PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Degree Offered
Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree

Length of Program
The program requires 28 continuous months of instruction divided into two phases.

Phase I, the Didactic Phase, consists of 13 months of basic medical sciences, pre-clinical sciences and professional studies course work. The basic medical and pre-clinical science courses introduce students to the fundamentals of scientific and clinical medicine. The professional studies courses are designed to provide understanding of professionalism, legal aspects of practice, medical ethics, practice-based learning and improvement and systems-based practice.

Phase II, the Clinical Education phase, consists of 10 months of Required clerkships and 5 months of Elective clerkships. The required clerkships are in specific areas of clinical medicine, designed to provide a broad foundation for primary care clinical practice. Elective clerkships may be selected from specialty or primary care areas.

Clerkships are scheduled after mutual collaboration and agreement between the student and the Clinical Coordinator. Assignments to clerkship sites are made after careful consideration of the individual student’s educational needs, site availability and the Program’s goal for clinical education. These sites are located throughout the state of Nebraska and are known collectively as the Nebraska Clinical Network. All required clerkships and most elective clerkships will be assigned within the Nebraska Clinical Network. Because of the location of clinical education sites, all applicants accepted into the Program must agree to spend at least three, and up to fifteen months in clerkship sites outside the Omaha and Lincoln metropolitan areas if required to do so by the Program.

Degree Requirements
Students must receive a passing grade of “C” or better or “Pass” in all courses and maintain an overall quality grade point average of 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale) or above. Grades of less than “C” are considered as failing within the physician assistant program. Physician assistant education requires the student to demonstrate skills of observation, communication, sensory, intellectual-conceptual, integrative and qualitative abilities, and professionalism. As such, students must successfully meet all of the program’s performance standards by passing all laboratory practical examinations and clinical education experiences, in addition to successful completion of didactic work. The standing of a student in any course is determined by the instructor of the course by examinations, laboratory and clinical performance, class participation, written assignments, personal observation, and other methods of evaluation.

Certification & Licensure
Certification
PAs receive their national certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Only graduates of an accredited PA program are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE). Once a PA is certified, he/she must complete a continuous six-year cycle of continuing medical education (CME) to keep her/his certificate current. Every two years, a PA must earn and log 100 CME hours and reregister her/his certificate with the NCCPA (second and fourth years), and by the end of the sixth year, recertify by successfully completing either the Physician Assistant National Recertifying Examination (PANRE) or Pathway II study. All states require passage of the PANCE for state licensure. Forty-seven states make provisions to license new physician assistant program graduates prior to availability of PANCE results NCCPA, 770/734-4500

Licensure
Graduation from an accredited physician assistant program and passage of the national certifying exam are required for Nebraska state licensure. For information on other states, contact each state’s credentialing office.

About the Profession
PAs practice medicine. PAs are medical providers licensed to diagnose and treat illness and disease.

PAs work collaboratively with physicians to provide care in a variety of settings, including physician offices, hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. After completing an intensive training program modeled after physician education, PAs can treat patients with significant autonomy.

PAs work together with physicians as part of an integrated medical team. PAs provide almost all the clinical services that physicians provide, including making clinical decisions and providing a broad range of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, and health maintenance services, including prescribing medications. The physician-PA team relationship is fundamental to the PA profession and enhances the delivery of high-quality health care.

PAs are qualified to practice by graduation from an accredited PA educational program and passing the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (http://www.nccpa.net) (NCCPA). Only those passing the examination can use the title “Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C).” PAs keep up with medical advances through continuing medical education requirements.

Brief History of the PA Profession
The PA profession began in the 1960s during a period of primary care shortages. The profession’s roots are in the military. The first PA class, in 1965, was composed of Navy corpsmen who had served during the Vietnam War who wanted to use their medical knowledge and experience in civilian life.

Additional information about the profession may be obtained from:
PA Focus: http://pafocus.org/what-is-a-pa/
AAPA - American Academy of Physician Assistants: https://www.aapa.org/

Career Outlook
According to the U.S. Bureau of Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook (2017 Edition), the PA profession has the following outlook:

- Expected to grow much faster than average for all occupations.
- Opportunities should be good, particularly in rural and inner-city healthcare facilities.
- Employment to grow by 30 percent from 2014 to 2024.
Scope of practice will continue to expand as States allow PAs to perform more procedures.

The median annual wage for physician assistants was $101,480 in May 2016.

PAs are cost-effective and productive members of the healthcare team and are employed by Physicians and institutions to provide primary care and assist with medical and surgical procedures.

Admissions

Admissions and Program Requirements

At UNMC, we value well-rounded, unique individuals and strive to create a diverse learning community. We perform a holistic review of all applications, considering both academic and non-academic experiences. Enrollment in the program is limited and competitive. The admissions committee of the program, composed of program faculty and administration, evaluates the qualifications of each applicant and makes the final selections for admission.

All interview dates provide equal opportunity for admission to the program. We do not utilize rolling admissions at UNMC; more than 85% of applicant selections will be made after all interviews are completed. Interviews are held at both the Omaha and Kearney campuses, so applicants can have the opportunity to experience our amazing facilities at either location. The campus on which an applicant interviews does not require attendance at that campus. We anticipate accepting 50 students to our Omaha campus and 16 students to our Kearney campus each year.

Admission to the Physician Assistant Program requires completion of a bachelor’s degree in any field prior to matriculation in August. Additionally, the applicant must successfully complete the following prerequisites prior to matriculation:

Required Undergraduate Prerequisites

The following course work is required. Introductory courses, survey courses, or courses intended for non-science majors will not satisfy the prerequisites. These courses may be planned or in progress during the application process. All prerequisite course work must be successfully completed with official transcript(s) submitted to the program by July 15th of the year of intended entry.

Biological Sciences
- General Biology with Lab
- Human Anatomy with Lab
- Human Physiology with Lab

NOTE: Anatomy and Physiology may also be taken in a combined course.

- Microbiology with Lab
- Genetics and Immunology are strongly recommended.

UNMC offers an online immunology course, MLS 404. Taking immunology at UNMC is not a preference factor for admission. Further information about this course.

Chemistry
- General or Inorganic Chemistry with lab (one year sequence)
- Organic Chemistry with lab (one year sequence recommended)
- Biochemistry (lab recommended)

English and Writing
- English Composition (or other English elective)
- Writing-intensive course

Psychology
- General Psychology (or other psychology elective)
- Abnormal Psychology
- Life Span/Developmental Psychology

Mathematics
- Statistics
- Algebra is strongly recommended.

Medical Terminology
- Either a college/university course or certificate program is acceptable.
- UNMC offers a medical terminology course, CAHP 310, which meets this requirement. Taking medical terminology at UNMC is not a preference factor for admission. Further information about this course.

Academic Criteria

1. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (A=4.0) is required.
2. Grades below “C” are not accepted in transfer to the University of Nebraska (e.g., C-, D+, D, D-, F).
3. Any repeated course grades (original and repeated) will be averaged in the CASPA GPA calculations and used accordingly in evaluation of the application.

As of 2019, UNMC will no longer require or utilize scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for admission to the PA program.

Get complete application details on How to Apply.

Application Deadline

Curriculum

Phase I - Academic

First Year

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCB 571 STRUCT OF HUMAN BODY</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIP 606 INTERMEDIATE PHYSIOLOGY</td>
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<td>PHAS 620 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL ISSUES</td>
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<td>PAMM 690 BIOLOGY OF DISEASE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 500 APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORY DATA</td>
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<td>PHAR 507 PHARMACOLOGY</td>
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<td>PHAS 630 CLINICAL SKILLS I</td>
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<td>PHAS 632 COMMUNICATION IN MEDICINE I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 637 COMMUNICATION MEDICINE II</td>
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<td>PHAS 645 BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE</td>
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PHAS 655  ADULT AND PEDIATRIC MEDICINE II  9
PHAS 670  RESEARCH APPLICATIONS IN MEDICINE  1

Second Year
Fall
PHAS 656  ADULT AND PEDIATRIC MEDICINE III  3
PHAS 660  MEDICAL ETHICS  1
PHAS 665  SYSTEMS IN HEALTH CARE AND MANAGEMENT  1

Credit Hours  5

Total Credit Hours  63

Phase II - Clinical
Second Year
Fall
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION ((see course offerings below))  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4

Credit Hours  12

Spring
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION ((see course offerings below))  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4

Credit Hours  16

Summer
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION ((see course offerings below))  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4
PHAS 700 Clinical  4
PHAS 700 Clinical Education  4

Credit Hours  16

Third Year
Fall
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION ((see course offerings below))  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4
PHAS 700  CLINICAL EDUCATION  4

Credit Hours  16

Total Credit Hours  60

Phase II, the clinical education phase, consists of 10 months of Required clerkships and 5 months of Elective clerkships. The required clerkships are in specific areas of clinical medicine, designed to provide a broad foundation for primary care clinical practice. Elective clerkships will be selected from specialty and primary care areas.

Required Clerkships

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHAS 702</td>
<td>PSYCHIATRY CLERKSHIP</td>
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<td>PHAS 703</td>
<td>INTERNAL MEDICINE CLERKSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 704</td>
<td>PEDIATRIC CLERKSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 705</td>
<td>WOMAN'S HEALTH CLERKSHIP</td>
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<td>PHAS 706</td>
<td>SURGERY CLERKSHIP</td>
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<td>PHAS 708</td>
<td>EMERGENCY MEDICINE CLERKSHIP</td>
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Elective Clerkships

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<tr>
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<td>PHAS 721</td>
<td>CARDIOLOGY ELECTIVE</td>
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<td>PHAS 722</td>
<td>ENDOCRINOLOGY ELECTIVE</td>
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<td>PHAS 723</td>
<td>GASTROENTEROLOGY ELECTIVE</td>
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<td>PHAS 724</td>
<td>INFECTIOUS DISEASE ELECTIVE</td>
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<td>PHAS 725</td>
<td>NEPHROLOGY ELECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 726</td>
<td>ONCOLOGY / HEMATOLOGY ELECTIVE</td>
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<td>PHAS 727</td>
<td>PULMONARY MEDICINE ELECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 728</td>
<td>RHEUMATOLOGY ELECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 729</td>
<td>CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY ELECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 733</td>
<td>ORTHOPEDIC SPORTS MEDICINE ELECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 734</td>
<td>SURGERY SUBSPECIALTY CLERKSHIP</td>
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<td>PHAS 735</td>
<td>ORTHOPEDIC SPINE SURGERY ELECTIVE</td>
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<td>PHAS 739</td>
<td>ALLERGY/IMMUNOLOGY ELECTIVE</td>
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<td>PHAS 740</td>
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<td>PHAS 741</td>
<td>COMPLEMENTARY &amp; ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE ELECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAS 749</td>
<td>OTOLARYNGOLOGY ELECTIVE</td>
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This is not an inclusive list. Clerkships in other specialties are available to meet student needs.

Total Program Semester Hours - 123
Total Number of Months - 28