

DEGREE PLAN

Course #		Credit Hours	Semester Hours	
YEAR ONE: DIDACTIC				
Semester: Fall				
PA 6402	Human Anatomy	4	18	
PA 6404	Medical Interview and Physical Examination	4		
PA 6206	Preventive Medicine & Patient Education	2		
PA 6208	Introduction to Health Professions & PA Practice	2		
PA 6310	Physiology & Pathophysiology I	3		
PA 6112	Medical Ethics	1		
PA 6214	Clinical Medicine I	2		
Semester: Spring				
PA 6416	Clinical Medicine II	4	20	
PA 6312	Physiology & Pathophysiology II	3		
PA 6218	Diagnostic Methods	2		
PA 6220	Patient Assessment I	2		
PA 6224	Pharmacology & Medical Therapeutics I	2		
PA 6228	Behavioral Medicine	2		
PA 6130	Cross Cultural Health	1		
PA 6232	Clinical Laboratory Science	2		
PA 6234	Research & Evidence-Based Medicine	2		
Semester: Summer				
PA 6418	Clinical Medicine III	4	15	
PA 6226	Pharmacology & Medical Therapeutics II	2		
PA 6222	Patient Assessment II	2		
PA 6236	Care for Special Populations	2		
PA 6538	Clinical Skills	5		
YEAR TWO: CLINICAL				
Clinical Rotations include: 5 weeks (5 credit hours each) in the following:				
Family Medicine / Pediatrics / Women's Health / Mental Health / Internal Medicine / General Surgery /Emergency Medicine / Elective 1 / Elective 2 / Professional Development				
Semester: Fall				
	Clinical Rotations 1,2, & 3	15	45	
Semester: Spring				
	Clinical Rotations 4,5, & 6	15		
Semester: Summer				
	Clinical Rotations 7,8, & 9	15		
Semester: Last Fall Prior to Graduation				
	Clinical Rotation 10	5		
PA 6458	Professional Practice Preparation	4		
PA 6362	Capstone	3		
PA 6264	Health Policy, Billing, & Coding	2		
Year One: Didactic Year Totals				
		53	112 Hours	
Year Two: Clinical Year Totals		59		

HSU PA Program - Course Descriptions

PA 6402 Human Anatomy

4 credits

Students will be given the opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge of the anatomical structures of the human body, including but not limited to the head and neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis, and extremities. Goals include developing knowledge essential to understand how anatomy relates to function. Students will be required to identify anatomic structures, distinguish normal from abnormal structures, and appreciate the complexity of the human body. Introductory information will be provided as to clinical application of anatomic variations from normal and the means by which these variations can contribute to disease. A clinical application lab will correspond to the lecture course. Laboratory includes study of a human cadaver.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) develop knowledge essential to understand how human anatomy relates to function; 2) to identify anatomic structures; 3) distinguish normal from abnormal structures; and 4) appreciate the complexity of the human body.

PA 6404 Medical Interview and Physical Examination

4 credits

This course is designed to introduce students to the art of medical history taking and physical examination. This encompasses the skills of medical interviewing and other forms of communication with patients, their families, and their caregivers. Students will learn the components of a complete medical history. In addition, they will learn interviewing skills that will allow them to efficiently elicit a patient history in an accurate and empathetic manner. This introductory course on physical assessment also includes instruction on performance of complete physical examination, and development of critical thinking and decision-making skills needed to assess adult patients' mental and physical status. Assessment of common and important symptoms is covered including the relevant regions and systems of skin, head, neck, neurological system, thorax and lungs, heart, musculoskeletal system, abdominal exam, and genitourinary systems. Demonstrations and practical laboratory application reinforce the PA's ability to perform a comprehensive physical examination. The laboratory allows the student an opportunity to practice the skills needed to perform a complete physical on the body regions covered in the lecture.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) communicate skillfully with patients using appropriate interviewing techniques; 2) collect a thorough medical history; 3) demonstrate proper use of instruments and techniques used in performing the physical examination; 4) correlate and apply information acquired in anatomy, physiology, and other courses with application and importance in the performance for physical examination and medical interviewing; 5) analyze abnormal physical examination and interview findings; and 6) correlate essentials of historical data with physical examination findings.

PA 6170 Global Health

1 credit

This elective course prepares students for international health care delivery through a study of principles related to development globally. Health practices and policies in global settings as well as how best to interact with international populations in health care settings will be

discussed. Focus will be on theoretical preparation of the student attitude development for work in a remote setting.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) examine the critical global health issues; 2) describe the historical and cultural factors that influence health and development, 3) demonstrate awareness for the roles and responsibilities in health care teams in difference global health settings, 4) describe basic principles of public and population health, social determinants of health, and inequalities in health, and 5) explore the influence of major international and global organizations on the theory, policy, and practice of global health.

PA 6206 Preventive Medicine & Patient Education **2 credits**

This course provides a broad overview to familiarize Physician Assistant students with the basic concepts of public health and preventative medicine. Epidemiological concepts include the distribution, prevalence, causation, mode of transmission, dissemination, control, and preventative countermeasures of infectious and non-communicable diseases; and environmental occupational, behavioral, and chronic disabling conditions. Patient education techniques are reviewed with emphasis on quality of care and patient safety.

Goals: 1) apply principles of preventive medicine and epidemiology in the primary care setting 2) identify resources that provide preventive and community health services; 3) identify health promotion and disease prevention factors that can influence patient safety; 4) discuss the importance of screening practices and identification of risk factors for disease prevention; 5) identify population specific issues regarding geriatric and pediatric patients; 6) recognize issues regarding underserved and indigent medical care; 7) identify resources in the community, state, and nation regarding patient education, and provider access; 8) Communicate skillfully with patients using appropriate patient education techniques; and 9) develop patient education methods.

PA 6208 Introduction to Health Professions & PA practice **2 credits**

This course presents an introduction/overview of the Physician Assistant (PA) profession. This course addresses a variety of topics in physician assistant professional development including emphasizing professionalism, intellectual honesty, and the PA's role in health care delivery as a member of an interdisciplinary team. Additional emphasis is placed upon the inception, history, and evolution of the PA profession throughout the fields of medicine and surgery; PA relationships with the supervising physician, the patient; responsibilities including the concepts of privilege, confidentiality and informed consent. The student will also explore media and medicine topics, licensing, hospital credentials/liability, malpractice insurance.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) examine the role of the physician assistant in health care delivery and the scope of PA practice; 2) interpret health policy and law; 3) review the physician assistant profession and its history; and 4) recognize the PA role in interprofessional health care.

PA 6310 Physiology & Pathophysiology I **3 credits**

This course is the first course of a two semester sequence in which the student will build upon information learned in the basic physiology prerequisite courses. General review of physiologic

concepts and systems will be undertaken. Class sessions will focus on an in-depth look at human physiology with an emphasis on cellular and subcellular mechanisms of normal and abnormal function including medical genetics. Introductory information will be provided as to clinical application of anatomic and physiologic variations from normal and the means by which these variations can contribute to disease.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) examine the mechanisms of human disease and injury using body system approach; 2) integrate physiologic and genetic principles with emphasis on epidemiology, etiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and prognosis; 3) evaluate clinical problems using basic problem-solving skills; 4) apply learned techniques and principles to develop diagnostic skills; and 5) acquire advanced knowledge relating to physiologic systems involved in disorders treated by primary care professionals.

PA 6312 Physiology & Pathophysiology II **3 credits**

This course is the second course of a two semester sequence in which the student will build upon information learned in the basic physiology prerequisite courses. General review of physiologic concepts and systems will be undertaken. Class sessions will focus on an in-depth look at human physiology with an emphasis on cellular and subcellular mechanisms of normal and abnormal function including medical genetics. Introductory information will be provided as to clinical application of anatomic and physiologic variations from normal and the means by which these variations can contribute to disease.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) examine the mechanisms of human disease and injury using body system approach; 2) integrate physiologic and genetic principles with emphasis on epidemiology, etiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and prognosis; 3) evaluate clinical problems using basic problem-solving skills; 4) apply learned techniques and principles to develop diagnostic skills; and 5) acquire advanced knowledge relating to physiologic systems involved in disorders treated by primary care professionals.

PA 6112 Medical Ethics **1 credit**

This course examines, in detail, the moral, social and ethical issues physician assistants face and reviews the ethical dimensions in health care. In this course, students examine the ethical responsibilities of a medical professional and debate ethical issues. Students also discuss the physician assistant and patient relationship in detail, covering the importance of maintaining dignity, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, autonomy, and confidentiality. Case review will be utilized to apply learned principles. Special attention is given to care at the end of life.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) examine ethical principles as they relate to health care, 2) review and interpret cases with inherent ethical dilemmas, and 3) prepare to deliver care to patients at the end-of-life while preserving dignity and patient autonomy.

PA 6214 Clinical Medicine I **2 credits**

This course is the first in a three course sequence and is designed to teach students clinical medicine in an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. The course will be primarily lecture

based with supplementary case discussions. Lectures will be done in system-based sequences and include instruction in the genetic/familial patterns of disease. The sequences will discuss mechanisms of disease, clinical presentation of disease, approach to diagnosis of disease, and use of various agents used in the management of disease as well as health promotion.

Goals: The course is designed specifically to prepare the student for supervised clinical practice. The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) recognize and interpret clinical signs and symptoms of disease; 2) differentiate between abnormal and normal physiologic processes; 3) interpret results obtained by analysis of body tissues and fluids; 4) interpret basic diagnostic procedures and radiographic procedures; 5) utilize clinical data to develop pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management plans; 6) utilize clinical data to develop basic pharmacologic management plans; and 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine.

PA 6416 Clinical Medicine II

4 credits

This course is the second in a three course sequence and is designed to teach students clinical medicine in an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. The course will be primarily lecture based with supplementary case discussions. Lectures will be done in system-based sequences and include instruction in the genetic/familial patterns of disease. The sequences will discuss mechanisms of disease, clinical presentation of disease, approach to diagnosis of disease, and use of various agents used in the management of disease as well as health promotion. (3 hour lecture + 1 hour lab)

Goals: The course is designed specifically to prepare the student for supervised clinical practice. The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) recognize and interpret clinical signs and symptoms of disease; 2) differentiate between abnormal and normal physiologic processes; 3) interpret results obtained by analysis of body tissues and fluids; 4) interpret basic diagnostic procedures and radiographic procedures; 5) utilize clinical data to develop pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management plans; 6) utilize clinical data to develop basic pharmacologic management plans; and 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine.

PA 6418 Clinical Medicine III

4 credits

This course is the third in a three course sequence and is designed to teach students clinical medicine in an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. The course will be primarily lecture based with supplementary case discussions. Lectures will be done in system-based sequences and include instruction in the genetic/familial patterns of disease. The sequences will discuss mechanisms of disease, clinical presentation of disease, approach to diagnosis of disease, and use of various agents used in the management of disease as well as health promotion. (3 hour lecture + 1 hour lab)

Goals: The course is designed specifically to prepare the student for supervised clinical practice. The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) recognize and interpret clinical signs and symptoms of disease; 2) differentiate between abnormal and normal physiologic processes; 3) interpret results obtained by analysis of body tissues and fluids; 4) interpret basic diagnostic procedures and radiographic procedures; 5) utilize clinical data to develop pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management plans; 6) utilize clinical data to develop basic pharmacologic management plans; and 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine.

PA 6416 & 6418 Clinical Medicine II & III Lab**1 hour**

This course allows students to meet weekly for case based laboratories. These laboratories will be small groups facilitated by faculty group facilitators. The facilitator will have students work through case studies that correspond to current lecture sequences. The student will be given introductory information and must elicit the necessary information from the facilitator to lead to the formulation of an appropriate differential diagnosis, diagnosis, and management plan. This lab will require that students incorporate patient history, physical assessment, scientific concepts, and diagnostic studies to ultimately come to a logical differential diagnosis and final diagnosis. Students will then be required to utilize their knowledge of clinical therapeutics and disease to develop a rational plan of management. Medical decision making and logic will be a key focus in lab sessions.

Goals: The course is designed specifically to prepare the student for supervised clinical practice. The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) recognize and interpret clinical signs and symptoms of disease; 2) differentiate between abnormal and normal physiologic processes; 3) interpret results obtained by analysis of body tissues and fluids; 4) interpret basic diagnostic procedures and radiographic procedures; 5) utilize clinical data to develop pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management plans; 6) utilize clinical data to develop basic pharmacologic management plans; and 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine.

PA 6218 Diagnostic Methods**2 credits**

This course will provide a comprehensive overview of two basic diagnostic methods and treatments (Electrocardiogram (ECG) and Radiology). The course provides a comprehensive overview of electrocardiography with a focus on recognition of abnormalities, emphasizing the electrical system of the heart, enabling the student to identify normal/abnormal wave shape of 12 lead EKGs using a systematic approach to ECG analysis. The second component of the course focuses on radiologic imaging designed to assist Physician Assistant students to understand, appropriately select, and correctly interpret the many imaging modalities and techniques currently available for examination and treatment of patients.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: 1) determine the heart rate and rhythm on a 12-lead EKG; 2) determine the axis and measure the intervals; 3) identify benign arrhythmias; 4) identify the lethal arrhythmias and understand the effects of the drugs used to manage these arrhythmias; 5) recognize the various types, locations, and degrees of severity of acute myocardial infarctions; 6) recognize EKG manifestations of serum electrolyte disturbances; 7) interpret basic radiographic images; and 8) recognize the importance of an appropriate and timely referral when abnormalities are detected on imaging or ECG.

PA 6220 Patient Assessment I**2 credits**

This is part 1 of a 2 part course series in which students will learn how to properly document medical interviews and other patient encounters. This course on patient assessment focuses on patient communication skills, techniques of interviewing and performance of complete physical examination, development of critical thinking and decision-making skills needed to assess adult patients' mental and physical status. It continues and builds upon assessment of common and important symptoms. Students will be put into practice initial physical examination skills and

techniques as well as hone early documentation skills. This course includes critiqued presentation of patient data in both oral and written form.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: 1) elicit historical information from selected patients; 2) perform the appropriate physical examination of the patient; 3) develop an appropriate write-up for the patient that documents history and physical findings; 4) construct an assessment and management plan for the patient incorporating the history and physical findings; 5) utilize appropriate medical terminology, abbreviation, and nomenclature for documentation; 6) gain appreciation for the significance of the data gathered in formulating management plans for the care of the patient; 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine; 8) present the information gathered clearly and concisely, either verbally and/or in writing to the supervising faculty member (s); and 9) identify patient safety issues and the role of risk management in patient care.

PA 6222 Patient Assessment II

2 credits

This is part 2 of a 2 part course series in which students will learn how to properly document medical interviews and other patient encounters. The focus this term is development of comprehensive written notes including differential diagnoses and treatment plans for patients. This course builds on previously learned skills in patient communication, techniques of interviewing and performance of complete physical examination, development of critical thinking and decision-making skills needed to assess adult patients' mental and physical status. It continues and builds upon assessment of common and important symptoms. Students will practice physical examination skills and techniques as well as hone documentation skills. This course includes critiqued presentation of patient data in both oral and written form.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: 1) elicit historical information from selected patients; 2) perform the appropriate physical examination of the patient; 3) develop an appropriate write-up for the patient that documents history and physical findings; 4) construct an assessment and management plan for the patient incorporating the history and physical findings; 5) utilize appropriate medical terminology, abbreviation, and nomenclature for documentation; 6) gain appreciation for the significance of the data gathered in formulating management plans for the care of the patient; 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine; 8) present the information gathered clearly and concisely, either verbally and/or in writing to the supervising faculty member (s); and 9) identify patient safety issues and the role of risk management in patient care.

PA 6224 Pharmacology & Medical Therapeutics I

2 credits

This course is the first in a two course sequence. The course is designed to teach students pharmacology and medical therapeutics in an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. This course will include an overview of the scientific principles of clinical pharmacology. Therapeutic specific lectures will be included to cover an in-depth discussion of the pharmacology and use of various agents used in the management of disease. An understanding of the actions, reactions and toxicology of the various pharmacologic agents will be emphasized.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) identify the classes of drugs used to treat diseases commonly encountered in clinical practice; 2) identify classes of drugs commonly used

to manage emergent conditions; 3) recognize the prototype and commonly used drugs in each class; 4) identify the basic pharmacodynamics properties of each class of drugs and the mechanism of action and important consequences of using each class of drugs; 5) recognize the signs and symptoms of common adverse effects and of possible toxic or life-threatening effects; 6) identify precautions or contraindications to the use of a drug; 7) identify significant drug-drug interactions; 8) recognize the importance of patient safety and education in determining compliance, avoidance of potential problems, and success of therapy; 9) use resource materials for determining proper usage of chemotherapeutic agents; and 10) understand the role of the physician assistant in writing prescriptions.

PA 6226 Pharmacology & Medical Therapeutics II

2 credits

This course is the second in a two course sequence. The course is designed to teach students pharmacology and medical therapeutics in an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. This course will include an overview of the scientific principles of clinical pharmacology. Therapeutic specific lectures will be included to cover an in-depth discussion of the pharmacology and use of various agents used in the management of disease. An understanding of the actions, reactions and toxicology of the various pharmacologic agents will be emphasized.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) identify the classes of drugs used to treat diseases commonly encountered in clinical practice; 2) identify classes of drugs commonly used to manage emergent conditions; 3) recognize the prototype and commonly used drugs in each class; 4) identify the basic pharmacodynamics properties of each class of drugs and the mechanism of action and important consequences of using each class of drugs; 5) recognize the signs and symptoms of common adverse effects and of possible toxic or life-threatening effects; 6) identify precautions or contraindications to the use of a drug; 7) identify significant drug-drug interactions; 8) recognize the importance of patient safety and education in determining compliance, avoidance of potential problems, and success of therapy; 9) use resource materials for determining proper usage of chemotherapeutic agents; and 10) understand the role of the physician assistant in writing prescriptions.

PA 6228 Behavioral Medicine

2 credits

This course explores the psychologic health of individuals and how it interacts with overall well-being. The students will be given the opportunity to identify normal physical, sexual, social, and psychological processes and distinguish these from processes due to illness and injury. The students will then be taught to clinically assess patients' state of mental health and development and develop treatment plans. Topics covered will include the classification of common mental illnesses set forth in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* and emphasis on timely recognition and the importance of appropriate referrals to collaborate with other health care professionals in the management of patients with mental illness.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) demonstrate knowledge of various mental-health and behavior based disorders; 2) discuss categories of behavioral disorders; and 3) develop treatment plans for patients including pharmaceutical therapies and referral for specialized counseling when indicated.

PA 6130 Cross Cultural Health**1 credit**

This course will explore a broad spectrum of patient types which the physician assistant will be providing care for in practice. Age, culture, language, lifestyle, and religion all have considerable impact on how patients access and respond to healthcare services. In addition the physician assistant student's own background and beliefs will form the basis of their attitudes and behaviors.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) understand the definitions of culture, race and ethnicity and their use in medical literature; 2) recognize health disparities and factors that contribute to their existence by race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and disability; 3) apply an understanding of the socio-cultural factors that may affect the patient encounter; 4) understand his/her personal cultural values and biases; and 5) understand the operation and effect of stereotyping on communication, decision-making, compliance and health outcomes.

PA 6232 Clinical Laboratory Science**2 hours**

This analytic procedures course will discuss the most recent or commonly performed techniques in the clinical laboratory. Clinical chemistry principles, ordering, and interpretation of diagnostic tests, procedures, and correlations are discussed to provide information for appropriate clinical intervention.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) interpret laboratory studies common in medical practice; 2) appropriately order laboratory screenings on patients when indicated; and 3) interpret results of clinical laboratory data.

PA 6234 Research & Evidence-Based Medicine**2 hours**

This course is to teach students how to access and interpret medical literature. As lifelong learners, physician assistants must be able to locate, understand and apply concepts derived from the medical literature as they relate to the treatment of their patients. This course will focus on an evidence-based medicine approach to interpreting medical literature. Students will review how to best search medical databases to efficiently locate appropriate material.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) interpret and evaluate scientific studies in the health professions; 2) develop and construct a research proposal; 3) learn how to obtain the faculty, school, and institutional approvals necessary to conduct research; and 4) perform a literature review process.

PA 6236 Care for Special Populations**2 hours**

Review of care for special populations including pediatric patients, geriatric patients, obstetric, surgical patients, and patients in the emergency department. Instruction on genital and rectal exams through simulation and standardized patients will also be undertaken. Course provides the Physician Assistant student, as a future healthcare practitioner, an excellent understanding of the expanding areas of pediatrics and geriatrics and prepares the Physician Assistant student to appropriately evaluate, diagnose, monitor, treat, counsel, and refer vulnerable patients. This course also explores various types of medical and surgical conditions that are present in a modern day emergency department and prepares the Physician Assistant student to evaluate,

treat, and monitor such conditions. Students are provided mechanisms to evaluate resources that are needed and available to provide appropriate ambulatory, emergency, and tertiary care services in a hospital setting.

Goals: This course is designed to prepare the student for supervised clinical practice. The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) recognize health-related and psychosocial variations among vulnerable populations including geriatric and pediatric patients; 2) learn principles of genital and anal examinations; and 3) discuss principles of surgical and emergency medicine settings that vary from traditional outpatient and inpatient care delivery to patients.

PA 6538 Clinical Skills

2 hours

This course provides students fundamental concepts and skills required to perform common clinical procedures based on current practice standards. Students will receive knowledge of key indications, contraindications, risks, and benefits of procedural skills often performed in various practice settings. A basic review of the appropriate anatomy and physiology will be included. The laboratory environment will provide students an opportunity to perform and practice these procedures.

Goals: This course is designed to prepare the student for supervised clinical practice. The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) identify the indications for performing specific clinical procedures; 2) perform the appropriate procedures; 3) counsel the patient regarding both procedures and management; 4) successfully perform resuscitative procedures under simulated clinical conditions; 5) complete electronic medical record training and patient tracking training; 6) prepare for clinical practice through appropriate training on professionalism and expectations of the clinical year; and 7) update immunization records and other necessary credentialing requirements for the clinical year.

YEAR TWO COURSES: Can be taken in any sequence- 3 per semester

PA 6548 Internal Medicine

5 credits

This rotation focuses on the medicine that treats diseases in adult patients of various organ systems by other than surgical means. The emphasis is on adult illnesses and lifetime continuity of care through health promotion, disease prevention, and evidenced based medical therapy.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: 1) elicit, organize, and record data both for a comprehensive and problem-oriented patient evaluation; 2) order or recommend appropriate laboratory, radiologic, and other diagnostic studies; 3) interpret physical exam and diagnostic data; 4) formulate management plans for the patient problems; 5) follow patients' progress by reviewing their records and periodically reevaluating their condition; 6) assist the physician in appropriate procedures; 7) counsel and educate the patient about health maintenance issues; 8) understand and institute necessary emergency medical care, when indicated; 9) apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of patients; 10) apply principles of evidence-based medicine; 11) apply data gathering techniques and participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials; and 12) make written and oral presentations of selected patient conditions. (5-week rotation)

PA 6540 Family Medicine**5 credits**

This rotation provides clinical experience with manifestations of common diseases and chronic illness. The emphasis is on providing care to patients throughout the life span, from infancy through adolescence and adulthood. The focus will include healthcare promotion and disease prevention as well as the initial and ongoing treatment of primary care disorders.

Goals: This course is designed to emphasize student training in primary care disciplines. The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) examine how to manage complex problems in the primary care area; 2) discuss knowledge acquired during this and other clinical rotations and how it will benefit the primary care setting; and 3) discuss how this knowledge benefits the physician and patient in the primary care setting. (5-week rotation).

PA 6542 Pediatrics**5 credits**

This rotation will expose students to pediatric problems and disease, including common illnesses of childhood, congenital and acquired disease processes, normal and pathological developmental achievements and psychosocial issues. This rotation may include care delivered in inpatient or outpatient settings.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) examine how to manage conditions affecting children including opportunities in pediatrics; 2) perform histories, physical examinations, and patient counseling/education, where applicable; 3) assist the provider in appropriate procedures; 4) counsel and educate the patient and caregivers about health maintenance issues; 5) evaluate and institute necessary emergency medical care, when indicated; 6) apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of patients; 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine; and 8) make written and oral presentations of selected patient conditions. (5-week rotation).

PA 6544 Women's Health**5 credits**

This rotation will expose the student to issues in women's health through the life span. Areas of exposure include prenatal care, reproductive endocrinology, gynecology and gynecologic oncology, family planning and other aspects of women's health. The basic operations of obstetrics and gynecology are explored to allow a fundamental understanding of the technical procedures involved. Some rotations may include delivery participation, however this is not required.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) examine how to manage conditions affecting women including opportunities in obstetrics, gynecology, and well-care; 2) perform histories, physical examinations, and patient counseling/education, where applicable; 3) assist the provider in appropriate procedures; 4) counsel and educate the patient and caregivers about health maintenance issues; 5) evaluate and institute necessary emergency medical care, when indicated; 6) apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of patients; 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine; and 8) make written and oral presentations of selected patient conditions. (5-week rotation).

PA 6546 Mental Health**5 credits**

This rotation provides students exposure to evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of acute and chronic psychiatric disorders. This rotation may be conducted in an inpatient or outpatient setting.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: 1) elicit, organize, and record data both for a comprehensive and problem-oriented patient evaluation; 2) formulate management plans for the patient problems; 3) counsel and educate the patient about health maintenance issues; 4) appropriately document patient conditions. (5-week rotation)

PA 6560 Professional Development**5 credits**

This course is designed to prepare PA students for their futures as health care providers. The course will include both clinical and professional topics. The students will be given the opportunity to examine the importance of communication and interprofessional teamwork in the clinical and administrative environment. The students will then identify certification and licensure requirements for graduation and beyond and identify/discuss the PA role in the promotion and dissemination of research. Additionally, students will develop skills to foster the concept of lifelong learning, demonstrated by the development of study materials for the national board examination. (5-week rotation).

Goals: 1) Gain awareness of teamwork and interprofessional care that benefits patients, 2) Review all topics learned in course of PA study for preparation for national examination, 3) Demonstrate principles of lifelong learning, 4) Review certification guidelines and maintenance requirements for licensure; and 5) discuss various PA roles including those in scholarly publishing.

PA 6550 Surgery**5 credits**

This rotation focuses on the area of medicine that deals with the manual and operative procedures for the correction of deformities, injuries and disease. The surgery rotation must include a component of inpatient surgical management, pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative care. This course is designed to provide the Physician Assistant student with an introduction to the many new surgical techniques that are available. Suturing, anesthesia, major and minor surgery specific to various body regions are taught through experiences with patients. New innovations in laser therapy and laparoscopic techniques are evaluated. Pre- and postoperative evaluation and care of the patient are integrated into this course. Surgical procedures, techniques, and instruments will be explored.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) understand the indications, contraindications, possible complications, and limitations in the management of surgical conditions; 2) understand the indications and limitation of various diagnostic procedures; 3) assist effectively with necessary procedures in the pre- and post-operative periods; 5) assist in all particulars delegated by the supervising practitioner; 6) apply previously acquired problem-solving skills in the management of patients; 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine; and 8) make written and oral presentations on selected patient conditions. (5-week rotation)

PA 6552 Emergency Medicine**5 credits**

This rotation will expose the student to the diagnosis and treatment of patients presenting to the emergency department with acute health issues. In this often critical care environment, students will be faced with problem solving and the need to rapidly assess patients with a variety of presentations. Students will be exposed to the practice of utilizing emergency departments both for ambulatory care and primary care. This course explores various types of medical and surgical conditions that are present in a modern day emergency department and prepares the Physician Assistant student to evaluate, treat, and monitor such conditions. A generalist approach to providing emergency care along with injury prevention is explored.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) prepare and present patient records in an organized fashion appropriate for the emergency department; 2) understand the indications, contraindications, possible complications, and limitations in the management of emergent conditions; 3) understand the indications and limitation of various diagnostic procedures; 4) assist effectively with necessary procedures in the emergency setting; 5) assist in all particulars delegated by the supervising practitioner; 6) apply previously acquired problem-solving skills in the management of patients; 7) apply principles of evidence-based medicine; and 8) make written and oral presentations on selected patient conditions. (5-week rotation)

PA 6554 & 6556 Clinical Elective I & Clinical Elective II**5 credits**

These rotations will provide the student an opportunity to pursue additional study in an area of particular interest to the student. This rotation may be conducted in a medical or surgical. These courses are designed to increase and enhance student learning during the clinical phase of the Physician Assistant Program. These courses will provide instruction and assessment on areas of clinical practice to help enrich the graduate PA to be a competent clinician. (Two 5 week rotations)

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to: 1) deepen their knowledge in a medical or surgical specialty; 2) provide care to patients in an area of specialty interest/focus to prepare them for practice after graduation; and 3) demonstrate skills learned in didactic and clinical training phases of study in the PA curriculum in a patient-care setting.

PA 6458 Professional Practice Preparation**4 credits**

The course will include an extensive didactic review of medical topics in a system based approach. Preparation for employment through structured activities and workshops will be undertaken. Application for licensure procedures and board-certification will be emphasized.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: 1) exhibit their clinical skills and review didactic knowledge learning throughout the curriculum; 2) prepare for successful completion of the national certification examination through lectures, assignments, and self-learning; 3) recognize the importance of national certification, state licensure maintenance, and continuing medical education requirements; and 4) prepare for employment.

PA 6362 Capstone**3 credits**

This course is designed to be a capstone course in the physician assistant curriculum. It is designed to review and evaluate knowledge and skills deemed essential for successful

completion of the program and entry into the PA profession. Evaluations will be conducted to assess knowledge, skills, critical thinking, problem solving, communication with patients, and professionalism. Students will present research findings of project started in first didactic year.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to 1) Assimilate research from previous twelve months for presentation and critique. 2) Disseminate knowledge to peers gained through course of program study, and 3) Demonstrate application of skills and knowledge gained throughout PA program.

PA 6264 Health Policy, Billing, & Coding

2 credits

This course is designed to be an overview of health policy including public and private programs for patient access to care as well as pay systems. New guidelines for appropriate coding of care delivered and testing ordered for best patient and employer outcomes will be detailed. Penalties for inappropriate billing will be reviewed and honesty/fair-patient dealings stressed.

Goals: The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: 1) appropriately code and bill for a patient encounter, 2) comprehend the various systems in place for reimbursement of services, 3) exhibit an awareness of health policy and changing patterns over time, and 4) identify resources for further study on the topic in the future.