PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (MPAS)

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

About This Program . . .

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 27-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:

a. Demonstrate creativity and the ability to think critically and analytically.

b. Demonstrate the ability to work individually and in collaboration with others, in contributing to the scholarly advancement in their field.

c. Demonstrate advanced written and oral communication skills and the ability to access and analyze information from various literary sources.

d. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and articulate moral and ethical challenges within their discipline and demonstrate leadership.

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.

Specific to this program:

- 112 semester hours for the MPAS in Physician Assistant.

Program Specific Requirements

(112 semester hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Semester Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 500</td>
<td>Advanced Human Anatomy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; 500L</td>
<td>and Advanced Human Anatomy Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAS 501</td>
<td>Biomedical Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAS 502</td>
<td>Clinical Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses to complete in specific semesters while others may be moved around. Requirements are needed to earn a degree. Some courses are critical informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated documentation on the pages related to this program is intended for is responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for her/his intended degree.

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.

### 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.
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 at [http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/graduation.html](http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/graduation.html).

If your petition for graduation is denied, it will be your responsibility to apply for graduation in a subsequent semester. Your “Intent to Graduate” does not automatically move to a later graduation date.