PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (MPAS)

Degree: Master of Physician Assistant Studies
Program of Study: Physician Assistant
Program Code: 8160

The Physician Assistant program is a post-baccalaureate program, leading to a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree (MPAS).

A Physician Assistant (PA) is a healthcare professional who is licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of a Doctor of medicine (MD) or Doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) and can exercise delegated autonomy in decision-making. Physician Assistants can make clinical decisions and provide a variety of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, and health maintenance services to patients.

The CMU PA program offers a student-centered curriculum that has a unique emphasis on training compassionate and competent PAs to be ambassadors of wellness in their careers and communities. Our program places emphasis on wellness promotion and disease prevention for the individual patient and the community. The program is a rigorous 28-month, full-time on campus program consisting of 112 credits. The CMU PA Program curriculum is designed to educate clinicians with the knowledge and skills to be agents of excellence and innovation in the delivery of quality healthcare to the communities of Western Colorado and beyond.

To become a certified PA following completion of a Master's program, you must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE).

Important information for this program:

- Enrollment requires PA program acceptance. Please see the catalog and program website for specific admissions requirements.
- All courses and course sequencing are required and must be completed at CMU.
- Students must successfully pass all didactic, clinical course work, and summative exam.

All CMU masters-level graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in specialized knowledge/applied learning, quantitative fluency, communication fluency, critical thinking, information literacy, and ethical reasoning. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, a graduate of this program will be able to:

1. Medical Knowledge (MK)\ Demonstrate an understanding of the biomedical, clinical, and social knowledge necessary to care for patients across all ages and a variety of settings and contribute to scholarly advancement in the chosen field by completing projects individually and collaboratively (Specialized Knowledge/Applied Learning).
2. Interpersonal and Communication Skills (IC): Demonstrate an ability to elicit an accurate medical history and perform a detailed physical exam to make patient-centered diagnostic and therapeutic management plans and create oral and written arguments or explanations, well-grounded in discipline specific theories and methods, for specified audiences (Communication Fluency) and formulate and evaluate hypotheses as related to research problems, issues, concepts, and various perspectives (Critical Thinking).
3. Interpersonal and Communication Skills (IC): Demonstrate the ability to provide appropriate patient education and interventions for individual and community disease prevention and health promotion and employ discipline-specific logical, mathematical, statistical methods, or other analytical processes to address a topic or issue (Quantitative Fluency) and synthesize, evaluate, or refine the information base of various scholarly sources (Information Literacy).
4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills (IC): Demonstrate effective oral and written communication, which results in an exchange of information and collaboration with patients, families, caregivers, and medical professionals and synthesize, evaluate, or refine the information base of various scholarly sources (Information Literacy) and articulate moral, ethical, legal, or professional challenges within the discipline (Ethical Reasoning).
5. Patient Care (PC): Apply acquired medical, behavioral, and social science knowledge necessary to evaluate, diagnose, and care for patients across the life span in a variety of clinical settings and employ discipline-specific logical, mathematical, statistical methods, or other analytical processes to address a topic or issue (Quantitative Fluency) and create oral and written arguments or explanations, well-grounded in discipline specific theories and methods, for specified audiences (Communication Fluency) and formulate and evaluate hypotheses as related to research problems, issues, concepts, and various perspectives (Critical Thinking) and synthesize, evaluate, or refine the information base of various scholarly sources (Information Literacy).
6. Patient Care (PC): Demonstrate the clinical problem-solving skills necessary to develop a differential diagnosis and patient-centered diagnostic and therapeutic management plans that include pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions and employ discipline-specific logical, mathematical, statistical methods, or other analytical processes to address a topic or issue (Quantitative Fluency) and create oral and written arguments or explanations, well-grounded in discipline specific theories and methods, for specified audiences (Communication Fluency) and formulate and evaluate hypotheses as related to research problems, issues, concepts, and various perspectives (Critical Thinking) and synthesize, evaluate, or refine the information base of various scholarly sources (Information Literacy).
7. Patient Care (PC): Perform core technical skills required in primary care including diagnostic and therapeutic clinical procedures and employ discipline-specific logical, mathematical, statistical methods, or other analytical processes to address a topic or issue (Quantitative Fluency) and create oral and written arguments or explanations, well-grounded in discipline specific theories and methods, for specified audiences (Communication Fluency) and formulate and evaluate hypotheses as related to research problems, issues, concepts, and various perspectives (Critical Thinking) and synthesize, evaluate, or refine the information base of various scholarly sources (Information Literacy).
8. Patient Care (PC) Integrate evidence from scientific studies to make evidenced-based and culturally sensitive clinical judgments in the individualized care and management of patients and contribute to scholarly advancement in the chosen field by completing projects individually and collaboratively (Specialized Knowledge/Applied Learning) and synthesize, evaluate, or refine the information base of various scholarly sources (Information Literacy) and\ articulate moral, ethical, legal, or professional challenges within the discipline (Ethical Reasoning).
9. Professionalism (P): Demonstrate professionalism and ethical behaviors of compassion, respect, integrity, and accountability, while

maintaining sensitivity and responsiveness to patients, families and the multidisciplinary healthcare team and articulate moral, ethical, legal, or professional challenges within the discipline (Ethical Reasoning).

10. Professionalism (P): Demonstrate continuous self-assessment and implementation of an improvement plan that includes compassionate self-care and a commitment to life-long learning and articulate moral, ethical, legal, or professional challenges within the discipline (Ethical Reasoning) and create oral and written arguments or explanations, well-grounded in discipline specific theories and methods, for specified audiences (Communication Fluency).

Requirements

Each section below contains details about the requirements for this program. Select a header to expand the information/requirements for that particular section of the program's requirements.

To print or save an overview of this program's information, including the program description, learning outcomes, requirements, suggested course sequencing (if applicable), and advising and graduation information, scroll to the bottom of the left-hand navigation menu and select "Print Options." This will give you the options to either "Send Page to Printer" or "Download PDF of This Page." The "Download PDF of This Page" option prepares a much more concise presentation of all program information. The PDF is also printable and may be preferable due to its brevity.

Institutional Graduate Degree Requirements

The following institutional requirements apply to all CMU graduate-level degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- Graduate certificates consist of a minimum of 5 credit hours. Master's degrees consist of a minimum of 30 credit hours. Doctoral degrees consist of a minimum of 60 credit hours.
- All credits in a graduate program must be minimally at the 500-level.
- At least fifty percent of the credit hours must be taken at CMU.
- Students must achieve a 3.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all CMU coursework.
- Students may not apply coursework with a grade lower than a "B" toward graduation requirements.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and certificate requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See "Graduate Degree Requirements" in this catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.
- All policies for graduate degrees are outlined in the Graduate Policies and Procedures Manual, Capstone Guidelines Manual, and Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines Manual, all of which are provided on the Graduate Studies website.

Specific to this program:

- 112 semester hours for the MPAS in Physician Assistant.

Program Specific Requirements

(112 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
PHAS 500	Advanced Human Anatomy	4
PHAS 501	Biomedical Science	4
PHAS 502	Clinical Pharmacology	3
PHAS 503	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2
PHAS 510	Foundation to Clinical Medicine	2
PHAS 511	Clinical Medicine I	13
PHAS 512	Clinical Medicine II	13
PHAS 513	Clinical Medicine III	13
PHAS 520	History and Physical Exam	3
PHAS 521	Patient Assessment, Diagnostics, and Clinical Skills Lab I	2
PHAS 522	Patient Assessment, Diagnostics, and Clinical Skills Lab II	2
PHAS 523	Patient Assessment, Diagnostics, and Clinical Skills Lab III	2
PHAS 530	Introduction to Research and Evidence-Based Medicine	2
PHAS 531	Clinical Reasoning I	2
PHAS 532	Clinical Reasoning II	2
PHAS 533	Clinical Reasoning III	2
PHAS 541	PA Professionalism I	2
PHAS 542	PA Professionalism II	2
PHAS 543	PA Professional Capstone	1
PHAS 570	Clinical Year Seminar	1
PHAS 571	Family Medicine Rotation	4
PHAS 572	Behavioral Medicine and Mental Health Rotation	2
PHAS 573	Internal Medicine Rotation	4
PHAS 574	Women's Health Rotation	2
PHAS 575	Pediatric Medicine Rotation	2
PHAS 576	Surgery Rotation	4
PHAS 577	Emergency Medicine Rotation	4
PHAS 578	Inpatient Medicine Rotation	4
PHAS 579	Elective Rotation I	4
PHAS 580	Elective Rotation II	4
PHAS 581	Summative Seminar	1
Total Semester Credit Hours		**112**

Suggested Course Plan

Note: The below rotation schedule is a version of a possible schedule. Individual student's rotation schedules during the clinical year will vary.

Also, while the sequencing below culminates in a total of 113-115 semester credit hours, students must complete a minimum of 112 semester credit hours as required for completion of the degree, including satisfactory completion of all required courses. Plan to complete

requirements with varying hour options accordingly and consult with advisor.

First Year

Spring Semester		Semester Credit Hours
PHAS 541	PA Professionalism I	2
PHAS 500	Advanced Human Anatomy	4
PHAS 501	Biomedical Science	4
PHAS 502	Clinical Pharmacology	3
PHAS 510	Foundation to Clinical Medicine	2
PHAS 520	History and Physical Exam	3
PHAS 530	Introduction to Research and Evidence-Based Medicine	2
	Semester Credit Hours	**20**
Summer Semester		
PHAS 511	Clinical Medicine I	13
PHAS 531	Clinical Reasoning I	2
PHAS 521	Patient Assessment, Diagnostics, and Clinical Skills Lab I	2
	Semester Credit Hours	**17**
Fall Semester		
PHAS 512	Clinical Medicine II	13
PHAS 532	Clinical Reasoning II	2
PHAS 522	Patient Assessment, Diagnostics, and Clinical Skills Lab II	2
PHAS 503	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2
	Semester Credit Hours	**19**

Second Year

Spring Semester		
PHAS 513	Clinical Medicine III	13
PHAS 533	Clinical Reasoning III	2
PHAS 523	Patient Assessment, Diagnostics, and Clinical Skills Lab III	2
PHAS 570	Clinical Year Seminar	1
	Semester Credit Hours	**18**
Summer Semester		
PHAS 571	Family Medicine Rotation	4
PHAS 572	Behavioral Medicine and Mental Health Rotation	2
PHAS 573	Internal Medicine Rotation	4
PHAS 542	PA Professionalism II	2
	Semester Credit Hours	**12**
Fall Semester		
PHAS 574	Women's Health Rotation	2
PHAS 575	Pediatric Medicine Rotation	2
PHAS 576	Surgery Rotation	4
PHAS 577	Emergency Medicine Rotation	4
PHAS 543	PA Professional Capstone	1
	Semester Credit Hours	**13**

Third Year

Spring Semester		
PHAS 578	Inpatient Medicine Rotation	4
PHAS 579	Elective Rotation I	4
PHAS 580	Elective Rotation II	4
PHAS 581	Summative Seminar	1
PHAS 595	Independent Study (if needed)	1-3
	Semester Credit Hours	**14-16**
	Total Semester Credit Hours	**113-115**

Advising and Graduation
Advising Process and DegreeWorks

Documentation on the pages related to this program is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a degree. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and discussing the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for their intended degree.

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a certificate and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

Graduation Process

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their degree requirements:

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the "Intent to Graduate" form to the Registrar's Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found on the Graduation web page.

If a student's petition for graduation is denied, it will be their responsibility to apply for graduation in a subsequent semester. A student's "Intent to Graduate" does not automatically move to a later graduation date.