Physician Assistant Studies Degree Requirements Revision
Graduate Council Approval: June 5, 2015

The Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Graduate Group offers a program in Physician Assistant Studies (PAS). The PAS program requirements meet the criteria for the Master of Health Services (MHS) degree, which is awarded to students who successfully complete the program requirements.

1) Admission Requirements:

- A bachelor’s degree.
- A minimum bachelor’s-degree G.P.A. of 3.0.
- A minimum 2.7 G.P.A. in all science prerequisite coursework is required.
- A minimum of 1,000 hours paid or volunteer experience in a clinical environment with direct patient exposure. Potential applicants should refer to the School of Nursing website at http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/nursing/education/education_nppa_clinical_experience.html if they are unclear about their clinical background. Completed Office of Graduate Studies application.
- Meet the UC Davis requirements for Graduate Admissions.
- A statement of purpose.
- The application process may require an interview
- The G.R.E. is not required.
- TOEFL (International applicants only)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts from each institution attended

Admission is competitive. Students applying for the physician assistant program must complete a Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) application and meet selection criteria. Following that process, a select pool of qualified applicants will receive an invitation to apply for UC Davis graduate admissions. All invited applicants must meet the UC Davis graduate admissions requirements.

Physician Assistant Studies: All prerequisites are required at the college level from an accredited school and must be included on the submitted transcript as part of the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) application process. Each prerequisite is expected to be one full course, either a quarter or a semester, and a minimum of three units, depending on the location where it was completed. Completion of prerequisite course work online is acceptable; however prerequisite course work with a lab component must be completed in-person, at an accredited academic institution. No online lab work is acceptable. Advanced Placement scores awarded in high school do NOT fulfill prerequisites. All prerequisites must be completed with a grade of C or better:

- *One course in Human Anatomy with lab
- *One course in Human Physiology with lab
- One course in General Chemistry with lab
(NOTE: Seminar courses will not fulfill this requirement.)
• One course in microbiology or bacteriology with lab
• One course in algebra, calculus or statistics
• One course in English composition
• Two courses in social sciences. Ideal courses provide exposure to human or organizational behavior – such as psychology, sociology, ethnic studies, women’s studies or cultural anthropology (NOTE: Social science courses may be completed in two different subject areas or within the same subject area.)

*It is desired that the human anatomy and human physiology prerequisite courses be completed within the past five years of when you plan to apply. Competitive applicants should self-assess their strengths. If it has been a number of years since courses were completed, applicants may want to consider retaking them.

*Physician assistant program applicants may complete a combined human anatomy and human physiology series course. Series courses are offered in two parts and are completed over the course of two quarters or two semesters. Series courses must be completed in full, and must include an in-person lab component. If applicant only completes one part of the series course, he or she must additionally complete a course in either human anatomy or human physiology to fulfill the requirement. Mammalian or animal will not fulfill this requirement.

**Deficiencies:** Applications with deficiencies will not be accepted.

2) **Degree and Plan:**
M.H.S. (Master of Health Services) in Physician Assistant Studies Plan II. This degree requires the completion of at least 36 units of graduate and upper division coursework of which 18 units must be graduate courses in the major field. The Physician Assistant program requires more units than the minimum. See requirements below. A comprehensive final examination in the major subject is required of each candidate. No thesis is required.

3) **Course Requirements: Core and Electives**

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES**

a) **Courses and units:** The Physician Assistant Program requires a minimum of 135 units as described below. Core course work will total at least 68 academic and didactic units plus 16 clinical training units and 51 supervised clinical practice units. The core courses are:

Academic Core (22 academic units)
- NRS 201: Health Status and Care Systems (4 quarter units)
- NRS 204: Research Skills for Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership (4 quarter units)
- NRS 210Y: Applied Health Informatics (4 quarter units)
- NRS 242A, B, C: Implementation Science for Clinicians (6 quarter units over 3 quarters)
- NRS 243A: Leadership in Professional Practice (2 quarter units)
- NRS 243B: Leadership in Professional Practice (1 quarter unit)
- NRS 243C: Leadership in Professional Practice (1 quarter unit)

Clinical Didactic (46 didactic units)
- NRS 250: Foundations of Primary Health Care (7 quarter units)
- NRS 251A: Primary Health Care (8 quarter units)
- NRS 251B: Primary Health Care (8 quarter units)
- NRS 251C: Primary Health Care (8 quarter units)
- NRS 251D: Primary Health Care (6 quarter units)
- NRS 260: Foundations of Behavioral Health (1 quarter unit)
- NRS 270: Foundations of Pharmacology (2 quarter units)
- NRS 271 A, B, C: Pharmacology (6 quarter units over 3 quarters)

Clinical Skills (16 clinical units)
- PAS 400: Basic Clinical Skills (4 quarter units)
- PAS 410 A-G Series: Advanced Clinical Skills (10 quarter units over 7 quarters)
- PAS 440: Preparation for Clinical Practice (2 quarter units)

Supervised Clinical Practice (51 Clinical Units)
- NRS 450 A-E Series: Supervised Clinical Practice
- NRS 451-459 Series: Supervised Clinical Practice

b) Elective Courses: Elective courses may be selected (only with the Graduate Adviser approval) so as to form an individualized Plan of Study that supports the student’s topic area.

c) Summary Course Schedule: Students are required to complete designated core coursework listed below. There are no waivers or substitutions for core courses. Elective course work is optional only with the approval of the Graduate Adviser. For Plan II a comprehensive exam must be completed.
# MHS Degree with Physician Assistant Studies Courses:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Summer, 1st Quarter</th>
<th>Fall, 2nd Quarter</th>
<th>Winter, 3rd Quarter</th>
<th>Spring, 4th Quarter</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>NRS 210Y: Applied Health Informatics (4)</td>
<td>NRS 243C: Leadership in Prof Practice (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Didactic Core – NP/PA Faculty</td>
<td>NRS 250: Foundations of Primary Health Care (7)</td>
<td>NRS 251A: Primary Health Care- Renal/GU, CV, ENT/Pulm (8)</td>
<td>NRS 251B: Primary Health Care- Gender/Endo, GI, Rheum/Derm (8)</td>
<td>NRS 251C: Primary Health Care- MSK, Psych, Ophtho/Neuro, Heme/Onc (8)</td>
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<td>NRS 260: Foundations of Behavioral Health (1)</td>
<td>NRS 271A: Pharmacology- Renal/GU, CV, ENT/Pulm (2)</td>
<td>NRS 271B: Pharmacology- Gender/Endo, GI, Rheum/Derm (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Core – NSHL Faculty</td>
<td>NRS 270: Foundations of Pharmacology(2)</td>
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<td>Clinical</td>
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<td>PAS 440: Preparation for Clinical Practice (2)</td>
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4) **Special requirements:**

Before entering clinical sites, students are required to complete a criminal background check, health screening, and immunizations. The staff will ensure that students are aware of and satisfy these special requirements.

5) **Committees:**

   a) **NSHL Executive Committee:**

   Duties of the Executive Committee include the following: act as the Membership Committee; approve new members and review of continuing members for retention in the group. Upon recommendation from the Educational Policy and Curriculum Development Committee, the Executive Committee will submit curriculum changes to Graduate Council for review and approval; determine and implement policy for the good of the Program; and represent the interests of the Program generally to various University and other agencies, in addition to addressing other Group issues as needed.

   b) **NSHL Recruitment, Admissions and Fellowship Committee:**

   The Recruitment, Admissions and Fellowship Committee shall be responsible for: selecting students for admission; administering financial assistance within the program; recruiting graduate students (and enlisting the services of an ad hoc recruitment committee for this task).

   The Physician Assistant Studies program (PAS) has a prescreening committee for their applicants. NSHL Recruitment, Admissions and Fellowship Committee shall have at least one representative on the PAS pre-screening committee. PAS applicants will apply through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). This specialized system will allow the PAS faculty on the pre-screening committee to select potential PAS students based on the program requirements. These students will be interviewed and preselected and then will apply to the NSHL Physician Assistant Studies for potential admission to the master's degree.

   Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions and Fellowship Committee. The Admissions and Fellowship Committee consists of at least 3 graduate group faculty members including a chair. Based on a review of the entire application, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant’s request for admission. That recommendation is forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies.

   c) **NSHL Education Policy and Curriculum Development Committee:**

   Duties of the Education Policy and Curriculum Development Committee include the following: making recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the educational policy and curriculum development of the group; monitoring and evaluating the quality of courses and curriculum offered under the auspices of the Graduate Group in Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership; supervising teaching assignments and teaching experiences of graduate students; overseeing the qualifying examination process; developing, coordinating, and facilitating the graduate program series of integrated
workshops and seminars.

d) Comprehensive Examination Committee:
The Comprehensive Exam Committee consists of at least three faculty members. This Committee will consist of at least the Graduate Adviser and at least one additional Graduate Group Faculty Member. The Graduate Adviser serves as chair of the committee and can be included as one of the three required faculty members. All members of the Comprehensive Examination Committee must sign to pass the Comprehensive Examination.

6) Advising Structure and Mentoring
The student’s Graduate Adviser, who is nominated by the Chair of the program and is appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies, is a resource for information on academic requirements, policies and procedures and registration information. Mentoring guidelines can be found in the graduate student guide, available on MyCourses for students.

7) Advancement to Candidacy
Master’s degree students are expected to advance to candidacy by the end of spring in year two. Every student must file an official application for Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Health Services (MHS) after completing one half of their core course requirements and at least one quarter before completing all degree requirements.

The Candidacy for the Degree of Master form can be found online at: http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/. A completed form includes a list of courses the student will take to complete degree requirements. If changes must be made to the student’s course plan after s/he has advanced to candidacy, the Graduate Adviser must recommend these changes to Graduate Studies. Students must have their Graduate Adviser sign the candidacy form before it can be submitted to Graduate Studies. If the candidacy is approved, the Office of Graduate Studies will send a copy to: the Graduate Adviser, the appropriate graduate staff person, and the student. If the Office of Graduate Studies determines that a student is not eligible for advancement, the department and the student will be told the reasons for the application’s deferral. Some reasons for deferring an application include: grade point average below 3.0, outstanding “I” grades in required courses, or insufficient units.

8) Comprehensive Examination Requirements (Plan II):
Fulfillment of the Comprehensive Examination is the last requirement of the M.S. Plan II. A student may take the comprehensive examination once they have advanced to candidacy and completed all required coursework. For most students, the exam is taken at the end of the 9th quarter. The comprehensive examination requirement is passing an online exam plus a simulated comprehensive physical exam by the student that is administered by the Comprehensive Examination Committee, who are members of the NSHL Graduate Group. The scope of the online exam is the candidate’s clinical coursework and preparation for clinical practice. The Comprehensive Examination Committee’s unanimous vote is required to pass a student on the comprehensive exam and all exam retakes.
If a student does not pass the comprehensive exam, the committee may recommend that the student be reexamined. The second exam must take place within one quarter of the first exam. The format of the second exam is the same as that of the first exam. If a student fails the retake, the second retake will follow the same process as the first retake and must also be completed within one quarter of the first exam. The examination may not be repeated more than twice. A student who does not pass on the second retake attempt is subject to disqualification from further graduate work in the program.

Once passed, the Master’s Report Form is signed by the Program Graduate Adviser and then forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies. The deadlines for completing this requirement are listed each quarter in the campus General Catalog (available online at the website of the Office of the Registrar or from the Bookstore). A candidate must be a registered student at the time the program submits the form. The program must file the report with Graduate Studies within one week of the end of the quarter in which the student’s degree will be conferred.

9) Normative Time to Degree
The normative time to degree for the Physician Assistant Studies is nine quarters and starts in the Summer Quarter.
10) MHS- PAS Typical Time Line:

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11) **Sources of funding**
   Master’s degree students may receive funding to support UC Davis student fees/tuition.

12) **PELP and Filing Fee status**
   Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave) and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Handbook:
   [http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/1.html](http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/1.html)