

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES • biomedical communications

• clinical nutrition • emergency medicine education • health care

sciences • medical laboratory sciences • physical therapy •

prosthetics-orthotics • radiation therapy • rehabilitation counseling



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES■ **DEGREE OFFERED**

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

■ **CHAIR**

P. Eugene Jones, Ph.D., PA-C

■ **MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

Laurette K. Dekat, M.D., M.P.H.

FACULTY AND ACADEMIC INTERESTS**P. Eugene Jones, Distinguished Teaching Professor**

Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University, 1991
Physician assistant education; nonphysician clinicians; faculty workforce; postgraduate specialty training.

Laurette K. Dekat, Clinical Assistant Professor

M.D., University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 1993; M.P.H., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 1987
Adolescent medicine; school-based health.

Cristina M. González, Assistant Professor

M.A., Texas A&M University, 1993
Medical linguistics; cultural competency.

Jennie A. Hocking, Assistant Professor

M.P.A.S., UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2003
Curriculum design and evaluation methodology; cardiopulmonary surgical outcome; cardiothoracic medicine.

David J. Klocko, Assistant Professor

B.S.P.A., King's College, 1986; M.P.A.S., University of Nebraska, 1998
Clinical performance evaluation; access to health care; emergency medicine.

Patti Pagels, Assistant Professor

M.P.A.S., University of Nebraska Medical Center, 1998
Cultural competency for health care providers; health literacy; care for the underserved; global health; health care for the homeless.

Sophia Serrano, Assistant Professor

M.P.A.S., UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2004
Physician assistant education; evidence-based medicine; physician assistant workforce.

■ **ADJUNCT FACULTY****Mary Bell DeCardenas, Clinical Assistant Professor**

M.P.A.S., UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2003

Alexander I. Glogau, Adjunct Assistant Professor

M.D., Downstate Medical Center, State University of New York, 1984

Tina M. Kaufman, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco, 1987

Janet E. Maffei, Clinical Assistant Professor

M.P.A.S., UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2004

Heather R. Gilbreath, Clinical Instructor

M.P.A.S., UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2006

Rebecca Inmon-Hardesty, Adjunct Instructor

PA-C, UT Southwestern Medical Center, 1999

Kristine J. Kucera, Clinical Instructor

Dr.H.Sc., Nova Southeastern University, 2006

OBJECTIVES

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies was established to prepare broadly trained health professionals to carry out patient-care functions traditionally performed only by a physician. Successful graduates of this program will have had the opportunity to prepare themselves for conducting a sophisticated medical interview and physical examination, for analyzing laboratory data, and for organizing and integrating these findings. From the results, he or she should be able to make assessments, diagnoses and therapeutic plans to present to the physician both orally and in writing so that the physician and the physician assistant can perceive the medical problems and determine appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic steps. Graduates of this program should be capable of assisting physicians by performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, prescribing medications, and coordinating the services of community-health agencies in order to serve the needs of the patient.

It is emphasized that a physician assistant functions under the general supervision and responsibility of the physician although he or she might, under specially defined rules and circumstances, operate away from the immediate supervision of the physician. To perform properly at this level of responsibility, a physician assistant must be trained by and for physicians in order to assure that the patient-care functions carried out by the physician assistant are equivalent in quality to those of the physician who delegates them.

Graduates of this program are eligible to take the national certification examination given by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

■ ACCREDITATION

This program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Applicants to the Physician Assistant Studies program are required to have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to matriculation. Internationally acquired degrees will be considered on a case-by-case basis following formal transcript reviews for semester-hour transferability. All prerequisite courses must be completed by Dec. 31 of the year of application with a grade of C or higher. All applicants are required to demonstrate either professional or substantial volunteer “hands-on” health-care experience prior to matriculation. Three letters of reference are required with the application. The Graduate Record Examination and a recommended minimum grade-point average of 3.0 science and 3.0 overall are required for admission, along with the following prerequisite course work:

COURSE	HOURS
Anatomy*	4
Physiology*	4
Genetics	3
General chemistry*	8
Organic chemistry*	4
Microbiology*	4

Psychology	3
Mathematics (college algebra or higher)	3

*Science courses must be for science majors and include a laboratory.

■ RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES

Pharmacology	Immunology
Spanish	Medical terminology
Biochemistry	Human sexuality
Cellular biology	Statistics

Factors considered for selection of applicants are cumulative grade-point average, science grade-point average, consistency or improvement in academic performance, demonstrated empathetic attitude, communication skills, leadership, and personal qualities such as maturity and career motivation. Direct patient-care experience is required, from either a paid professional role or from volunteer service in a health-care setting.

Admission to the Physician Assistant Studies program is competitive and is based on the criteria outlined in the Evaluation of Applicants section of Student Information.

■ ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

In addition to essential functions for all students (see Entrance Requirements in the Student Information chapter), each student in the Physician Assistant Studies program must be able to:

- 1) Participate in supervised clinical activities for extended periods of time, including rotations that require overnight call;
- 2) Demonstrate sufficient vision to perform tasks such as (but not limited to) interpretation of medical records, inspection of patients, and inspection of wounds and skin lesions;
- 3) Demonstrate sufficient hearing to perform auscultation of the heart and vessels, breath sounds, and abdominal sounds;
- 4) Demonstrate sufficient upper- and lower-body strength, coordination, dexterity and sensation to perform such activities as (but not limited to) prolonged standing, complete physical examination, and surgical and clinical procedures such as suturing, casting, venipuncture, emergency procedures and cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

- 5) Demonstrate sufficient problem-solving skills to learn to make a differential diagnosis, establish appropriate treatment plans, determine effectiveness of those plans and make appropriate modifications.

CURRICULUM

This 31-month professional course is composed of four didactic semesters of lecture and bedside demonstration in basic medical and behavioral sciences and four semesters of clinical rotations in various clinical disciplines.

During the clinical phase of the curriculum, students participate in the activities of a health care team in order to apply medical principles of patient care and to gain experience in actual patient care. Clinical training occurs in the following hospitals, all of which are teaching hospitals with formal affiliations with UT Southwestern Medical Center: Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Scott and White Hospital, Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Methodist Charlton Medical Center and Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas.

PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

Didactic Instruction

Because the program is structured as a continuous sequence, where each semester requires sequential completion of previous semesters, all students progress on the same timetable.

SUMMER			
COURSE			HOURS
MPA 5101	Professional Practice Issues I		1
HCS 5207	Introduction to Human Neuroscience		2
HCS 5308	Human Anatomy (Lecture)		3
HCS 5309	Human Anatomy Dissection Lab		3
HCS 5407	Human Physiology		4
<i>Total</i>			13
FALL			
MPA 5102	Integration Skills I		1
MPA 5215	Pharmacology I		2
MPA 5305	Patient Evaluation I		3
MPA 5509	Clinical Medicine I		5

MPA 5221	Medical Spanish I		2
HCS 5306	Introduction to Pathology		3
<i>Total</i>			16

SPRING

MPA 5103	Integration Skills II		1
MPA 5130	Evidence-Based Medicine		1
MPA 5204	Clinical Prevention and Population Health		2
MPA 5206	Patient Evaluation II		2
MPA 5216	Pharmacology II		2
MPA 5510	Clinical Medicine II		5
MPA 5222	Medical Spanish II		2
HCS 5106	Professional Development		1
<i>Total</i>			16

SUMMER

MPA 5208	Clinical Skills		2
MPA 5231	Psychiatry		2
MPA 5307	Patient Evaluation III		3
MPA 5511	Clinical Medicine III		5
MPA 5123	Medical Spanish III		1
<i>Total</i>			13
<i>Total didactic hours</i>			58

Clinical Instruction

COURSE		HOURS
MPA 5251	Long-Term Care/Community Health Practice Experience	2
MPA 5350	Professional Practice II	3
MPA 5428	Elective Clinical Rotation	4
MPA 5429	Clinical Selective	4
MPA 5430	Psychiatry	4
MPA 5432	Emergency Medicine	4
MPA 5433	Surgery	4
MPA 5450	Directed Study	4
MPA 5451	Infectious Disease	4
MPA 5622	Obstetrics and Gynecology	6
MPA 5623	Pediatrics	6
MPA 5830	Internal Medicine	8
MPA 5831	Family Medicine	8
<i>Total clinical hours</i>		61
<i>Total combined hours</i>		119

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to maintain a high academic performance and display appropriate professional and ethical behavior during all phases of their education.

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of

2.75 or better in all first-year courses in order to participate in clinical rotations. Adequate clinical knowledge and judgment and appropriate professional behavior are factors determining satisfactory performance. All academic and professional behavior policies are detailed in the *Physician Assistant's Student Guidelines*.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A candidate for the degree of Master of Physician Assistant Studies at UT Southwestern School of Health Professions must meet all of the following requirements.

- 1) The student must demonstrate a high order of scholarly achievement, including appropriate research and professional competencies. The program's Student Progress Committee determines whether adequate mastery has been acquired.
- 2) The student must complete satisfactorily a minimum of 119 semester hours at UT Southwestern School of Health Professions.
- 3) The student must discharge all financial obligations to the medical center. In the event of nonpayment, one or more actions may be taken by the dean: a) readmission may be denied; b) the student's grades and official transcript may be withheld; and c) the degree to which the student would otherwise be entitled may be withheld.
- 4) The student must complete the academic requirements listed on his or her degree plan, including completion of any academic deficiencies in prerequisite courses, by the times stated in the student's official letter of acceptance. The student is responsible for submitting official documentation of successful completion of the prerequisites to the Office of the Registrar.
- 5) The student must pay a graduation fee designated to partially offset the costs associated with the diploma and diploma cover production, regalia, and the commencement ceremony. All students completing a degree or certificate must pay the fee whether they attend the commencement ceremony or not.
- 6) The student must complete all required courses in the degree plan, have no academic deficiencies and have no incompletes. For courses with letter grades, a grade of C or higher must be maintained, with the exception of Clinical Medicine I, II and III (MPA 5509, MPA 5510 and MPA 5511, respectively), in which minimum grades of B must be maintained. A cumulative grade-point average of 2.75 must be maintained. For courses graded Pass/Fail, a grade of Pass must be achieved. The student must successfully complete all clinical rotations. Clinical evaluations must reflect an acceptable level of performance and professional conduct.
- 7) The student must complete and submit the PACKRAT examinations following completion of the didactic curriculum and again after completion of the majority of clinical rotations.
- 8) The student must successfully complete a graduate project as approved by program faculty.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

See other departmental listings in this catalog for descriptions of courses that do not begin with the prefix MPA.

■ DIDACTIC COURSES

MPA 5101 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ISSUES I 1 SEMESTER HOUR

This course introduces the physician assistant profession, including local, state, and national professional organizations and roles. Current licensure, certification and recertification requirements are described, as well as issues facing the PA profession. Introduction to the concepts of various health-care teams and delivery systems is included, with particular emphasis on the physician-PA team relationship.

MPA 5102 INTEGRATION SKILLS I 1 SEMESTER HOUR

Small-group tutorials utilize case-based learning strategies to emphasize integration of material presented during the semester.

MPA 5103 INTEGRATION SKILLS II
1 SEMESTER HOUR

Small-group tutorials utilize case-based learning strategies to emphasize integration of material presented during the semester.

MPA 5123 MEDICAL SPANISH III
1 SEMESTER HOUR

This course is a conversational course in which each student practices being the provider and the patient.

MPA 5130 EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE
1 SEMESTER HOUR

This course provides an overview of the research process and evidence-based health care research. Lecture topics include critical literature evaluation, research theory, measurement, design, statistical analysis and interpretation. Small-group sessions with research advisers emphasize practical application of research concepts and foster project development. The class emphasizes the practical utilization and application of the evidence-based approach to the appraisal of discipline-specific literature.

MPA 5204 CLINICAL PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH
2 SEMESTER HOURS

This course introduces the practice of disease prevention and population health. Through course readings, lectures, discussions and panel presentations, the student is exposed to an evidence-based approach to disease screening and methods for promoting health behavior in diverse populations.

MPA 5206 PATIENT EVALUATION II
2 SEMESTER HOURS

This course is an extension of MPA 5305 Patient Evaluation I.

MPA 5208 CLINICAL SKILLS
2 SEMESTER HOURS

Techniques in clinical procedures are introduced and include injections, EKG rhythm strip interpretation, gowning and gloving in the operating room, sterile technique, venipuncture, casting, CPR, and suturing.

MPA 5215 PHARMACOLOGY I
2 SEMESTER HOURS

This course offers an analytic approach to pharmacologic agents, including indications, contraindications, actions, toxic effects and relationship to other treatments. Also included are preparation, selection, classification and control of drugs.

MPA 5216 PHARMACOLOGY II
2 SEMESTER HOURS

This course is an extension of Pharmacology I, with added emphasis on the systems approach to pharmacologic management of disease processes and therapeutic modalities.

MPA 5221 MEDICAL SPANISH I
2 SEMESTER HOURS

This course provides introductory instruction on the four basic skills necessary for language acquisition (speaking, aural comprehension, reading and writing) through a systematic study of basic Spanish grammar, medical terminology and culture.

MPA 5222 MEDICAL SPANISH II
2 SEMESTER HOURS

This course provides further instruction on the four basic skills necessary for language acquisition



(speaking, aural comprehension, reading and writing) through a systematic study of more advanced Spanish grammar, medical terminology and culture.

**MPA 5231 PSYCHIATRY
2 SEMESTER HOURS**

This course offers an overview of human behavior and psychopathology, including clinical evaluation and neurological assessment of patients, human sexuality, organic mental disorders, substance abuse and dependency, mood disorders, personality disorders, anxiety disorders and adjustment disorders. Psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy options to treat the various disorders are discussed.

**MPA 5305 PATIENT EVALUATION I
3 SEMESTER HOURS**

Instruction is given in the elicitation and presentation of patient histories and the performance of a complete physical examination.

**MPA 5307 PATIENT EVALUATION III
3 SEMESTER HOURS**

This course is an extension of Patient Evaluation I and II. In weekly small-group tutorials, students concentrate on the critical-thinking skills relevant to developing and defending differential diagnoses and treatment plans on hospitalized patients following the elicitation of a complete history and physical examination, providing verbal and written feedback to faculty. Students also perform focused, objective-structured clinical exams to assess ability to perform problem-focused assessment. Developing differential diagnoses and cost-effective treatment plans are emphasized.

**MPA 5509 CLINICAL MEDICINE I
5 SEMESTER HOURS**

This course offers a systematic study of the epidemiology, presentation, differential diagnosis, diagnosis and management of disease processes based on the most current test blueprint disease lists for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.

**MPA 5510 CLINICAL MEDICINE II
5 SEMESTER HOURS**

This course is an extension of Clinical Medicine I.

**MPA 5511 CLINICAL MEDICINE III
5 SEMESTER HOURS**

This course is an extension of Clinical Medicine I and II.

■ **CLINICAL COURSES**

**MPA 5251 LONG-TERM CARE/COMMUNITY
HEALTH PRACTICE EXPERIENCE
2 SEMESTER HOURS**

This two-week rotation consists of a one-week experience with the Dallas Area Health Education Center and one week in a long-term care facility in the Dallas area. The community-health portion offers the student an opportunity to work with various community-based health organizations to experience programs that educate the public on prevention of disease, health care and community health care resources. The long-term care week exposes the student to the management of patients requiring extended care within a long-term care setting.

**MPA 5350 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE II
3 SEMESTER HOURS**

This three-week, full-time course occurs near the end of the clinical rotation cycle of the program. Students are offered an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills specifically to enhance clinical practice knowledge, including elements of accountability, proper diagnostic coding and reimbursement issues, scope of practice, state law for licensure and certification, credentialing, professional liability, and the commitment to life-long learning. A one-week national certification exam review occurs the week before graduation.

**MPA 5428 ELECTIVE CLINICAL ROTATION
4 SEMESTER HOURS**

This four-week rotation may be completed in any field of medicine chosen by the student.

**MPA 5429 CLINICAL SELECTIVE
4 SEMESTER HOURS**

This four-week rotation may be completed in selected medicine or surgical subspecialties chosen by the student.

MPA 5430 PSYCHIATRY**4 SEMESTER HOURS**

This four-week rotation consists of either a two-week experience in a psychiatry emergency room and in inpatient facilities or a four-week experience at the clinic at the Dallas County jail. Students are offered opportunities to obtain practical experience and assume patient-care responsibilities in the continuing care of patients in a psychiatric setting. Students study the basics of DSM-IV diagnostic criteria and psychiatric nosology, and the clinical presentation and treatment of psychiatric disorders.

MPA 5432 EMERGENCY MEDICINE**4 SEMESTER HOURS**

This four-week rotation emphasizes the roles and functions of the emergency department. The student has the opportunity to gain experience in the evaluation and management of trauma situations and emergency intervention from both the medical and surgical aspects. The student also has the opportunity to experience management and treatment of patients triaged to urgent care and fast tracks for health care delivery.

MPA 5433 SURGERY**4 SEMESTER HOURS**

This four-week rotation explores practical experience with general surgical problems. The student participates in the management of hospitalized patients, including assisting in surgery, preoperative and postoperative care, and daily ward rounds. This rotation also requires attendance at structured teaching conferences and tutorials.

MPA 5450 DIRECTED STUDY**4 SEMESTER HOURS**

This course offers the student the opportunity to analyze and report results of a study conducted by the student to satisfy the graduate-project requirement for graduation.

MPA 5451 INFECTIOUS DISEASE**4 SEMESTER HOURS**

This four-week rotation offers the student the opportunity to experience the evaluation and treatment of patients infected with HIV and other infectious diseases. The student is directly involved in the multidisciplinary approach and manage-

ment of patients diagnosed with infectious diseases in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

MPA 5622 OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY**6 SEMESTER HOURS**

This six-week rotation is divided into two three-week experiences in maternal health/family planning and labor and delivery. The student has an opportunity to become familiar with the management of labor and delivery, well-woman gynecologic exams, family planning, and outpatient prenatal and postpartum care.

MPA 5623 PEDIATRICS**6 SEMESTER HOURS**

This six-week outpatient rotation in general pediatrics includes both well- and sick-child care encountered in ambulatory outpatient settings. The student is expected to acquire proficiency in normal child development and anticipatory guidance.

MPA 5830 INTERNAL MEDICINE**8 SEMESTER HOURS**

During this eight-week inpatient rotation, students become integral members of the medical team providing patient care in an inpatient setting. Each student is expected to acquire proficiency in gathering medical data and making tentative assessments and plans while participating in the management of patients on general medicine wards.

MPA 5831 FAMILY MEDICINE**8 SEMESTER HOURS**

This eight-week rotation is designed to provide a practical clinical patient-care experience in a primary-care setting. Students are provided the opportunity to deliver acute care and continuing care and to address health maintenance issues in keeping with the primary-care philosophy and under the supervision of an internist or family practitioner. During the course of this rotation, students should demonstrate the skills to practice evidence-based medicine and complete an evidence-based research project.