

LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES CLINICAL PHASE

The clinical learning phase is 12 months in length. The clinical rotations are conducted at a variety of outpatient and/or inpatient clinical sites. There are seven mandatory clinical rotations and one elective clinical rotation.

Students will be expected to develop core competencies in the following areas: medical knowledge, interpersonal & communication skills, patient care and professionalism.

Students will also be expected to learn the professional competencies of practice based learning and focusing on the concept of systems-based practice for future lifelong learning.

Mandatory Rotations: There are a total of seven required clinical rotations each six weeks in length

- Family/Primary Care Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Psychiatry/Behavioral Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics and Gynecology/Women's Health
- General Surgery
- Emergency Medicine

Elective Rotations: Students are also able to enroll in six-week elective rotations, designed to provide the physician assistant student with an opportunity in any of the following disciplines: (elective rotations are not limited to specialties below)

- Orthopedics
- Dermatology
- Gastroenterology
- Plastic surgery
- Cardiology
- Radiology
- ENT
- Urology
- Gerontology

Total rotations: 8 (5 credits per rotation)

- Required-7
- Elective-1

Clinical Course Descriptions

PAS 530 Family Medicine (5 credits): This applied integration core rotation provides an exposure to the principles and practices of community-oriented family care with an emphasis on disease prevention and health maintenance in adults as well as the opportunity to further techniques in history taking, physical examination, and health behavior counseling. The rotation will provide the PA students with the opportunity to learn how medicine is practiced in the office setting with a culturally diverse patient population of all ages. The students will be exposed to illnesses and problems common to this area of medical practice and learn the indications, limitations, and methodology of primary care procedures and therapeutic strategies utilized in this setting. During this rotation the student is expected to recognize the signs and symptoms of a variety of medical illnesses and become familiar with treatment plans appropriate to family medicine and geriatric populations. This rotation will offer clinical experience in ambulatory practice and/or inpatient and long term care facilities focusing on the knowledge, skills and abilities related to providing medical care for the life span of patients.

PAS 531 Internal Medicine (5 credits): During this rotation the student will learn to apply basic medical knowledge to the evaluation of problems encountered on a general medicine service. The formulation of an understanding of the various medical disorders in specific patients is accomplished during the accurate collection of data, the identification of problems, and the development of a plan for each problem. This rotation will allow the student to demonstrate knowledge and core competencies of medical training pertaining to the pathophysiology, risks, indications, limitations, methodology, procedures and therapeutic strategies used in the practice of internal medicine. During this rotation the student is expected to recognize the signs and symptoms of a variety of medical illnesses and become familiar with treatment plans appropriate to internal medicine. This rotation will offer clinical experience in inpatient and/or outpatient facilities providing medical care for adult and geriatric patients. Testing and evaluation for this rotation will be based on the knowledge, skills, and abilities related to internal medicine.

PAS 532 Pediatrics (5 credits): During this rotation the student learns to apply basic medical knowledge and skills to the evaluation of problems encountered on a general pediatric service. The emphasis in this setting is on the provision of primary, secondary and tertiary care to a child from birth through adolescence. The student is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the indications, limitations, and methodology of pediatric procedure and therapeutic strategies. An emphasis is placed on developing a comprehensive database and a systematic evidence-based approach to common pediatric problems and those of adolescence. The student is expected to recognize signs and symptoms of a variety of pediatric disorders. In addition, the student will demonstrate the appropriate evaluation of normal child development, well-child care, current immunization updates and ongoing patient education and health promotion.

PAS 533 General Surgery (5 credits): This rotation provides an orientation to patients of various ages with surgically manageable disease. The emphasis of the learning experiences is on the preoperative evaluation and preparation of patients for surgery; assistance during the intra-operative period to develop an understanding of team member roles and operative procedures; and the care of surgical wounds and post-operative complications. This rotation will provide the PA student with the opportunity to learn surgical principles, surgical pathology, and relevant laboratory studies as seen in surgical settings, as well as, indications, limitations, and methodology of surgical procedures and therapeutic strategies used in surgery today. During this rotation the student will recognize the signs and symptoms of a variety of surgical conditions and become familiar with treatment plans appropriate to surgery. This rotation will teach the student to respect and appreciate the contributions of other health care professionals in the overall delivery of health care and the importance of a team approach. This rotation will provide the student with access to patients in the inpatient setting, and may also include evaluating patients in the outpatient setting.

PAS 534 Women's Health/OB-Gyn (5 credits): The Women's Health/Obstetrics and Gynecology rotation exposes students to the spectrum of problems and issues associated with women's health care, primarily in an ambulatory setting. The learning experiences emphasize family planning, birth control, sexually transmitted disease recognition and treatment, cancer detection, prenatal care, the evaluation of common gynecologic problems, and offer exposures to delivery and the surgical management of gynecological disorders. Students will make use of the evidence-based approach to the delivery of medical care, tailoring it to the indications, limitations, and methodology as related to gynecology, and procedures and therapeutic strategies utilized in women's healthcare settings. During this rotation the student is expected to recognize the signs and symptoms of a variety of medical conditions and become familiar with treatment plans appropriate to women's health, including gynecology and reproductive care. This rotation will offer clinical experience in inpatient and/or outpatient facilities providing medical care for this patient population.

PAS 535 Emergency Medicine (5 credits): This rotation provides an in-depth exposure to the illnesses and injuries sustained by children and adults that necessitate emergency care. The educational experience emphasizes the further development of the clinical skills necessary to perform focused medical interviews and physical examinations. This

rotation will also provide the PA student with exposure to, and experience with, clinical procedures unique to the emergency environment and the diagnosis and treatment of patients of all ages in an acute setting. Emphasis is placed on developing skills in recognizing signs and symptoms of common emergencies, taking appropriate action to sustain life, collecting relevant data, and providing accurate assessment and management of a variety of acute and life threatening medical, surgical and psychiatric illnesses and injuries. The PA student will learn the indications, limitations, and the evidence-based methodology of emergency medicine procedures and therapeutic strategies. Students will demonstrate knowledge and competencies appropriate to clinical problems encountered and the clinical procedures common to emergency medicine.

PAS 536 Behavioral Medicine/Psychiatry (5 credits): This rotation is designed to provide an understanding of the behavioral components of health, disease and disability. Exposure to patients with a variety of emotional illnesses and disabilities is used to develop informed history taking and mental status examination skills abilities to recognize and categorize psychiatric disturbances and techniques of early intervention and psychiatric referral. The rotation will provide the student with an understanding of the variety of emotional and psychiatric states along with basic Psychopathology and Pharmacotherapeutics. In this rotation, the students will augment and strengthen their deductive reasoning and clinical decision making skills by developing a systematic, evidence-based approach to common behavioral medicine problems. This clinical learning rotation will enable the student to develop skills to make a mental health assessment. Emphasis will be placed on developing clinical and communication skills, further strengthening students' ability to gain insight into the psychosocial aspects of comprehensive patient care.

PAS 537 Elective Rotations (5 credits): Students are also able to enroll in six-week elective rotations, designed to provide the physician assistant student with an opportunity in any of the following disciplines: Orthopedics, Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Plastic Surgery, Cardiology, Radiology, ENT, Urology, Gerontology, Pulmonology, Ophthalmology, Oncology and other approved specialties or area of interest.

PAS 538 Clinical Summative Evaluation (2 credits): This course is intended to assure that students have met defined program objectives for the knowledge, skills, and attitudes suitable for clinical practice. It will include a multi-system approach to assess physical examination and history taking skills, communication skills and the ability to summarize and document findings, make a differential diagnosis and treatment plan. This course will include standardized patient encounters with problem based Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), a comprehensive oral case presentation to a faculty member, completion of a comprehensive multi-choice examination, evaluation of the performance of specific clinical procedures on task trainers, evaluation of performance in a clinical scenario simulation and completion of the PACKRAT examination. Students will be individually evaluated and advised throughout this course by faculty members.

Total Clinical Phase Credits: 42