Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPA)

MSPA 1340. Program to Practice I. (1 Credit Hour)
This spring term course provides preparatory instruction for the PA student's Capstone Project. During this course, the student completes the required online modules offered by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative program on human subject research and the responsible conduct of research. A review of APA formatting guidelines and plagiarism training is also provided. This course includes preparatory activities for the clinical year.

MSPA 1359. Physiology / Pathophysiology. (7 Credit Hours)
This clinically oriented course provides instruction on the overall physiology of the human body. Normal physiological states, as well as changes that occur in disease, infection, and trauma will be discussed. Students will be able to use this information to more effectively diagnose and treat their patients, as well as provide students with information that they may use to educate their patients regarding the disease process.

MSPA 1360. Clinically Oriented Anatomy. (7 Credit Hours)
An integrated anatomical approach to the study of human body structure. Lectures systematically take the student from the microscopic level through the formation of organ systems, with emphasis on the interdependence of these systems. Functional concepts and internal structure are related to surface anatomy as a basis for performing a physical examination. Also included in this course is anatomic radiography, which emphasizes normal radiological structures and prepares students for later clinical lectures that emphasize abnormal radiographs during the Introduction to Clinical Medicine series.

MSPA 1364. Nutrition. (1 Credit Hour)
Nutrition plays a role in nearly every health condition. This course is an introduction to clinical nutrition and covers the metabolism of lipids, carbohydrates, and proteins. Nutritional assessment and clinical topics such as obesity, pregnancy, vitamins and supplements are discussed.

MSPA 1371. Medical Pharmacology. (5.5 Credit Hours)
This course introduces the basic principles of medical pharmacology. The course will provide a foundation in the areas of general pharmacological concepts such as pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacogenomics - which are relevant to all pharmacotherapeutic and toxic agents. Additionally, topics relevant to specific drug classes such as clinical utility, mechanisms of action, and adverse effects will be presented in each unit.

MSPA 1372. Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM I). (7.5 Credit Hours)
This course is part of the ICM series covering the pathology, etiology, epidemiology, presentation, evaluation, and management of various diseases and disorders. Students will learn how to appropriately order and interpret diagnostic tests and formulate differential diagnosis and management plans for common diseases found in the primary care setting. Emphasis in this course will be on Behavioral Health, Orthopedic and Rheumatologic conditions, Dermatologic conditions, and Infectious Diseases.

MSPA 1375. Immunology / Microbiology. (2.5 Credit Hours)
This course is an overview of the human immune system and the extrinsic pathogens that contribute to morbidity and mortality. Topics specifically covered through lecture and lab sessions include bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Pathology topics include cell injury, hemodynamic disorders, neoplasms, and inflammation and repair. There is a clinically-oriented emphasis on the etiology of infectious disease, epidemiology, clinical presentation, and diagnosis. The laboratory exercises focus on techniques performed in modern clinical practice.

MSPA 1376A. Clinical Skills I. (0.5 Credit Hours)
This is the first course in a series of three focusing on hands-on experiences that will allow the student to obtain a level of knowledge and competence that will ensure a foundation from which to build clinical skills for the future. Competency when performing hands-on skills is essential to the delivery of health care in today's world. This course will provide instruction and interactive labs in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BLS). The other component of this course provides students an opportunity to complete the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. It is designed to help students understand and value different approaches of communication, and through this process unlock qualities in themselves and others, which will allow them to work more effectively and creatively together.

MSPA 1376B. Clinical Skills II. (0.5 Credit Hours)
This is the second course in a series of three focusing on hands-on experiences that will allow the student to obtain a level of knowledge and competence that will ensure a foundation from which to build clinical skills for the future. Competency when performing hands-on skills is essential to the delivery of health care in today's world. This course consists of the following laboratory sessions: Ophthalmology Lab, Gynecology Lab, Pulmonary Function Testing Lab, and Blood Borne Pathogens Training.

MSPA 1376C. Clinical Skills III. (3.5 Credit Hours)
This is the third course in a series of three focusing on hands-on experiences that will allow the student to obtain a level of knowledge and competence that will ensure a foundation from which to build clinical skills for the future. Competency when performing hands-on skills is essential to the delivery of health care in today's world. This course consists of the following sessions: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS®), Basic Surgical Medical Skills, Blood Borne Pathogens Training, Casting and Splinting Lab, Child and Dependent Adult Abuse Mandatory Reporter Training, FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS), FEMA Incident Command System (ICS), FEMA Active Shooter Response Training, Facilitated Exercise (FEMA material), Mass Casualty Incident Exercise, Advanced Airway Intubation Lab and Wound Care Class.

MSPA 1377. Intro to Clinical Medicine II (ICM II). (11.5 Credit Hours)
This course is part of the ICM series covering the pathology, etiology, epidemiology, presentation, evaluation, and management of various diseases and disorders. Students will learn how to properly order and interpret diagnostic tests and formulate differential diagnosis and management plans for common diseases found in the primary care setting. Emphasis in this course will be on hematology/oncology, gastrointestinal medicine, EKGs, heart sounds, cardiology, and respiratory systems.
MSPA 1378. Medical Genetics. (1 Credit Hour)
This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of human and medical genetics. Through a series of online modules, students will investigate the basics of DNA and genetic disease, modes of inheritance, meiosis, non-Mendelian inheritance, and concepts of genetic epidemiology. A series of case studies will help the student discover the impact of genetics in clinical practice. Utilizing their family history, the students will develop their own family pedigree.

MSPA 1381. Intro to Health Care Delivery Systems. (2 Credit Hours)
This course is designed to provide a basic level of knowledge in the structure and function of the health care delivery system, medical law, and socioeconomic issues, including social determinants of health as they apply to the PA and PA/physician team. Issues discussed will include reimbursement, inequality to accessing health care issues, health care policies, and the roles of the different members of the health care professional team.

MSPA 1382. Introduction to Ethics. (1.5 Credit Hours)
The preparation of a competent medical provider includes not only medical knowledge but also an understanding of professionalism and ethical principles. This course challenges the PA student to analyze, from an ethics perspective, clinical situations such as palliative care, confidentiality, legal issues and other emotionally charged topics. Instruction is provided via lectures, small group discussions and written assignments.

MSPA 1384. Physical Diagnosis. (4.5 Credit Hours)
This course is designed to introduce the student to patient history taking and communication skills. Students will begin using medical diagnostic equipment as they develop the skills needed to perform complete and focused physical examinations. Students will learn the components of the physical examination, recognize abnormal and normal findings and communicate the information in oral and written formats. Students will examine assigned lab partners and simulated patients to gain the skills and knowledge to perform a thorough history and physical examination. The pediatric, adult, and geriatric physical examinations will be emphasized.

MSPA 1389. Clinical Patient Assessment. (2.5 Credit Hours)
This course will build upon the skills from the Physical Diagnosis course to refine the physician assistant student's ability to efficiently gather a pertinent and relevant medical history as well as introduce the student to the concept of clinical reasoning. This information will be used to conduct the physical examination, identify pertinent problems, develop differential diagnoses, order appropriate diagnostic evaluations, and commit to a management plan for simulated patients.

MSPA 1393A. PA Professional Issues I. (1 Credit Hour)
This course is designed to introduce the student to the PA profession: its history, organizations, professionalism issues, legal aspects, and guidelines for ethical conduct. This course explores current issues in the PA profession, interprofessional education (IPE), and future projections.

MSPA 1393B. PA Professional Issues II. (0.5 Credit Hours)
This course is designed to introduce the student to the PA profession: future of the profession, the physician/PA team, professional relationships, patient consent, HIPAA, credentialing, licensure, and continuing medical education. This course explores cultural issues and syndicate health professional careers.

MSPA 1394. Intro to Clinical Med III (ICM III). (11.5 Credit Hours)
This course is part of the ICM series covering the pathology, etiology, epidemiology, presentation, evaluation, and management of various diseases and disorders. Students will learn how to appropriately order and interpret diagnostic tests and formulate differential diagnosis and management plans for common diseases found in the primary care setting. Emphasis in this course will be on women's health, endocrinology, and pediatric conditions, ENT (ear, nose and throat), renal diseases, and ophthalmology.

MSPA 1395. Research and Epidemiology. (1.5 Credit Hours)
This course is an introduction to research methodology and the process of critically evaluating evidence-based publications. The students will learn the basics of research design, biostatistics, and how to conduct a literature review by writing a critically appraised topic. This course also prepares the students for practice by teaching epidemiologic principles as a cornerstone of clinical reasoning and diagnosis.

MSPA 1398. Intro to Clinical Med IV (ICM IV). (7 Credit Hours)
This course is part of the ICM series covering the pathology, etiology, epidemiology, presentation, evaluation and management of various diseases and disorders. Students will learn how to appropriately order and interpret diagnostic tests and formulate differential diagnosis and management plans for common diseases found in the primary care setting. Emphasis in this course will be on pediatrics, emergency medicine, and geriatrics.

MSPA 2302. Psychiatry SCPE. (4 Credit Hours)
The Psychiatry supervised clinical practice experience (SCPE) is a 4-week required inpatient and/or outpatient experience that emphasizes the performance of the psychiatric history and physical examination, diagnostic work-up, treatment and management of patients in the hospital and/or clinic setting. Focus will also be on the care of the patient who presents to the behavioral medicine setting with emergent, acute and chronic health needs with the goal of applying the knowledge and skills gained to this as well as other clinical medicine settings.

MSPA 2303. Emergency Medicine SCPE. (4 Credit Hours)
The Emergency Medicine SCPE is a 4-week required experience. Upon completion of this SCPE, the Physician Assistant student will be able to elicit a problem-oriented medical history and physical examination, obtain the indicated laboratory and/or diagnostic studies and assess the results, formulate a management plan and assist in the implementation of appropriate therapy for common emergent and acute health needs encountered in the emergency setting. Students will continue to develop skills in clinical reasoning, inter-professional relationship building and communication. By the end of this course, students will be able to apply the knowledge and skills gained in this SCPE to other clinical medicine settings.

MSPA 2309. Elective SCPE. (2-8 Credit Hours)
The Elective SCPE is an 8-week required inpatient and/or outpatient experience that emphasizes the performance of the patient history and physical exam, screening techniques, diagnostic procedures and creating management plans appropriate to the assigned area. By the end of this course, students will be able to apply the knowledge and skills gained in this SCPE to other clinical medicine settings.
MSPA 2333. Women’s Health SCPE. (2 Credit Hours)
The Women’s Health SCPE is a 2-week required inpatient and/or outpatient experience emphasizing the performance of the gynecological history and physical examination, screening techniques, diagnostic procedures and creation of management plans. Focus will also be on the care of women who present with acute, chronic, emergent and preventive health needs including but not limited to pre-natal care, menstrual abnormalities, contraceptive counseling, menopause and sexually transmitted infections. By the end of this course, students will be able to apply the knowledge and skills gained in this SCPE to other clinical medicine settings.

MSPA 2334. Pediatric SCPE. (2 Credit Hours)
The Pediatric SCPE is a 2-week required inpatient and/or outpatient experience that emphasizes the performance of age and gender-appropriate medical history and physical examinations, screenings and diagnostic procedures, obtaining indicated lab studies and assessing the results, formulating a management plan and assisting in the implementation of appropriate therapy for common problems encountered in the pediatric setting. Focus will be on the care of the pediatric patients (and their legal guardians) with emergent, acute, chronic and preventive health needs. Students will continue to develop skills in clinical reasoning, inter-professional relationship building and communication. By the end of this course, students will be able to apply the knowledge and skills gained in this SCPE to other clinical medicine settings.

MSPA 2335. General Surgery SCPE. (4 Credit Hours)
The general Surgery SCPE is a 4-week surgical experience. During the course a student will have hands-on experiences in pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative care of the general surgery patient. This SCPE will emphasize the use of a surgery-focused history, physical examination, diagnostic lab and imaging appropriate to the patient and circumstances of the surgery. The student will actively participate during the surgery and follow-up care. Focus will be on the care of surgical patients across the life span and can include emergent, acute, chronic and preventive health needs. Students will continue to develop skills in clinical reasoning, communication and interprofessional relationships.

MSPA 2336. Internal Medicine SCPE. (4-12 Credit Hours)
The Internal Medicine SCPE is a 12-week clinical experience in the ambulatory and/or hospital setting. The course will emphasize the use of age and gender-specific history and physical examination, differential diagnosis development, lab and imaging and clinical reasoning to determine diagnosis and develop treatment plans. This course offers opportunities in both general internal medicine and internal medicine specialties. Students will focus on emergent, acute, chronic and preventive health needs. Students will continue to develop skills in communication and building interprofessional relationship.

MSPA 2337. Family Medicine SCPE. (4-12 Credit Hours)
The Family Medicine SCPE is a 12-week experience in an ambulatory setting that emphasizes the performance of age and gender-appropriate histories and physical examinations, screening and diagnostic procedures, developing differential diagnosis lists, interpreting diagnostic labs and imaging to establish diagnoses, and creating patient management plans. Focus will be on the care of patients throughout the lifespan that present with emergent, acute, chronic and preventive health needs. Students will continue to develop skills in clinical reasoning, interprofessional relationship building and communication.