

MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES DAO

A Practical Solution

Because of the advantages of having a master's degree, physician assistants are seeking ways to further their education. Recognizing that returning to a college campus for postgraduate study is impractical for most working physician assistants, the University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Program offers a degree advancement option (DAO) to enable practicing PAs to advance from the bachelor's degree to the master's degree. Now in its third decade, this program has provided master's degrees to thousands of practicing PAs.

This program provides an opportunity for practicing physician assistants with a bachelor's degree to obtain a professional postgraduate master's degree in as little as five semesters at a reasonable cost and without any required travel. The program can be completed in 5 semesters. However, students are allowed up to five years to complete the DAO. Upon completion of the program, physician assistants are awarded the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree.

MPAS DAO CME Credit

The Degree Advancement Option curriculum meets the requirements for AAPA category II CME credit on an hour per hour basis.

Features of the Program

Students in the Degree Advancement Option

- Acquire new competencies and skills by completing 800 hours of advanced supervised clinical practice at their place of employment,
- Learn current concepts in the areas of health care policy and medical ethics,
- Improve research skills by investigating a medical topic and presenting the results in a scientific paper.
- Select the option of the education track and study instructional design, education theory and leadership, and complete 320 hours of teaching in a supervised environment

General Information

- Successful candidates earn the professional degree - Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS).
- Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
- Approved by the Regents of the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Department of Education.
- Approved for military tuition assistance, and VA educational benefits.
- Options for study are available in almost every medical specialty or the education track can open opportunities in academia or community health promotion.

Degree Completion

Upon successful completion of all requirements by the deadline dates set by the Program, graduates of the MPAS DAO are welcome to participate in the graduation ceremonies in Omaha, Nebraska (May and December only). Graduates will be awarded the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree.

MPAS DAO Website (<https://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/education/online/padao/>)

Curriculum

MPAS DAO Courses and Practice Concentrations

The MPAS Degree Advancement Option consists of **36 semester credit hours** of didactic courses and either educational methodology or clinical experiences intended to be completed in **five semesters**. Please note, the program cannot be completed any sooner than 5 semesters. Students must choose either the clinical track or the education track for their program of study. In order to complete the program in five semesters, students must complete one didactic course each semester combined with one course from the clinical track or one course from the education track. UNMC has Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. The courses required to complete the program are listed below.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Didactic Courses		
CAHP 626	HEALTH CARE ETHICS AND CRITICAL THINKING	3
CAHP 631	MANAGEMENT IN HEALTH CARE	3
PHAS 680 or PHAS 681	HEALTH CARE POLICY CANADIAN HEALTH CARE POLICY	3
PHAS 682	CLINICAL INQUIRY AND WRITING	3
PHAS 790	MASTERS CAPSTONE	4
Clinical Track Courses ¹		
PHAS 785	ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE I	4
PHAS 786	ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE II	4
PHAS 787	ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE III	4
PHAS 788	ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE IV	4
PHAS 789	ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE V	4
Education Track Courses ²		
HPTT 601	FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION	3
HPTT 602	INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION	3
HPTT 623	LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION	3
PHAS 768	SUPERVISED TEACHING PRACTICE I	4
PHAS 769	SUPERVISED TEACHING PRACTICE II	4

¹ To complete the clinical track of this program, students are required to complete and document a total of 800 clinical hours (160 hours in each of five semesters) in a specific core area. During your first three semesters of the Advanced Clinical Practice coursework, you will meet objectives for one of our five Core Areas. The five core areas are: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, and surgery. Your core area should be based on the type of clinic/practice in which you are employed. During your final two semesters of the Advanced Clinical Practice coursework, you may meet objectives for a more specialized concentration area if you so choose. A full list of these concentration areas can be found below. The concentration areas available within a specific core area are listed to the right. Note: Each semester is 14-16 weeks in length. Students cannot log more than 160 hours in a semester. (See Core & Concentration options indicated below)

² Supervised Teaching Practice: to complete the education track of this program, students are required to complete and document a total of 320 clinical teaching hours (160 hours in each of two semesters) in a supervised situation. This can be associated with a formal institution of higher learning or can be other forms of community education/patient education. Each semester's log will include involvement in all aspects of instruction, including but not limited to: curriculum design, curriculum promotion, course preparation, instructional delivery (classroom, one-on-one, practicums, experimental training, etc.), evaluation analysis, academic/instructional counseling, strategic planning, and administrative responsibilities related to education. The log time should represent a mix of activities, including: meetings with the student's mentor, independent student activities (e.g., the study of instructional content, development of instructional strategies, and preparation of materials), actual teaching, and analysis of learning outcomes (for learners, teachers, courses, and programs).

Education goals and objectives have been established for the following practice areas. The student should select the core area that best matches his/her clinical practice, and identify any further focus of concentration if desired. The applicant whose concentration is not listed below should contact the program.

Core Areas and Concentrations (Clinical Track ONLY)

(available concentrations are listed under each core area)

Family Medicine

1. Dermatology
2. Emergency Medicine
3. Family Medicine
4. Obstetrics/Gynecology
5. Urgent Care

Internal Medicine

1. Allergy/Immunology
2. Cardiology
3. Critical Care
4. Dermatology
5. Endocrinology
6. Gastroenterology
7. Geriatrics
8. Infectious Disease
9. Internal Medicine
10. Nephrology
11. Neurology
12. Occupational Medicine
13. Oncology/Hematology
14. Ophthalmology
15. Pulmonology
16. Radiology
17. Rheumatology
18. Sleep Medicine

Pediatrics

1. Neonatology
2. Pediatrics
3. Pediatric Cardiology

4. Pediatric Orthopedics
5. Pediatric Pulmonology

Psychiatry

1. Pain Management
2. Psychiatry

Surgery

1. Anesthesiology
2. Bariatric Surgery
3. Burn Management
4. Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgery
5. Neurosurgery
6. Orthopedics
7. Otolaryngology
8. Physiatry
9. Plastic Surgery
10. Rehabilitation
11. Trauma Surgery
12. Surgery
13. Urology