advisor at: [paadvisement-L@listserv.siu.edu](mailto:paadvisement-L@listserv.siu.edu). All courses are restricted to Physician Assistant Majors.

## Requirements for Major in Physician Assistant Studies Program

### First Year Sequence (Phase I) - 54 hours

PA 500, PA 501, PA 502, PA 503, PA 504, PA 505, PA 506, PA 507, PA 511, PA 512, PA 513, PA 514, PA 515, PA 521, PA 522, PA 523, PA 524, PA 525, PA 531, PA 532, PA 533, PA 534, PA 535, PA 536, PA 547, PA 550, PA 599

### Second Year (Phase II & Phase II) - 36 hours

PA 545, PA 551, PA 580, PA 581, PA 582, PA 583, PA 596, PA 599

**Total - 90 hours**

## 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 I
  - # PA 521-2 Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences I
  - # PA 531-2 Patient Evaluation I
  - # 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 524-2; PA 525-2 Clinical Anatomy and Integrated Sciences IV, V
  - # PA 534-2 Clinical/Procedural Skills
  - # PA 535-2 ACLS/EKG
  - # PA 536-1 Introduction to the Surgical Setting
  - # PA 550-2 Clinical Mentoring – Phase I
  - # PA 599-2 Master's Seminar

### Phase II

- **Semester 4 – Summer – 6 Credit Hours**

- # PA 551-1 Clinical Mentoring – Phase II
- # PA 580-1 PBL Tutor Group – Phase II
- # PA 581-3 Clinical Rotations I
- # PA 599-1 Master’s Seminar
- **Semester 5 – Fall – 12 Credit Hours**
  - # PA 551-2 Clinical Mentoring – Phase II
  - # PA 580-2 PBL Tutor Group – Phase II
  - # PA 582-6 Clinical Rotations II
  - # PA 599-2 Master’s Seminar
- **Semester 6 – Spring – 12 Credit Hours**
  - # PA 551-2 Clinical Mentoring – Phase II
  - # PA 580-2 PBL Tutor Group – Phase II
  - # PA 583-6 Clinical Rotations III
  - # 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:

#### 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 more information on the MSPA degree offered by the Physician Assistant Program, visit our web site at: [siumed.edu/paprogram](http://siumed.edu/paprogram) or email the Program Advisor.

## Physician Assistant Studies Courses

**PA500 - Intro to PA Profession** 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.

**PA501 - PBL Group, Unit 1** 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.

**PA502 - PBL Group, Unit 2** 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.

**PA503 - PBL Group, Unit 3** 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 learned

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.

**PA504 - PBL Group, Unit 4** 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.

**PA505 - PBL Group, Unit 5** 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.

**PA506 - Beh Sci/Patient Ed** 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.

**PA507 - Diversity - Med Practice** 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.

**PA508 - Holistic Medicine** 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.

**PA511 - Pharmacology I** 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, mechanism of action and excretion are investigated.

**PA512 - Pharmacology II** 512-1 Pharmacology II. This course introduces students to the therapeutic agents most commonly used involving the pulmonary and integumentary systems, as well as those medications used in infectious disease. The practical aspects of dosage, schedules, therapeutic effect, adverse reactions, metabolism, method of action and excretion are investigated.

**PA513 - Pharmacology III** 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.

**PA514 - Pharmacology IV** 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.

**PA515 - Pharmacology V** 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.

**PA521 - Clin Anat & Int Sci I** 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.

**PA522 - Clin Anat & Int Sci II** 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.

**PA523 - Clin Anat & Int Sci III** 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.

**PA524 - Clin Anat & Int Sci IV** 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.

**PA525 - Clin Anat & Int Sci V** 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.

**PA531 - Patient Evaluation I** 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.

**PA532 - Patient Evaluation II** 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.

**PA533 - Patient Evaluation III** 533-2 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.

**PA534 - Clinic Procedure Skills** 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.

**PA535 - EKG & ACLS** 535-2 EKG and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). EKG/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.

**PA536 - Intro Surgical Setting** 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.

**PA545 - Health Care Systems** 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).

**PA547 - Research Methods & EBM** 547-1 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.

**PA550 - Clinical Mentoring-Phase I** 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.

**PA551 - Clinical Mentoring-Phase II** 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

summer semester of the program. They register again for this course in subsequent semesters, until the Preceptorship. Maximum hours per term are 2.

**PA580 - PBL Tutor Group Phase II** 580-1 to 6 Problem Based 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 designated 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.

**PA581 - Clinical Rotations I** 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.

**PA582 - Clinical Rotations II** 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.

**PA583 - Clinical Rotations III** 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.

**PA585 - Independent Study** 585-1 to 6 Independent Study. Directed independent study in selected areas of Physician Assistant studies.

**PA596 - Preceptorship** 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.

**PA599 - Master's Seminar** 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. Restricted to Physician Assistant majors.

**PA601 - Continuing Enrollment** 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.

## Physician Assistant Studies Faculty

**Debeljuk, Gloria**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, MD, MSW, LCSW, School of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Southern Illinois University, 1967, 1994.

**Diemer, Donald**, *Program Director* and Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, DHSc, MPAS, PA-C, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1996.

**Johnson, Molly T.**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, MS, APN, Pace University, Lienhard School of Nursing, Pleasantville NY, 1982.

**Kelly, Cheri**, Academic Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, M.S., PA-C, Southern Illinois University, 1990, 1999.

**Miller, Brooke**, Clinical Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, MPAS, PA-C, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2006, 2009.

**Pierson, William T.**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Ph.D., Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine, Tempe, AZ, 2000.

**Pulver, Rhonda**, Clinical Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, MS, PA-C, Wayne State University, 2005; 2010.

**Reichert, Rob**, Instructor of Pharmacology, Family and Community Medicine, PharmD, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, 2011.

**Ryznyk, Laurie**, *Associate Director* and Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine, MPAS, PA-C, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2001, 1995.

**Scott, M. Kate**, Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, MPAS, PA-C, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2016, 1995.

**Smith, Sidney**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, M.D., F.A.A.P., Northwestern University School of Medicine, 1965.

**Waldyke, Kathryn**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, M.D., Michigan State University, 1990; 2011.

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**Catalog Year Statement:**

Students starting their collegiate training during the period of time covered by this catalog (see bottom of this page) are subject to the curricular requirements as specified herein. The requirements herein will extend for a seven calendar-year period from the date of entry for baccalaureate programs and three years for associate programs. Should the University change the course requirements contained herein subsequently, students are assured that necessary adjustments will be made so that no additional time is required of them.