

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Course Sequence & Descriptions

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies program is a 27-month, 124-credit, full-time course of study. The program is taught at the University's Lebanon, NH center. One new class is enrolled each year which begins in the winter graduate term.

Course Sequence

Term 1	December – February	17 credits	Term 6	March – May	12 credits
ME512	Clinical Application of Basic Sciences I	4	ME633	Clinical Rotation 3	5
ME516	Clinical Medicine I	6	ME634	Clinical Rotation 4	5
ME508	Patient Care I	2	ME636	Seminar II	2
ME504	Basics of Pharmacology I	2			
ME510	Behavioral Medicine	2	Term 7	June - August	12 credits
ME500	Introduction to Clinical Reasoning	1	ME635	Clinical Rotation 5	5
			ME636	Clinical Rotation 6	5
Term 2	March – May	17 credits	ME646	Seminar III	2
ME520	Professional Seminar I	1			
ME512	Clinical Application of Basic Sciences II	3	Term 8	September - November	12 credits
ME528	Patient Communication and Education	2	ME637	Clinical Rotation 7	5
ME506	Basics of Pharmacology II	2	ME638	Clinical Rotation 8	5
ME544	Clinical Medicine II	6	ME648	Seminar IV	2
ME536	Patient Care II	2			
ME524	Clinical Reasoning I	1	Term 9	December - February	12 credits
			ME690	Senior Seminar	6
Term 3	June – August	14 credits	ME619	Elective Clinical Experience	4
ME552	Professional Seminar II	1	ME692	Preparation for Clinical Practice	2
ME564	Clinical Application of Basic Sciences III	3			
ME568	Clinical Medicine III	6	Total Program		124 credits
ME548	Clinical Reasoning II	1			
ME556	Understanding and Accessing the Medical Literature	2			
ME532	Introduction to Epidemiology & Public Health	1			
Term 4	September – November	16 credits			
ME572	Professional Seminar III	1			
ME592	Clinical Medicine IV	6			
ME580	Clinical Reasoning III	1			
ME576	Preparation for Clinical Education	1			
ME584	Evidence-based Medicine in Clinical Practice	2			
ME588	Clinical Pharmacology	2			
ME560	Advanced Clinical Skills	3			
Term 5	December – February	12 credits			
ME631	Clinical Rotation 1	5			
ME632	Clinical Rotation 2	5			
ME645	Seminar I	2			

Course Descriptions

ME500 Introduction to Clinical Reasoning

This course will introduce students to the process of integrating data collection into a patient assessment and plan. Concepts of differential diagnoses, use of diagnostic studies, and synthesizing data will be discussed. Additionally, students will learn patient case presentation in oral and written format. This course will be presented in a lecture and facilitated small-group format. Students demonstrate competence through written evaluations, small-group presentations, and written assignments.

ME504 Basics of Pharmacology I

In this course, students are introduced to general principles of drug action, drug metabolism and elimination, toxicity and therapeutics. Pharmacologic agents are introduced by system and include drugs used to treat nervous, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and renal disease.

ME506 Basics of Pharmacology II

In this course, students continue their introduction to general principles of pharmacologic agents. This course will discuss agents used to treat cardiovascular and respiratory disease. Topics also include anti-microbial and anti-parasitic agents, chemotherapeutic drugs, hematological drugs, hormones, vitamins and alternative medicine agents. Toxic environmental and pharmacologic agents and antidotes are also briefly discussed.

ME508 Patient Care I

Lecture and laboratory course designed to introduce students to medical terminology and the theory and application of interviewing and physical examination skills. The course will cover the basic skills necessary to perform a comprehensive screening history and physical examination and introduce students to problem-focused data collection based on patient presentation. Basic principles of radiology and laboratory medicine are introduced to the student with the goal of enabling him/her to successfully interpret common diagnostic studies. Students demonstrate competence through written and practical evaluations.

ME510 Behavioral Medicine

In this course, students will learn essential skills in the assessment of and communication with patients. The content will focus on human growth and development with emphasis on interviewing techniques, dealing with conflict, reflective practice to enhance practitioner self-awareness and self-care, current theories of personality and normal psychology. Students demonstrate

competence through written evaluations, class participation, and reflective journaling.

ME512 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences I

This course will deliver an in-depth study of topics in gross human anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology supporting the instruction in the Clinical Medicine courses. After a review of basic sciences as they relate to pathophysiology and cell biology, instruction will emphasize the clinical application of the basic science material as it pertains to the nervous and musculoskeletal systems, as well as the skin, eye, ear, nose and throat. An on-line module introducing medical genetics will be included in this course.

ME516 Clinical Medicine I

This course is designed to introduce students to the broad scope of clinical medicine and disease processes, including evaluation, management, and therapeutics pertaining to diseases of the skin, eye, ear, nose and throat and the nervous and musculoskeletal systems. This course is integrated with the Clinical Application of Basic Sciences course that is taught concurrently in the first term.

ME520 Professional Seminar I

This course introduces the students to the physician assistant profession and their role in the American healthcare system. Topics of discussion include the history of the profession, national and state organizations, federal and state laws affecting practice, education, and the future of the profession. Mentorship experiences in the clinical setting will serve to introduce students to the PA role through observation and role-modeling. Instruction is provided through classroom discussion, lecture, and a mentorship experience.

ME524 Clinical Reasoning I

This course is designed to enhance students' life-long learning abilities while integrating knowledge, skills, and attitude acquired in other courses. This faculty facilitated, small-group, case-based course will engage students' critical thinking skills using paper cases and standardized patients. Following the topics covered in Clinical Medicine, Patient Care, Behavioral Medicine and Professional Seminar, students will apply history taking and physical examination skills to the patient's chief complaint and work through the diagnosis and treatment of the patient using self-directed learning and small-group discussion. Students will continue to practice their ability to clearly present a patient case in oral and written format in this course.

ME528 Patient Communication and Education

An extension of Behavioral Medicine, this course will introduce students to patient-centered communication skills. Topics will include formation and management of the therapeutic alliance, motivational interviewing, and other basic counseling skills; ways to individualize patient education; the effect of family, cultural factors, socioeconomic status, gender, and ethnicity on the clinical encounter; basic clinical approaches to issues such as diet and exercise, smoking cessation, addiction, and sexual issues; and continued work to enhance practitioner self-awareness and self-care.

ME532 Introduction to Epidemiology and Public Health

Through directed self-study and lecture, this course develops basic competencies in epidemiology and public health, which are a necessary foundation to understanding research and evidence-based medicine. It will orient the student to problem solving methods used in public health, as well as the social, environmental, and behavioral determinants of health, disease, and systems of medical care.

ME536 Patient Care II

A lecture and laboratory course designed to introduce students to age-specific examinations, health promotion and disease prevention. The course will cover appropriate history taking, physical examinations, and preventive care from pregnancy through childhood, adulthood, and elders. Female breast and pelvic exam and male genital and rectal examination will be taught during this course. Students demonstrate competence through written and practical evaluations.

ME540 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences II

This course will deliver an in-depth study of topics in gross human anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology, as well as a continued discussion of medical genetics (cellular genetic mechanisms, inheritance, mutations, and gene mapping) and an introduction to clinical microbiology, nutritional principles, and laboratory medicine, supporting the instruction in the Clinical Medicine courses. Instruction will involve basic sciences with an emphasis on the clinical application of the material as it relates to the cardiovascular, pulmonary, and immunological/hematological systems.

ME544 Clinical Medicine II

This course is designed to introduce students to the broad scope of clinical medicine and disease processes, including evaluation, management, and therapeutics pertaining to diseases of the cardiovascular, pulmonary, and immunological/hematological systems. . A pediatric module will discuss the diagnosis and management of illnesses common in the pediatric population. This course is integrated with the Clinical Application of Basic

Sciences course that is taught concurrently in the second term.

ME548 Clinical Reasoning II

A continuation of Clinical Reasoning I, this course is designed to enhance students' life-long learning abilities while integrating knowledge, skills, and attitude acquired in other courses. This faculty facilitated, small-group, case-based course will engage students' critical thinking skills using paper cases. Following the topics covered in Clinical Medicine, Patient Care, Patient Communication and Professional Seminar, students will apply history taking and physical examination skills to the patient's chief complaint and work through the diagnosis and treatment of the patient using student-directed learning. Students will continue to practice presentation of patient cases in oral and written format in this course.

ME552 Professional Seminar II

Students explore relevant health-care law and policy issues that impact the Physician Assistant profession and health-care delivery systems. Contemporary professional medical ethics issues are discussed and debated. Mentorship experiences in the clinical setting will serve to introduce students to the clinical setting where they will become familiar with professional communications and comportment. Instruction is provided through classroom discussion, lecture, and a mentorship experience.

ME556 Understanding and Accessing the Medical Literature

This course will introduce students to the use of qualitative and quantitative research in health care and evidence-based theory, as they pertain to epidemiology, public health, and the practice of clinical medicine. This course provides an introduction to accessing computer-based medically oriented information and evidence-based medicine databases. The course will emphasize the use of up-to-date evidence-based literature to validate and improve the practice of clinical medicine now and as a lifelong learner.

ME560 Advanced Clinical Skills

This lecture and laboratory course is designed to introduce students to essential procedures and skills necessary for primary care practice such as advanced interpretation of EKGs, laboratory studies and radiographs; phlebotomy; injection techniques; splinting; suturing and more. Students will participate in Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification training during this course. Students demonstrate competence through written and practical evaluations.

ME564 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences III

This course will deliver an in-depth study of topics in gross human anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology supporting the instruction in the Clinical Medicine courses. Instruction will emphasize clinical application of the material as it relates to the renal, gastrointestinal, endocrine, and the genitourinary/reproductive systems.

ME568 Clinical Medicine III

This course is designed to introduce students to the broad scope of clinical medicine and disease processes, including evaluation, management, and therapeutics pertaining to diseases of the renal, gastrointestinal, endocrine, and genitourinary/reproductive systems. This course will also include a module discussing the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders. Integration with the third term of Clinical Application of Basic Sciences continues.

ME572 Professional Seminar III

This course will introduce students to many issues they will face on a daily basis in the delivery of health care. Various issues of concern will be covered, such as Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, access to care and managed care, along with discussions on billing and coding. Mentorship experiences in the clinical setting will emphasize observation of charting, clinical and office procedures, and continuity of care in the clinical setting. Instruction is provided through classroom discussion, lecture, and a mentorship experience.

ME576 Preparation for Clinical Education

This seminar course is designed to prepare students to begin their core clinical experiences. Topics will include communication in the clinical setting, the use of electronic medical records, and an in-depth discussion of program requirements for progressing through the clinical year.

ME580 Clinical Reasoning III

Building on skills learned to date, this continuation course will reinforce students' life-long learning abilities while integrating knowledge, skills, and attitude acquired in other courses. This faculty facilitated, small-group, case-based course will engage students' critical thinking skills using paper cases. Following the topics covered in Clinical Medicine, Patient Care, Clinical Pharmacology, and Professional Seminar, students will apply history taking and physical examination skills to the patient's chief complaint and work through the diagnosis and treatment of the patient using student-directed learning. Students will continue to practice presentation of patient cases in oral and written format in this course.

ME584 Evidence-based Medicine in Clinical Practice

In this course, emphasis will be on the ability to critique published research, to identify patient situations where

research would improve care, and to understand the value of evidence-based practice. Students will learn to identify, review and critique published literature. Specifically, students will learn to use medical literature as a tool for clinical decision-making by designing a question based on a patient case encountered in the Clinical Reasoning course or their mentor experience, researching the question, and formally presenting their findings in class.

ME588 Clinical Pharmacology

A review of the principles of pharmacology and discussion of how to apply these principles to patient care situations will be undertaken in preparation for students to enter clinical rotations. Common side effects of prototypic drugs in major categories, drug side effects and drug-drug interactions, the interaction of drugs with the disease state under treatment, polypharmacy, and reputable sources of information about drugs will be explored. Pharmacological management of acute and chronic diseases will be discussed and prescription writing will be reviewed and practiced on concert with the Clinical Reasoning III course.

ME592 Clinical Medicine IV

This course is designed to introduce students to conditions commonly encountered in emergency medicine, general surgery, geriatrics, and in-patient management. In the emergency medicine module, emphasis will be placed on the general principles of care for the trauma patient, including specific types of trauma and other commonly encountered presentations in the Emergency Department. The general surgery module will focus on basic surgical principles and procedures with emphasis on the evaluation and management of the surgical patient. The in-patient module will emphasize management of patients in the hospital setting. A module discussing illnesses common in our elders, chronic disease management, and end-of-life care will also be included in this course.

ME619 Elective Clinical Experience

This four-week rotation in a clinical setting of the student's choice is designed to allow students the opportunity to explore a specialty that is not available or offered in the core six-week rotations or in a practice setting where they may be seeking employment after graduation.

ME631 - 638 Core Clinical Experiences 1 - 8

Clinical courses designed to provide students with supervised medical and surgical clinical practice experiences enabling them to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. Core rotations will include Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Women's Health, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, and an

additional primary care rotation. Practice-specific multiple choice examinations will be administered at the end of each rotation and utilized to monitor student growth, evaluate strengths and weaknesses, and help students prepare for the PANCE.

ME645 - 647 Seminar I - III

These two-week Seminar courses will build on and enhance students' clinical experiences. One week will be devoted to a community service project designed and implemented by the student in consultation with program faculty and community partners. The second week will bring students back to campus for the purpose of case discussion in a large and small group, grand rounds format. Students will present their community service projects or a patient case during this time. This will also be a time for students to develop skills as reflective practitioners by discussing and evaluating their experiences in the health care system. Selected lectures will be delivered based on areas of weakness in clinical medicine identified through the end of rotation examinations.

ME648 Seminar IV

This two-week Seminar course is designed to bring students back to campus at the conclusion of their clinical year for continued reflection and discussion of their experiences, lectures in clinical medicine, and presentations. Students will undergo a written and practical summative evaluation designed to assess their mastery of the Competencies for the Physician Assistant profession prior to graduation.

ME690 Senior Seminar

All students will be required to pass a Summative Evaluation, a written and practical comprehensive examination designed to assess their mastery of the Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession prior to graduation. A review of history and physical examination skills and a thorough review of current medical topics will be undertaken to prepare students for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).

ME692 Preparation for Clinical Practice

In order to assist students with the transition of becoming a clinically practicing physician assistant, this course will provide information on how to obtain certification, licensure, malpractice insurance, and many other essential items needed before they begin practicing.