

Course Descriptions

ANAT 6522 Human Anatomy

[5 Credits] A lecture and laboratory course which focuses on cell, tissue, organ and body system structures, and human cadaver dissection with emphasis on structure and function of neuromuscular and skeletal systems.

PHYSIO 6523 Human Physiology

[4 Credits] A lecture and laboratory course that focuses on the physiology of cell, tissue, organ, and body systems with emphasis on physiological changes associated with selected pathological conditions. Laboratory demonstrations focus on observation and measurement of function in the body systems.

PYAS 6554 Pathophysiology

[3 Credits] This is lecture-based course designed to introduce the entry-level physician assistant student to human disease processes, their origins, mechanisms of action and effects on the human body with emphasis on the clinical manifestations of the disease process. The course will give students the opportunity to analyze the pathological conditions of normal physiology, to relate patients presenting signs and symptoms to a pathologic condition and to develop techniques to counsel patients on modifiable risk factors for disease processes.

PYAS 6573 Clinical Psychiatry

[3 credits] The course will focus on the diagnosis and treatment of patients with psychiatric conditions within the broader context of primary care medicine. The course will emphasize the connection between the acquisition of basic clinical science information and its application in direct patient care. The most current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association will be used to introduce the student to the classification of psychiatric disorders and the multi-axial approach to the assessment of the patient.

PHARM 207 Medicinal Pharmacology

[5 credits] This course will be taken as an interdisciplinary course with graduate students in Pharmacology. Medicinal Pharmacology for the Physician Assistant is a course where the student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: identify the classes of drugs used to treat diseases commonly encountered in primary care setting; identify classes of drugs commonly used to manage emergent conditions; recognize the prototype and commonly used drugs in each class; identify the basic pharmacodynamic properties of each class of drugs and the mechanism of action and important consequences of using each class of drugs; recognize the signs and symptoms of common adverse effects and of possible toxic or life-threatening effects; identify precautions or contraindications to the use of a drug; identify significant drug-drug interactions; recognize the importance of patient education in determining compliance, avoidance of potential problems, and success of therapy; apply previously acquired statistical and critical thinking skills to evaluate literature data; use resource materials for determining proper usage of chemotherapeutic agents; and understand the role of the physician assistant in writing prescriptions.

PYAS 6551 PA Professional Practice

[2 credits] The student will be given the opportunity to develop a thorough understanding of: 1) the role of the physician assistant in health care delivery and the scope of PA practice; 2) health law; 3) physician assistant profession and its history; and 4) ethical dimensions of health care. The course will also emphasize the PA's role in health care delivery as a member of an interdisciplinary team.

PYAS 6550 Patient Evaluation

[3 credits] Patient Evaluation is a lecture/lab course designed to give the entry-level physician assistant student in-depth instruction in the appropriate techniques of soliciting, organizing and interpreting of patient-specific medical information from patients of all ages, cultures, socioeconomic backgrounds and abilities. The laboratory portion of the course will allow the participants to practice and refine the skills presented in the didactic portion of the course.

The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to communicate skillfully with patients using appropriate interviewing techniques and to elicit a thorough medical history.

PYAS 6553 Physical Diagnosis

[3 credits] Physical Diagnosis is a lecture/lab course designed to build upon the skills developed in Patient Evaluation. The student will receive instruction in proper performance of a comprehensive screening physical examination. Instruction will be given in physical exam skills appropriate for persons across all life spans and will include instruction in legal, ethical and cultural considerations associated with physical examination of patients. The student will be required to participate in the laboratory portion of the course, where physician assistant instructors will offer hands-on demonstrations of proper physical exam techniques. The students will be paired with peers to practice and develop physical exam skills. The course will culminate in a practical exam in which the student will perform the entire screening physical exam in a predetermined time frame.

PYAS 6575 Clinical Ethics

[3 Credits] Clinical Ethics is a lecture-based course designed to introduce the entry-level physician assistant student to ethical dilemmas encountered in clinical practice. The course will be structured such that the student will upon completion of the course, be able to identify, analyze and develop a plan to resolve common ethical dilemmas. The course will include instruction in the principles of beneficence and non-maleficence, respect for autonomy, loyalty, and fairness. Students will examine their role as health care provider in relation to confidentiality, informed consent, end-of-life issues and patients' rights. The students will also be introduced to the ethics of clinical research, and the legal aspects of participating in clinical research.

PYAS 6574 Clinical Genetics

[3 Credits] Clinical Genetics is a lecture-based course designed to provide the entry-level physician assistant student with a basic understanding of medical genetics so that they can begin the process of developing into a knowledgeable, competent, healthcare practitioner. The course will review basic molecular genetics, molecular terminology and inheritance patterns. The student will receive instruction in various diagnostic techniques associated with medical genetics. Development and teratogenesis will also be covered. The remainder of the course will be focused on the identification of select clinical genetic topics, their clinical presentations, treatment options and any ethical issues associated with the manifestation or treatment of the disorder. Included will be instruction pertaining to the ethical, legal and social issues of select genetic disorders.

PYAS 6572 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

[3 credits] Health Promotion and Disease prevention is a lecture-based course in which the student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: apply practical knowledge concerning the practice of preventive medicine; identify resources that provide preventive and community health services; identify reliable Internet and other sources of information; utilize sources of information pertaining to legal regulations on reportable diseases or health hazards; and apply these and other acquired skills in the education of patients concerning medical, psychological, surgical, and terminal illnesses.

PYAS 6555 Clinical Medicine I

[7 credits] Clinical Medicine I is a lecture/lab course designed to build upon the skills developed in Patient Evaluation and Physical Diagnosis, Differential Diagnosis and the basic sciences. This course covers the principles of evaluation and management of general medical conditions in a systems based-approach. Lecture, case studies, small-group discussions and independent studies are used to incorporate pre-requisite and co-requisite knowledge of pathophysiology, patient evaluation and diagnostic medicine in order to reach appropriate patient assessments. This course is designed specifically to prepare the student for supervised clinical practice. The course will utilize a system based approach to clinical problem solving. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: 1) recognize and understand clinical signs and symptoms of diseases; 2) interpret results obtained by analysis of body tissues and fluids; 3) interpret basic radiographic procedures; and 4) utilize clinical data in the management of medical problems.

PYAS 6556 Clinical Medicine II

[8 credits] This course is a continuation of Clinical Medicine I. This course is designed specifically to prepare the student for supervised clinical practice, and is a continuation of Clinical Medicine I for the Physician Assistant. In this course, the student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: recognize and understand clinical signs and symptoms of diseases; interpret results obtained by analysis of body tissues and fluids; interpret basic radiographic procedures; and utilize clinical data in the management of medical problems. Problem-based learning techniques will be used in the laboratory portion of the course to assist the student in the refinement of clinical problem solving skills.

PYAS 6571 Culture and Diversity

[3 credits] Culture and Diversity is a lecture-based course designed to increase the physician assistant student's awareness of the complexities of providing healthcare to persons from diverse cultural backgrounds. This course will explore various cultural healing practices and encourage students to explore their own cultural experiences and bias. The goal of this course is to explore cultural diversity and the challenges presented to the healthcare professional and to increase the cultural competency of the developing physician assistant.

PYAS 6552 Clinical Diagnostics

[3 Credits] Clinical Diagnostics is a lecture course with three components: radiologic study ordering and interpretation, ECG ordering and interpretation, and laboratory study ordering, and interpretation. This course provides skills in ordering and interpreting lab values from chemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology, parasitology, virology, genetics, and mycology testing. Basic ECG and x-ray interpretation skills are introduced in preparation for clinical externships.

PYAS 6558 Differential Diagnosis

[3 credits] Differential Diagnosis is a lecture-based course designed to build upon the skills developed in Patient Evaluation and Physical Diagnosis. The course will provide instruction in the development of a thorough, patient appropriate differential diagnosis. Medical decision making based on anatomy, physiology, pathology and the history and clinical presentation will be stressed. Students will be challenged to develop critical thinking skills using case-studies based on actual patient presentations.

PYAS 6567 Emergency Medicine Clerkship

[3 credits] The Emergency Medicine Clerkship is designed to introduce the student to healthcare in the Emergency Medicine Practice setting. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: understand and manage patient problems in an emergency care setting; understand the broad base of knowledge required for the emergency care setting; apply this knowledge to benefit the physician and patient in the emergency care setting; apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; apply data gathering techniques on unusual patient conditions for the purpose of publication; and participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials. (4-week rotation)

PYAS 6565 General Surgery Clerkship

[3 credits] The General Surgery Clerkship is designed to introduce the student to healthcare in the General Surgery Practice setting. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: understand and manage patient problems in a general surgery care setting; understand the broad base of knowledge required for the general surgery care setting; apply this knowledge to benefit the physician and patient in the general surgery care setting; apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of surgery patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; apply data gathering techniques on unusual patient conditions for the purpose of publication; and participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials. (4-week rotation)

PYAS 6579 Elective Clerkship

[3 credits] This four-week rotation may be completed in any subspecialty chosen by the student with the approval of the clinical rotation coordinator. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: prepare and present patient records and a problem list in an organized fashion appropriate for the subspecialty service; understand the indications, contraindications, possible complications, and limitations in the treatment of conditions treated by the subspecialist; understand the indications and limitations of various diagnostic procedures; assist effectively with necessary procedures in the pre- and post-operative periods if applicable; assist in all particulars delegated by the subspecialist; apply previously acquired problem-solving skills in the management of patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials; and make written and oral presentations on selected patient conditions. (4-week rotation)

PYAS 6559 Family Medicine Clerkship

[6 credits] The Family Medicine Clerkship is designed to introduce the student to healthcare in the Family Practice setting. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: understand and manage patient problems in a primary care setting; understand the broad base of knowledge required for the primary care setting; apply this knowledge to benefit the physician and patient in the primary care setting; apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; apply data gathering techniques on unusual patient conditions for the purpose of publication; and participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials. (4-week rotation)

PYAS 6560 Internal Medicine Clerkship

[3 credits] The Internal Medicine Clerkship is designed to introduce the student to healthcare in the Internal Medicine Practice setting. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: understand and manage patient problems in an internal medicine setting; understand the broad base of knowledge required for the internal medicine setting; apply this knowledge to benefit the physician and patient in the internal medicine setting; apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; apply data gathering techniques on unusual patient conditions for the purpose of publication; and participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials. (4-week rotation)

PYAS 6561 General Pediatrics Clerkship

[3 credits] The Pediatric Medicine Clerkship is designed to introduce the student to healthcare in the Pediatric Practice setting. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: understand and manage patient problems in a pediatric care setting; understand the broad base of knowledge required for the pediatric care setting; apply this knowledge to benefit the physician and patient in the pediatric care setting; apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of pediatric patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; apply data gathering techniques on unusual patient conditions for the purpose of publication; and participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials. (4-week rotation)

PYAS 6564 Women's Health Clerkship

[3 credits] The Women's Health Clerkship is designed to introduce the student to healthcare in the Women's Health Practice setting. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: understand and manage patient problems in the Women's health care setting; understand the broad base of knowledge required for the Women's Health care setting; apply this knowledge to benefit the physician and patient in the Women's Health setting; apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; apply data gathering techniques on unusual patient conditions for the purpose of publication; and participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials. (4-week rotation)

PYAS 6566 Psychiatric Clerkship

[3 credits] The Psychiatric Clerkship is designed to introduce the student to healthcare in the field of behavioral medicine. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to: understand and manage patient problems in a psychiatric care setting; understand the broad base of knowledge required for the psychiatric care setting; apply this knowledge to benefit the physician and patient in the psychiatric care setting; apply previously acquired knowledge in the management of patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; apply data gathering techniques on unusual patient conditions for the purpose of publication; and participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials. (4-week rotation)

PYAS 6568 Clinical Preceptorship

[6 credits] This eight-week preceptorship may be completed in any specialty or subspecialty chosen by the student with the approval of the clinical rotation coordinator. The preceptorship is designed to give the student additional clinical exposure in a medical/surgical area of their choosing. This opportunity is often used by preceptors to assess the student for possible employment. The student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate advanced ability to: prepare and present patient records and a problem list in an organized fashion appropriate for the subspecialty service; understand the indications, contraindications, possible complications, and limitations in the treatment of conditions treated by the

subspecialist; understand the indications and limitations of various diagnostic procedures; assist effectively with necessary procedures in the pre- and post-operative periods if applicable; assist in all particulars delegated by the subspecialist; apply previously acquired problem-solving skills in the management of patients; apply principles of evidence-based medicine; participate in designing and/or collecting data in clinical trials; and make written and oral presentations on selected patient conditions. (8-week rotation)

PYAS 6557 Clinical Practice Issues

[2 credits] Clinical Practice Issues for the Physician Assistant is a lecture-based course covering advanced clinical practice issues affecting the physician assistant profession. These topics will be included in the course, but not limited to: billing and coding issues, hospital credentials, state, national and international practice acts and issues of professionalism. The students will have the opportunity to work individually and in small group on projects designed to increase their familiarity with issues facing the clinical practitioner.

PYAS 6578 Capstone Project

[1 credit] This course will build upon the concepts presented in PYAS 6562 and PYAS 6570 (Research I and Research II). The student will be required to develop a capstone project based upon the previously developed research proposal. The student will be required to incorporate evidence-based practice in the project and will formally present the findings to the class and faculty and will also submit the findings in a written form of publishable quality. The conclusion of the project will evaluate the sum of the literature to make recommendations regarding the application and utility of the information in an evidence-based practice.

PYAS 6563 Seminar I

[1 credit] One seminar course is taken each semester of the clinical (second) year of PA school. This discussion-based course meets one day each month when students return from clinical rotations. Students present clinical cases, reflect on clinical experiences, and prepare for the next clinical experience. Students will present a short PP presentation on a PANCE Blueprint topic to the class.

PYAS 6569 Seminar II

[1 credits] One seminar course is taken each semester of the clinical (second) year of PA school. This discussion-based course meets one day each month when students return from clinical rotations. Students present clinical cases, reflect on clinical experiences, and prepare for the next clinical experience. Students will present a short PP presentation on a PANCE Blueprint topic to the class.

PYAS 6576 Seminar III

[1 credits] One seminar course is taken each semester of the clinical (second) year of PA school. This discussion-based course meets one day each month when students return from clinical rotations. Students present clinical cases, reflect on clinical experiences, and prepare for the next clinical experience. Students will present a short PP presentation on a PANCE Blueprint topic to the class.

PYAS 6562 Research Methods I

[2 credits] the course is a lecture-based course designed to introduce the entry-level physician assistant student to basic research techniques. The course will focus on developing proficiency in searching and interpretation of current medical literature. This course is the first course in the preparation of the student for the capstone project. All students will be assigned a faculty mentor to guide their progress through research skill development. The goals of the course are to equip the student with the skills

needed to assess the literature for evidence-based information, to develop medical writing skills and to develop lifelong practices of critical analysis of the medical literature for evidence-based treatment practices.

PYAS 6570 Research Methods II

[2 credits] Research Methods for the Physician Assistant II is a lecture-based course designed to continue the entry-level physician assistant student's proficiency in research. This course will further refine skills in literature analysis and the formatting of conclusions for the evidence-based practice of evaluation and management of disease process. Upon completion of this course, the student will produce a complete literature review for the capstone project.