



GERALD L. FRANCIS CENTER

762

ELON PA

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Academic Catalog 2013



Thank you for your interest in graduate education at Elon University. Elon is nationally recognized as a leader in engaged teaching and learning, giving students many opportunities to gain practical experience as well as an excellent foundation in their field of study.

Elon is one of only seven private universities in the nation with accredited schools of law, business, communications and education along with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, which promotes the liberal arts and sciences. The Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, which offers the MBA, is one of only five business schools at private institutions in North Carolina accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. *Bloomberg Businessweek* ranked the Love School of Business among the top-50 undergraduate programs in the nation and ranked the MBA program #1 among the nation’s part-time programs. The M.Ed. is offered through Elon’s School of Education, which is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The Department of Physical Therapy at Elon offers the DPT and has earned accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The Elon University School of Law opened on the Greensboro campus in August 2006 and received full accreditation by the American Bar Association in 2011. In August 2009, Elon welcomed the inaugural class of the Master of Arts in Interactive Media degree program offered through the School of Communications, which is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC). The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program received accreditation-provisional by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant in September 2012. The PA program, offered through the School of Health Sciences, will enroll its first class in January 2013.

Each of our graduate programs is stamped with Elon’s distinctive experiential learning approach, which prepares students for professional success. Small classes and creative, dedicated faculty scholars make the Elon graduate experience personal, challenging and exciting. I hope you will give serious consideration to joining our community of scholars at Elon University.

Sincerely,
Leo M. Lambert
President, Elon University



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Graduate Education at Elon

Located in the beautiful Piedmont section of North Carolina, Elon University has earned a regional and national reputation for excellence both in undergraduate and graduate programs. Academic innovation is the hallmark of an Elon education, and the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Arts in Interactive Media (M.A.), Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) programs exemplify Elon's commitment to combining a stimulating classroom environment with opportunities to apply knowledge in a practical setting.



MBA

The Elon MBA offers a rigorous curriculum featuring a core foundation of general management skills, career-focused specializations and a flexible schedule designed for working professionals. Ranked as the #1 part-time MBA program in the nation by *Bloomberg BusinessWeek* magazine, the Elon MBA features a careful blend of conceptual knowledge, critical thinking skills and practical exercises that enables you to develop the skills you need to apply business knowledge in many different situations, communicate effectively, understand multiple perspectives of a problem and use ethical reasoning to determine how a proposed solution may affect your company and the wider community. Designed to be completed in 21 to 33 months, the Elon MBA also includes two regularly scheduled MBA international study trips per year.

M.Ed.

The M.Ed. program offers graduate licensure in elementary education (K-6), gifted education (K-12), and special education (K-12). In the M.Ed. program, students hone skills for implementing appropriate instruction and differentiating curriculum for special needs students while deepening their understanding of the different content areas. Though skill development is an important aspect of the program, empowering teachers to make professionally mature decisions and develop collaborative leadership and research expertise are also emphasized. The M.Ed. Summer Cohort program provides licensed teachers the opportunity to complete the degree in just three summers.

M.A. in Interactive Media

In the rapidly converging world of media, the Elon Master of Arts in Interactive Media prepares students to think strategically across media platforms; to plan and create interactive media content consisting of text, images, sounds, video and graphics; to manage information for interactive news, entertainment and strategic communications; and to work in any profession that employs interactive media skills. The intensive 10-month,

36-hour program includes hands-on laboratory and theoretical courses along with a winter term, team-project course where students create an interactive product that involves domestic or international travel. The M.A. in Interactive Media allows students to design, produce and create projects that are rapidly becoming the principal components of 21st century digital media.

D.P.T.

Graduate students enrolled in the three-year, full-time Doctor of Physical Therapy program have unique opportunities to practice specific learning objectives in a variety of clinical settings. The partnership between Alamance Regional Medical Center and Elon's Department of Physical Therapy offers students a wealth of clinical and research opportunities. The philosophy of the DPT program emphasizes critical thinking, active learning, strong clinical experiences and inquiry-based approaches to treatment and research. The program produces graduates who are highly skilled clinician generalists and compassionate individuals well prepared for leadership as key members of a health care team.

PA

Elon's Physician Assistant program prepares graduates to think critically and act skillfully to meet expanding health care needs in local and global communities. Students immerse themselves in a curriculum structured around active learning strategies through collaborative work with Elon's faculty, scholars and practitioners in the field. Students emerge in a little more than two years as graduates prepared to employ the most current knowledge to care for patients' physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs. The 27-month, full-time program started accepting applications on a rolling basis beginning October 2011 for the charter class enrolling January 2013. The Elon PA program, along with the Elon Doctor of Physical Therapy program, is housed within the School of Health Sciences.

J.D.

The Elon University School of Law opened in downtown Greensboro, North Carolina, in fall 2006 with a charter class of 100 students. The school builds on Elon University's national reputation for excellence in engaged learning and leadership education. It provides experiential opportunities for law students in a learning laboratory environment, with direct access to the region's major courts, law firms and government and nonprofit agencies. Elon law students acquire excellent knowledge of the law. They develop broad lawyering skills and learn how to listen, communicate and interact effectively and resolve conflict in the broad range of complex situations lawyers confront. They are empowered to improve our system of justice and make the world a better place.

The School of Law produces a separate academic catalog, which can be accessed online at www.law.elon.edu.



Visiting and contacting campus

Visitors to the university are welcome at all times. Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Office of Graduate Admissions is located on the Elon campus in the Powell Building, suite 114, and can be reached at 336-278-7600 or 800-334-8448, ext. 3 (Fax: 336-278-7699). You may also wish to contact us by email at gradadm@elon.edu. For information about visiting the School of Law, contact the admissions office at 336-278-9200 or law@elon.edu.

Elon University does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation or veteran's status in the recruitment and admission of students, the recruitment and employment of faculty and staff or the operation of any of its programs. Students with documented disabilities may request in writing reasonable special services and accommodations. Questions should be directed to Ms. Susan Wise, disability services coordinator, Duke 108H, 336-278-6500. The university's Section 504 coordinator for students and Title IX coordinator is Dr. Jana Lynn Patterson, Moseley 206, 336-278-7200. The university's Section 504 coordinator for applicants and current employees is Mr. Ronald Klepcyk, 314 W. Haggard Ave., 336-278-5560.



Introduction

The mission of Elon University graduate programs

Through its graduate programs, Elon University gives students the opportunity to acquire a high level of competence in their fields of interest and to gain significant experience in the application of advanced knowledge and skills. Graduate programs offered at Elon foster a stimulating intellectual community based upon close interaction with faculty, academic engagement with peers in and out of the classroom and a university environment fully committed to supporting inquiry and research. Graduates from Elon's advanced degree programs are prepared to assume positions as active professionals committed to continued learning and to the advancement of their professions.

Elon University offers graduate programs that are:

- Connected to the university's undergraduate programs, building on existing strengths and contributing to the enhancement of the quality of the undergraduate experience.
- Committed to the broad perspective of arts and sciences.
- Distinctive, excellent in overall quality and responsive to the needs of society.
- Committed to the intellectual growth and development of each student.
- Supportive of both faculty and student scholarly activity and its dissemination to the appropriate community of scholars and practitioners.

Elon University Honor Code

All students at Elon University pledge to abide by the Honor Code, which recognizes honesty, integrity, respect and responsibility as critical elements in upholding the values of the academic community. The current Student Handbook, <http://www.elon.edu/students/handbook>, presents sanctions and hearing procedures in detail.

History

Elon University is a private, coeducational and comprehensive university. Founded in 1889 by the Christian Church (now United Church of Christ), it is the third largest of North Carolina's 36 private colleges and universities.

During the 1980s, Elon experienced a decade of unprecedented growth. During this time, applications doubled and enrollment increased 35 percent, making Elon one of the fastest-growing institutions in the region. Dozens of academic and student life programs were added to enrich the quality of an Elon education. Special classes and volunteer programs were developed to provide students with leadership and service opportunities. In fall 1984, the university began offering a Master of Business Administration degree through the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business. In fall 1986, a Master of Education degree was added. In 1997, a Master of Physical Therapy degree program was established. In 2003, the Doctor of Physical Therapy replaced the MPT. The Elon University School of Law opened in fall 2006. The Master of Arts in Interactive Media program was established in fall 2009. The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program will begin in January 2013.

Also during the '80s and '90s, the university's physical plant grew. Total campus acreage doubled, square footage of buildings increased and significant new facilities were added, including **Carol Grotnes Belk Library**, featuring 75,000 square feet with more than 250 computers, networked study rooms and multimedia and audiovisual stations; **Dalton L. McMichael Sr. Science Center**, providing 81,000 square feet of research laboratories, high-tech instrumentation and computer technology; **Moseley Campus Center**, a 74,000-square-foot student center; and **Koury Center**, a physical education, athletics and recreation complex. In the early part of the new century, Elon opened **Rhodes Stadium**, **Belk Track**, **White Field** and five pavilions in the Academic Village.

In the summer of 2006, Elon opened the three-story, 60,000-square-foot **Ernest A. Koury, Sr. Business Center**, home of Elon's Martha and Spencer Love School of Business. The Center includes the **LaRose Digital Theatre**; the **LabCorp Suite for Executive Education**; the **William Garrard Reed Finance Center** with real-time data from global financial markets; the **Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership**; the **Chandler Family Professional Sales Center** and the **James B. and Anne Ellington Powell Lobby**.

In the summer of 2009, Elon renovated the second floor of Powell Building to become the home of the Master of Arts in Interactive Media program. **The Powell Interactive Media Suite** houses a state-of-the-art computer laboratory/production facility and classroom. It includes five editing suites, a graduate study center and lounge. The suite also houses DSLR cameras, which shoot still photos and high definition video. Additionally, high definition, tapeless video cameras, audio recorders, lighting kits, booms and other equipment to produce interactive media are available for checkout from the School of



Communications. Offices for interactive media faculty are also located in the Powell Interactive Media Suite.

In April 2011, the Elon University Board of Trustees established the School of Health Sciences. The school is housed in the **Gerald L. Francis Center** opened in January 2012 and includes classrooms, lab facilities, meeting and office space.

Location

Elon's historic campus is ideally situated on almost 620 acres in central North Carolina, adjacent to Burlington, a city of 50,000. Elon's brick sidewalks, Georgian architecture and state-of-the-art facilities are surrounded by majestic oak trees and lovely gardens. The university is a 40-minute drive from UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University and 30 minutes from Greensboro, a city that regularly offers major concerts and sporting events. A dozen other colleges and universities are less than an hour away.

Downtown Greensboro is also the location of the new Elon School of Law, an 84,000-square-foot facility including a new multimillion-dollar library collection, wireless technology, courtroom and specialized labs and classrooms, adjacent to federal and state courts, government offices and major law firms.

Airline services are conveniently located at the Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro and at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Amtrak serves Greensboro and Raleigh with daily connections to Burlington.

Degrees and majors

Elon University offers more than 50 major fields of study leading to the bachelor of arts, bachelor of fine arts or bachelor of science degree. The university also offers a dual-degree engineering program in cooperation with Columbia University, Penn State University, Georgia Tech, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina State University, University of Notre Dame, University of South Carolina, Virginia Tech and Washington University in St. Louis.

Elon's graduate programs include a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business; a Master of Education (M.Ed.) with specialty areas in elementary, gifted and special education; a Master of Arts in Interactive Media (M.A.) through the School of Communications; a doctor of physical therapy (DPT) and a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) through the School of Health Sciences; and the juris doctor (J.D.) degree through the School of Law.

Enrollment

With approximately 670 graduate and 5,350 undergraduate students, Elon is smaller than most universities. Students come from 48 states, the District of Columbia and 57 other nations, with approximately 75 percent of enrollment coming from outside North Carolina. At Elon you won't be lost in a crowd, but you will meet and interact with many new people.



Accreditation

Elon University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's and master's degrees, the doctor of physical therapy degree and juris doctor degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4501 for questions about the accreditation of Elon University, to file a third-party comment at the time of Elon University's decennial review or to file a complaint against Elon University for alleged non-compliance with a standard or requirement. For normal inquiries about Elon University, such as admissions requirements, financial aid and educational programs, etc. contact Elon University at 336-278-2000.

The Master of Business Administration program is accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The Master of Education program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and by the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction.

The Master of Arts in Interactive Media program is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC).

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; ; telephone number: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: www.captaonline.org).

The Juris Doctor program is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program received accreditation-provisional by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) in September 2012. Accreditation-provisional is an accreditation status. The status indicates that the plans and resource allocation for the proposed program appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA standards, if fully implemented as planned. Accreditation-provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status and is limited to no more than five years for any program.

Library/technology center

The state-of-the-art Belk Library features the latest in information technology and is located at the center of campus, convenient to all graduate classrooms. It is uniquely designed to integrate print, electronic and audiovisual resources with an extensive program of research, tutoring and technical support available during all hours of operation to assist students and faculty. More than 200 Macintosh and Windows desktop computers and wireless laptop computers offer access to the online catalog and the Internet. Students can choose among a wide variety of individual and group study spaces while using the more than 280,000 volumes, government documents and media resources. More than 27,000 online journals are available, as well as an extensive video and audio collection.

Belk Library also houses the Tutoring and Writing Center and the Faculty Resource Center. Please visit www.elon.edu/library for more information.



Writing assistance and computer services

Elon has a well-established writing center located in Belk Library. Graduate students seeking assistance with writing may utilize the services of the center, including one-on-one tutoring, without charge. Graduate students may use computer labs with Internet access, and they can set up free email accounts. Staff members are available to provide assistance. There are approximately 940 computer workstations on campus in 50 computer labs.

Career services and professional placement assistance

The Student Professional Development Center, located in Moseley Center, assists graduate students individually as they identify their career direction and finalize their career search. The Career Center has incorporated modern technology to provide effective student-employer matches and to assist students in accessing current employer literature. Programs for graduate students include resume referral to employers, individual job search assistance, job vacancy lists and workshops on resume writing and job interviewing. For details, please visit www.elon.edu/careers.

Parking

Student parking at Elon is convenient and easily accessible. The annual fee is \$80 for full-time students enrolled in the DPT, PA and M.A. in Interactive Media programs. No parking fees apply for graduate students enrolled in the M.Ed. program. There is a \$10 annual fee for MBA students.

The graduate admissions process

Elon's admissions policy encourages the selection of students who have demonstrated both academic ability and talent in their field. Each application is considered in light of all completed academic work, test scores, evidence of leadership and motivation, work history, credentials and letters of recommendation.

Applicants should consult the section in this catalog dealing with their desired degree for specific admissions requirements. This information, as well as an application, can also be obtained from the **Elon Graduate Admissions website at www.elon.edu/graduate**. Please note that undergraduates are not permitted to register for graduate courses.

Basic requirements

- Evidence of an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Score report(s) from appropriate standardized tests for graduate study (GMAT, GRE, MAT, LSAT).
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and any graduate studies completed or taken
- Three letters of recommendation
- TOEFL scores for international students, unless English is the student's native language or the language of instruction



Application procedures, testing, transfer credits and graduate program costs

Since all of Elon's graduate programs differ in application procedures, testing, transfer credits and program costs, graduate students should consult the section in this catalog dealing with their desired degree for program-specific information.

Forms of financial assistance for graduate students

Elon is committed to assisting eligible students in securing the necessary funds for their graduate school program. To the extent possible, eligible students receive assistance through careful planning and through accessing various forms of financial assistance. In order to receive any type of university, state or federal funding, students must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of graduate degree requirements. No financial assistance is offered until an applicant has been accepted for admission to a graduate program.

Elon University payment program

Elon offers a payment plan to all graduate students. The plan requires an initial payment of one-third of the total cost of the program with the remainder divided into two equal payments. For further information on this payment plan, contact the Bursar's office. Students must submit a new application for each semester.

Families may pay tuition statement bills with Mastercard, Discover and American Express cards; however, you will be assessed a 2.75% convenience fee. Visa credit/debit cards are not accepted as payment for the tuition statement bills. Families that wish to avoid the fees are encouraged to use online checks/ACH or personal checks, wire transfers or other payment options.

Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express credit/debit cards are accepted for other university services and payments such as the bookstore, and online ticket purchases with no convenience fee added.

If you have questions please contact the Bursar's office.

Federal Stafford Loan (unsubsidized)

Fixed 6.8% loans may be awarded to fully admitted students who are enrolled at least half time. Students do not need to demonstrate financial need to qualify for this program. These loans are federally insured, and no payment of principal is due until six months after the student ceases to be at least a half-time student or graduates. However, borrowers do not qualify for the federal interest subsidy, and interest accrues while the student is enrolled in school. Students must file the FAFSA and the Elon University Financial Aid form to be considered for this program. Information is available on the Office of Financial Planning website at elon.edu/finaidborrow.

The Federal Graduate PLUS Loan Program

For students who need financial assistance beyond the \$20,500 Stafford Loan maximum, there is the federal Graduate PLUS loan program. The PLUS loan allows for the deferment of repayment while the student is enrolled. The PLUS loan carries a fixed 7.9% interest rate. The maximum amount a student may borrow from the PLUS Loan program is Elon's Cost of Attendance less any Stafford Loans and other forms of financial aid a student may



be receiving. Information about the Graduate PLUS Loan may be obtained from the Office of Financial Planning (elon.edu/finaidborrow).

Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS)

Created by the 2011 N.C. General Assembly, this program is a forgivable loan providing funding to students pursuing degrees in certain critical fields. Recipients must sign a promissory note agreeing to repay the loan by working in North Carolina in their approved field of study. Visit the College Foundation of North Carolina's website for more information (CFNC.org/FELS).

Yellow Ribbon Program

Elon's PA program is participating in the federal government's Yellow Ribbon Program, designed to assist post-9/11 veterans with secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities. Elon's PA program will contribute \$5,000 to three post-9/11 veterans on a first-come, first-serve basis. This amount will be matched by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

American Academy of Physician Assistants

Elon PA students are encouraged to review the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants Financial Aid Resources website (aapa.org) for information about scholarships, awards and grants.

Scholarship Programs

A limited number of scholarships ranging from \$5,000-\$10,000 annually will be awarded to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic ability and commitment to the physician assistant profession. Each admitted student will be considered for scholarship based on the following criteria: academic record, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, interview scores, patient care experience, demonstrated service and leadership ability. Motivation, maturity, interpersonal skills, knowledge of the PA profession and the health care system and the mission of the Elon PA program are also considered. Students will be notified of their award at the time of acceptance if selected. Students who receive a scholarship are required to maintain good academic and professional standing in the program.

A limited number of Doctor of Physical Therapy scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000 will be awarded annually to students who have demonstrated academic ability and talent as well as an enthusiasm and commitment for the physical therapy profession. Every admitted student will be considered for scholarship in light of all academic work, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, interview scores and demonstrated leadership ability. Students will be notified of their award at the time of acceptance if selected. Students who receive a scholarship are required to maintain good academic and professional standing in the program.

A number of scholarships are also available to Interactive Media students who demonstrate an enthusiasm for learning and a commitment to energizing media communication. Scholarship amounts range from \$3,000 to \$10,000. While awards will be merit-based, the School of Communication's Scholarship Committee will assess merit within the context of an applicant's significant and distinctive financial need, if explained in the application.



Primary Care Leadership Fellowship

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies seeks to recruit and educate students who have an interest in learning how to integrate best-practices in the provision of primary care. Recipients of the Primary Care Leadership Fellowship are committed to compassionately provide primary care and serve communities in need. Additionally, recipients should demonstrate ability to provide leadership to identify improvements that enhance the delivery of primary care.

The fellowship criteria include prior academic, service and leadership record; prior experiences that demonstrate a commitment to primary care and the medically underserved; and a willingness to commit to fulfilling elective clinical rotations in areas that enhance primary care training. Fellowship awards are \$15,000 per academic calendar year. Students will be notified of their award at the time of acceptance. Students who receive a scholarship are required to maintain good academic and professional standing in the program. Total fellowship award for the 27-month graduate program is \$33,750.

Private sources

Many companies, corporations, foundations and school systems offer assistance to students based on a variety of qualifications. Students should investigate policies of their employers and check with the many local civic organizations to determine the availability of such funds and their application procedures.

Please note that federal and state loan programs are not available to international students.

Academic regulations

Course registration

Registration information is available to all students prior to registration. Students are expected to register themselves on designated days. Registration includes academic advising, selection of courses and payment of fees. As part of the preregistration/registration processes, graduate faculty are available to offer advice concerning scheduling of courses and assisting with registration.

MSPAS students follow a varied registration procedure. Please contact the program director at 336-278-6847.

Undergraduates are not permitted to register for graduate courses.

Changes in class schedule

The university reserves the right to cancel or discontinue any course because of small enrollment or for other reasons deemed necessary. In order to assure quality instruction, the university reserves the right to close registration when the maximum enrollment has been reached and to make changes in schedule and/or faculty when necessary.

Dropping courses

A student may officially drop any class with a “W” (withdraw without penalty) halfway through the term, which includes the week of examinations. The withdrawal period applies to programs following the regular semesters and the summer sessions and doesn’t



apply to the Elon PA program. After that date, no class may be dropped. Any exception to this policy is the responsibility of the appropriate academic dean's office.

A course dropped without permission of the Registrar is automatically graded "F."

A student who withdraws from the university for any reason (except for a medical reason) receives grades of "W" if the withdrawal is before the designated half-term time period. After this time a student will receive a "W" or "F" depending on his/her grades at the time of withdrawal.

Graduate grading system and quality points*

Graduation is dependent upon the quality as well as the quantity of work completed. Letter grades are used. They are interpreted in the following tables, with the quality points for each hour of credit shown at right:

Grade		Quality Points
A	..... Distinguished	4.0
A-	..... Excellent	3.7
B+	..... Above average	3.3
B	..... Average	3.0
B-	..... Below average	2.7
C	..... Unsatisfactory	2.0
F	..... Failure	0
I	..... Incomplete	0
WD	..... Medical withdrawal	0
W	..... Withdrawal	0
NR	..... No report	0

Pluses and minuses added to the letter grade pertain only to the MBA program. For the DPT and MSPAS grading systems, please refer to the DPT and DPAS Student Handbook. Grades of "A" through "F" are permanent grades and may not be changed except in case of error. After a professor has certified a grade to the Registrar, he or she may change it before the end of the next regular grading period. The change must be made in writing and have the written approval of the program director/committee chairperson.

An "I" grade signifies incomplete work because of illness, emergency, extreme hardship or self-paced courses. It is not given for a student missing the final examination unless excused by the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs upon communication from the student. After the date designated on the appropriate academic calendar, "I" grades automatically change to "F" unless an extension is granted by the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Grade point average (GPA)

The grade point average is computed by dividing the total quality points on work attempted at Elon University by the number of hours attempted, except for courses with grades of "WD," "W" or "S."

Grading system for the M.A. in Interactive Media program

Graduation is dependent upon the quality of work and mastery of material in the 36 hours required to complete the Master of Arts in Interactive Media. Students will be evaluated using the following grade scale:

Grade	Evaluation	Credit
H	Honors.....	3 hrs.
P	Pass with mastery	3 hrs.
L	Low pass	3 hrs.
F	Failure	0 hrs.
I	Incomplete	
WD	Medical withdrawal	
W	Withdrawal	
NR	No report	

If, in the judgment of the academic program director, faculty, and administrators of the School of Communications, a student fails to make satisfactory progress toward the completion of the degree or to demonstrate sufficient promise in the discipline, the student will not be allowed to continue in the program. Registration in the following semester for academically ineligible students will be cancelled automatically.

A student becomes academically ineligible to continue in the program for the following reason: S/he receives a grade of F, or 2 or more grades of L.

Grading system for the M.Ed. program

Students participating in the M.Ed. program will be evaluated using the following grade scale:

Grade	Evaluation	Points
A	Outstanding	90-100
B	Entirely Satisfactory	80-90
C	Weak	70-80
F	Unsatisfactory	<70

The M.Ed. program does not give D's as final grades. If given for assignment grades, they, therefore, should not be considered passing.

A - Distinguished Performance

Excellent work that demonstrates not only a clear understanding of the material but also a superior ability to utilize that material in the assignment submitted. All criteria are met. The student's work goes beyond the task and contains additional, unexpected or outstanding features.

B - Average Performance

A solid piece of work that demonstrates a good understanding of the material under study and utilizes that material well in the assignment submitted. The student meets the assignment criteria, with few errors or omissions, but there are few additional, unexpected or outstanding features. A B is average for graduate work. The average expectations should be high for graduate students, and B's accordingly should be expected.

C - Weak Performance

Work that demonstrates a technical or basic understanding of the material under study and which utilizes that material adequately in the assignment submitted. The work meets the assignment criteria. In the graduate program, C's cannot really be seen as "average." After all, a student cannot remain in the program if two C's are made. As such, they must be seen as "weak" rather than "average."

F - Unsatisfactory

Work is incomplete, inappropriate and/or shows little or no comprehension of the class material in the assignment submitted.

Continuation standards and graduation requirements

Because all of Elon's graduate programs differ in continuation standards and graduation requirements, graduate students should consult the section in this catalog dealing with their desired degree for program-specific information.

Access to student educational records

Elon University complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. This act protects the privacy of educational records, establishes the right of students to inspect and review their educational records and provides guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Students also have the right to file complaints with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the act.

Questions concerning the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be referred to the Office of the Registrar.

Transcripts of student records

Requests for copies of a student's record should be made to the Office of the Registrar, 2106 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244. All graduate transcripts reflect the student's complete graduate academic record. No transcripts will be issued without the student's written authorization. No transcript is issued for a student who has a financial obligation to the university.

Changes

Adequate notice will be given to enrolled students as changes are made in the graduate programs.

Policies

Instructional and financial policies not covered in this document will follow those printed in the official Elon University Academic Catalog. Students may obtain a copy of this catalog from the Office of Admissions, 2700 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244. The catalog is also available online at www.elon.edu/catalog.

The PA Program

A strong program

In partnership with Alamance Regional Medical Center and Cone Health, Elon's Department of Physician Assistant Studies will enroll its charter class for the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) program in January 2013.

The program features exceptional faculty and staff, state-of-the-art facilities, strong medical community support and a focus on engaged learning.

A unique systems-based curriculum

The PA program's unique system-based curriculum is designed to integrate the acquisition of essential knowledge medical providers must possess in a sequence that enhances development of the core competencies for the PA profession. The program emphasizes the importance of continued professional development on the part of the graduate and stresses excellence in clinical skills, compassionate care, service and leadership in the profession.

The Elon PA program entails 27 months of full-time study. Academic education (which includes classroom and laboratories to practice procedures on classmates and standardized patients) is followed by 15 months of clinical education assignments in a variety of clinical settings.

Year I (beginning January)

Year I consists of a four-week introductory module followed by three nine to 13-week systems-based modules, culminating with an eight-week population-based module.

Year II

In Year II, the students complete 18 weeks of clinical education experiences before returning to campus for one week of continued professional development instruction and an opportunity to participate in the AAPA National Conference. Concurrently, they also begin their master's project under the mentorship of faculty. The student then completes two 12-week blocks of clinical education experiences followed by a one-week return to campus. The second year ends with the students completing the program's summative evaluation process.

Year III

In Year III, students complete their final six-week clinical education experience, followed by a one-week board review course and culminating with a final week of professional development and presentation of their final masters project. Students graduate in early March.



Accreditation

Elon University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; phone: 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's and master's degree, the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, and the Juris Doctor degree. The PA program is accredited-provisional by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (12000 Findley Road, Suite 150, Johns Creek, GA 30097-1410; phone: 770-476-1224.)

Program mission

The Elon University Department of Physician Assistant Studies embraces the overall mission of the University and seeks to fulfill the departmental vision of "Learning. Caring. Serving. Leading." by acting upon these commitments:

Learning:

We foster a supportive, collaborative and collegial community that engages students in a learner-centered environment, appropriately challenges them to capably demonstrate clinical competence and supports professional development of students and faculty.

Caring:

We promote dialogue on personal and cultural attributes and are accepting of different values, beliefs and perspectives as a valuable addition to our learning community.

We advance patient care by recognizing our first responsibility is to our patients as we integrate the core competencies of the physician assistant profession including: medical knowledge, interpersonal communication skills, patient care, professionalism and practice- and systems-based learning.

We embrace the health care team approach and believe interprofessional, patient-centered care is achieved through collaboration across health professions' disciplines and integration of patient or family preferences with the best available health care practices.

Serving and Leading:

We are dedicated to the advancement of the PA profession and continually seek to develop as professionals. We seek to lead change within health delivery systems that improves patient care, eliminates health disparities and adapts to meet the needs of the ever changing health care environment.

Program goals

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies (DPAS) embraces Elon University's guiding mission and supports fulfillment of The Elon Commitment through implementation of the departmental "Learning. Caring. Serving. Leading." vision. The themes of The Elon Commitment serve as the structure for presenting our goals through the 2012-2013 academic year. Each theme is expanded upon by key strategies that will lead to attaining our overall goal of creating a nationally recognized department.



Commitment to diversity and global engagement

Goal 1: Attract and educate academically talented, compassionate, mature students from diverse backgrounds and experiences who are committed to the mission of Elon University and the department.

Goal 2: Support student interest in service and leadership through structured co-curricular activities and a curriculum model that adapts to allow exceptional students the opportunity to pursue service and leadership opportunities.

World-class faculty and staff

Goal 3: Prepare our faculty to excel in utilizing engaged-learning strategies that effectively educate students to deliver patient-centered, evidence-based care to all patients.

Goal 4: Prepare and support our faculty to obtain national recognition for their teaching, scholarship, service and leadership.

Highest levels of academic achievement

Goal 5: Develop innovative teaching and curriculum methods that prepare PA graduates to meet the unknown future needs of the health care delivery system.

Strategic and innovative pathways

Goal 6: Discuss development of two strategic and innovative pathways and share only after the program proposals and/or curriculum proposals have been vetted and approved by the university faculty governance process.

Stewardship to remain a best-value university

Goal 7: Award a greater percentage of merit-based scholarships to our top applicants than our peer and aspirant institutions thus making an Elon PA education a better value.

Innovative alumni programs

Goal 8: Achieve annual giving goals of 100 percent participation of the DPAS faculty and staff to encourage alumni giving by the department's first alumni who graduate in March of 2015.

Premier academic facilities

Goal 9: Renovate the Gerald L. Francis Center as a premier academic facility through the use of sustainable building practices.

The faculty

The DPAS faculty are academically skilled and bring a balance of clinical expertise and research experience to both the classroom and the clinical skills courses. There are eight full-time faculty with doctoral degrees in health sciences, medicine, pharmacy and public health. All physician assistant faculty members hold national certification and physician faculty possess board certification in obstetrics and gynecology or pediatrics.



In addition two part-time medical directors are actively engaged in the program and possess board certification in internal medicine.

The faculty work cooperatively to prepare Elon graduates to be clinician generalists. The curriculum includes many unique active-learning opportunities for the student. Classes and laboratories are small, so the student-faculty ratio creates an environment where faculty are accessible to students. Faculty serve as role models for students through their participation in teaching, research, clinical practice and community service on campus as well as in the greater Elon University community. Faculty are also active in leadership positions with the Physician Assistant Education Association and various physician assistant and medicine professional organizations.

Costs

Tuition for the academic year beginning in January 2013 is \$32,135. Books and living expenses are separate. While campus housing is not available for PA students, the university provides local housing information to admitted students. A nonrefundable enrollment fee of \$1,000 is also required and applied to tuition at enrollment.

Refunds

Tuition and fees are refunded on a pro rata basis during the first 13 weeks of each half of the academic year. The first half begins on the first day of classes in January. The second half begins on the first day of July. Following is a table of pro rata charges:

Start of the period through the end of third week.....	10% charge
Fourth week through the end of the seventh week	50% charge
Eighth week through the end of the 13th week	75% charge
14th week	No refund

The effective date of withdrawal is determined by the Associate Vice President of Student Life. Students who believe circumstances warrant an exception from the published policy must appeal to Gerald Whittington, Senior Vice President of Business, Finance and Technology, 113 Alamance Building.

Unpaid charges owed by the student will be deducted from the calculated refund.

The \$1,000 enrollment fee is nonrefundable.

Elon PA admissions requirements and procedures

Admission to the Elon PA program is highly competitive. Each application is evaluated on its own merits. Admission decisions are based on all academic work (including overall GPA and science GPA), GRE scores, letters of recommendation, interview scores, patient care experience, demonstrated service and leadership ability. Motivation, maturity, interpersonal skills, knowledge of the PA profession and the health care system and the mission of the Elon PA program are also considered.



Admission process

The Elon PA program participates in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). All applicants will apply online using the CASPA application. To apply, visit <https://portal.caspaonline.org/>.

Minimum admission requirements

Evidence of an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university or date when degree is expected.

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 for undergraduate work (3.2 or higher recommended)
- Minimum Overall Science GPA of 2.8 for undergraduate work (3.0 or higher recommended)

Completion of prerequisite courses:

- Anatomy with Laboratory - 4 semester hours
- Physiology - 3 semester hours
- General Chemistry with Laboratory - 4 semester hours
- Additional Chemistry course with Laboratory - 4 semester hours
- Additional Upper Level Science Courses: two semesters (a minimum of 6 semester hours) of upper level courses focused on deepening an understanding of human anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology. Examples include, but are not limited, to biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, exercise physiology, genetics, immunology, microbiology and organic chemistry.
- Additional Upper Level Courses: two semesters (a minimum of 6 semester hours) of upper level courses focused on deepening an understanding of the human condition. Examples include but are not limited to courses taken within the disciplines of anthropology, ethics, psychology, public health, sociology or religion.

Notes on prerequisite courses

- Five of the six required science courses must be complete at the time of application.
- Grades of 'C' or better are required in each prerequisite course
- No prerequisite course may be taken on a pass/no pass or credit/no credit basis.
- Each science prerequisite course must have been successfully completed within 10 years prior to January enrollment. Non-science prerequisite courses do not have a time limit.

Official graduate record examinations (GRE) scores taken within the last five years.

- Preference will be given to candidates who score above 1000 (or 297 on the revised GRE taken after 7/31/11) for a composite verbal and quantitative score.

Note: We accept the prior GRE General Test as well as the revised GRE General Test. Visit www.ets.org/gre for additional information about the revised scoring scale. Elon's code is 5183.

Minimum of 250 hours volunteer or work experience in a health care setting with at least 20 of these hours spent working with or observing a physician assistant (may



be in progress).

- Preference will be given to candidates who have direct patient care experiences that required a prior period of training based on the length/rigor of the required training. In addition, preference will be given to candidates who have completed greater numbers of health care experience hours.

Three letters of recommendation

- One letter should be written by a science instructor or health profession's advisory committee qualified to evaluate the applicant's academic achievement and potential for success as a graduate student.
- One letter should be written by a professional or supervisor qualified to evaluate the applicant's interpersonal skills and ability to meet the future demands of providing patient care under the supervision of a physician.

Must be able to meet the Essential Function Requirements of Physician Assistant Studies at Elon University, which are detailed on our website, www.elon.edu/pa.

International students

Because several months may be required to receive and process forms from international applicants, applications and complete documentation should be submitted as early as possible. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required unless English is the student's native language or the language of instruction. A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 79 (Internet-based) is required for admission to any graduate program at Elon. Exceptions to this requirement may be considered under special circumstances.

Requirements for international students on F-1 visas

In addition to PA admissions requirements, F-1 students applications must include:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required unless English is the student's native language or the language of instruction. A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 79 (Internet-based) is required.
- English translations of transcripts and explanations of grading systems are required if the transcripts are from institution(s) outside the United States.
- Original bank statement or letter issued within the last six months.
- Medical insurance and immunization records. (Elon requires students to maintain health insurance during the entire period of enrollment.)

Prerequisite courses

An application will be considered if the prospective student has no more than one science course remaining to be completed at the time of application. Applicants must complete all of the prerequisite courses prior to enrollment in the program. Grades of 'C' or better are required in each prerequisite course. No prerequisite course may be taken on a pass/no pass or credit/no credit basis. Each science prerequisite course must have been successfully completed within 10 years prior to January enrollment. Non-science prerequisite courses do not have a time limit.

Transfer credits

Students enrolled in the Elon PA program are not permitted to transfer credits from another graduate program.

Continuation standards

Elon PA students who fail to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. Any student who receives a second unsatisfactory (U) grade is subject to dismissal from the program. If a student is dismissed from the program, the student may appeal by employing the procedures for student appeals listed in the PA Student Handbook. For consideration for re-admission into the program, the student must compete with the new applicants for the program.

Graduation and degree requirements

To earn the MSPAS degree, the graduate student must:

- Have an overall minimum grade point average of 3.0 in all required PA courses with a maximum of one 'U' (unsatisfactory) course grade.
- Be in good academic and professional behavior standing as determined by the Academic and Professional Progress Committee.
- Submit an application for graduation to the Registrar by Oct. 15 preceding the graduation date.
- Complete all required MSPAS degree courses and requirements in a satisfactory manner within four calendar years.
- Demonstrate professional and personal attributes appropriate for continuance in the program and entry into the profession.
- Demonstrate entry-level competency as determined through the summative evaluation process that occurs in December prior to graduation.

It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the preceding requirements for graduation.

(U) grade is subject to dismissal from the program. If a student is dismissed from the program, the student may appeal by employing the procedures for Student Appeals listed in the Elon Student Handbook. For consideration for re-admission into the program, the student must compete with the new applicants for the program.

Graduate-level licensure

The Elon PA graduate is eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Exam (PANCE) upon satisfactory completion of all requirements for the MSPAS degree.

Academic course descriptions

INTRODUCTORY MODULE

PAS 500

Introduction to Medicine

This first course in the physician assistant curricu-

(6)

lum will introduce the students to several areas important to the practice of medicine including anatomy, clinical skill development, pharmacology and laboratory medicine. Students will examine learning methods to facilitate their academic success, explore the intersection of public health

with medicine and learn to identify and appraise medical literature evidence to support their clinical decision-making. In addition, they will develop relationships with their academic advisors and acquire a foundational understanding of the elements of professionalism that will be necessary for their success as Elon PA students and in their future professional lives. Prerequisite: Admission to the Elon Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 502 (2)
Medical Physiology

This course offered early in the physician assistant program curriculum will review concepts of human physiology to strengthen the students' core foundation of physiology knowledge. Major themes regarding commonly occurring pathophysiologic processes will be introduced to prepare students for more in-depth learning about specific disease states and patient presentations in the subsequent systems-based curriculum. Prerequisite: Admission to the Elon Physician Assistant Program.

SYSTEMS-BASED MODULE 1

PAS 510 (4.5)
Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose Throat (HEENT)

This course is the first in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of HEENT disorders and acquire HEENT problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 512 (1.5)
Infectious Disease

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of infectious disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 514 (3)
Endocrinology

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology,

establish a foundational knowledge of endocrine disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 516 (1.5)
Hematology

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of hematologic disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 518 (3)
Pulmonary

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of pulmonary disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 570 (5)
Continued Learning and Competency Development 1

This three course series creates a contextual environment in which students will apply concepts and skills acquired in their previous courses while learning to recognize knowledge deficits and identify resources that promote continued learning. The case-based approach will offer a contextual development of professional competencies characteristic of excellent physician assistant students and future clinicians. Within a clinical scenario, they will hone interpersonal communication and patient care skills as well as continue to explore issues of professionalism, problem-based learning and improvement and systems-based practice. Prerequisite: PAS 500 and PAS 502.

SYSTEMS-BASED MODULE 2

PAS 520 (5)
Cardiovascular

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology,



establish a foundational knowledge of cardiovascular disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 522 (3)

Gastrointestinal

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of gastrointestinal disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 524 (1)

Nutrition

This course is the next in a series of organ system-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the basic principles of sound nutrition, establish a foundational knowledge of nutritional disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 526 (4.5)

Neurology

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of neurologic disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 528 (4.5)

Musculoskeletal

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of musculoskeletal disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 572 (5)

Continued Learning and Competency Development 2

This three course series creates a contextual envi-

ronment in which students will apply concepts and skills acquired in their previous courses while learning to recognize knowledge deficits and identify resources that promote continued learning. The case-based approach will offer a contextual development of professional competencies characteristic of excellent physician assistant students and future clinicians. Within a clinical scenario, they will hone interpersonal communication and patient care skills as well as continue to explore issues of professionalism, problem-based learning and improvement and systems-based practice. Prerequisite: PAS 500 and PAS 502.

SYSTEMS-BASED MODULE 3

PAS 530 (3)

Oncology

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of oncology disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 532 (1.5)

Urology & STIs

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of urologic disorders and sexually transmitted infections and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 534 (3)

Nephrology

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of nephrologic disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 536 (4.5)

Obstetrics and Gynecology

This course is the next in a series of organ sys-



tems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of obstetric and gynecologic disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 538 (1.5)

Human Sexuality

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of normal human sexuality and sexual dysfunction and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 540 (4.5)

Behavioral Medicine

This course is the next in a series of organ systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of behavioral disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 542 (1)

Dermatology

This course is one in a series of systems-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients. Students will learn the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology, establish a foundational knowledge of dermatology disorders and acquire problem-focused evaluation, diagnosis and patient management skills. Prerequisite: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 574 (5)

Continued Learning and Competency Development 3

This three-course series creates a contextual environment in which students will apply concepts and skills acquired in their previous courses while learning to recognize knowledge deficits and identify resources that promote continued learning. The case-based approach will offer a contextual development of professional competencies characteristic of excellent physician assistant students and future clinicians. Within a clinical sce-

nario, they will hone interpersonal communication and patient care skills as well as continue to explore issues of professionalism, problem-based learning and improvement and systems-based practice. Prerequisite: PAS 500 and PAS 502.

POPULATION-BASED MODULE

PAS 550 (3)

Introduction to Emergency Medicine

This course is one in a series of population-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients in an emergency room setting. Students will learn the pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, evaluation and management of urgent and emergent medical problems commonly encountered in hospital emergency departments. Prerequisites: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 552 (2)

Introduction to Surgical Care

This course is next in a series of population-based courses designed to prepare students to evaluate and treat patients with surgical conditions. Students will learn the pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, evaluation and management of disorders requiring surgical consultation and management. Prerequisites: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 554 (1.5)

Introduction to Pediatrics

This course is one of a series of population-based courses designed to prepare students to effectively evaluate and treat pediatric patients. Students will learn about childhood nutrition, growth and development and how to adapt their interview and physical examination techniques to the developmental level of individual patients. In addition, they will be exposed to clinical issues unique to pediatric patients. Prerequisites: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 556 (1)

Geriatrics

This course is one in a series of population-based courses designed to prepare students to provide effective, compassionate health care to older adults. They will learn to adapt their communication and examination techniques to the age and functional status of the patient and will explore a variety of health needs and health systems issues that are important in the care of older adults. Prerequisites: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and



PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 558 (1.5)
Underserved populations

This course is one in a series of population-based courses designed to teach students to identify vulnerable populations and to respond to the health disparities vulnerable groups often experience. They will develop the skills to capably provide patient-centered care across cultural boundaries. Additionally they will learn about the preparation of patients for global travel, the primary social determinants of health and the effects of emerging global health concerns on health care locally and globally. Prerequisites: PAS 500 Introduction to Medicine and PAS 502 Medical Physiology.

PAS 576 (2)
Clinical Learning and Competency Development (CLCD) 4

This course is designed to prepare students to begin their core clinical experiences. Topics will include communication in the clinical setting, the

use of electronic medical records, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) training, professionalism and an in-depth discussion of program requirements for progressing through the clinical year. Prerequisites: PAS 500 and PAS 502.

PAS 580 (2)
Masters Project 1

The Masters project is a capstone experience designed to allow physician assistant students the opportunity to develop traits that will empower continued development of professional excellence after graduation in one of four main areas: patient care, education, research or service and leadership. The course provides all students with the essential framework required to engage in scholarly activity and develop professionally. Students will identify, develop and implement a scholarly project under the mentorship of a faculty advisor and present their project in the form of a professional article and formal presentation. Prerequisites: PAS 500-542.

Clinical education course descriptions

PAS 630 (3)
Primary Care

The primary care rotation is designed to give students exposure to the spectrum of adult outpatient medical practice. Students will learn the principles of routine (well) care, management of acute illnesses and management of chronic/multiple diagnoses. Prerequisites: PAS 500-580.

PAS 632 (3)
Pediatrics

The pediatric medicine rotation is designed to give students exposure to the spectrum of pediatric practice, including care of infants, children and adolescents in routine well-child care and care of acute and chronic diseases. The student will recognize the role that understanding the developmental stage of a patient plays in the approach to, examination of and treatment of a pediatric patient. Prerequisites: PAS 500-580

PAS 634 (3)
Emergency Medicine

The emergency medicine clinical rotation is designed to teach students the recognition and treatment of acutely ill patients of all ages. This rotation will require honing of the student's triage skills, learning to recognize and manage those conditions that need immediate attention and prioritizing care for those conditions that are

less urgent. Prerequisites: PAS 500-580

PAS 636 (3)
Inpatient Medicine

The inpatient medicine rotation is designed to give the student an overview of the care of hospitalized patients. During this rotation, the students will learn the indications for admission to the hospital and the care of a hospitalized patient. The student will actively participate in the ongoing care of the patient, working with consulting services as needed and coordinating discharge planning. Prerequisites: PAS 500-580

PAS 638 (3)
Surgery

The surgery clinical rotation is designed to give students experience in the care of patients undergoing elective or acute surgical procedures. The student will perform the pre-operative history and physical, assist, when able, in the operating room, be involved in immediate post-operative care and stabilization and assist with post-operative follow up. Prerequisites: PAS 500-580

PAS 640 (1.5)
Women's Health

The women's health rotation is designed to give the student practical experience in the diagnosis, evaluation and management of problems and is-



sues associated with women's health care. Emphasis is placed on learning experiences in family planning and birth control, the recognition and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, cancer detection and prevention, prenatal care and the evaluation and treatment of common ambulatory gynecologic problems. During this rotation, the students augment and strengthen their skills in regard to a wide variety of problems seen in the primary care setting. Prerequisites: PAS 500-580

PAS 650, 652, 654, Electives 1, 2 and 3 (1.5 cr., 3 cr., 3 cr.) The elective rotation is intended to provide the student with supervised experiential training in an area that he/she might have a special interest in but was unable to experience during other clinical rotations. Prerequisites: PAS 500-580

**PAS 670 and 672 (2 per course)
Continuing Competency and Learning Development 5 & 6**

The continued learning and competency development courses five and six are designed to augment the student's clinical experiences by reinforcing acquisition of medical knowledge, sup-

porting development of interpersonal communication skills, distinguishing traits that promote professional excellence, implementing improvements in practice performance by applying critically appraised medical literature and recognizing the impact of systems-based processes on individual patient care. Topics will be presented in a sequence that prepares students to transition from their student role to that of an autonomous member of a physician/physician assistant team. Prerequisites: PAS 500-580

PAS 680 (2)

Masters Project 2

The masters project is a capstone experience designed to allow physician assistant students the opportunity to develop traits that will empower continued development of professional excellence after graduation in one of four main areas: patient care, education, research or service and leadership. The course provides all students with the essential framework required to engage in scholarly activity and develop professionally. Students will identify, develop and implement a scholarly project under the mentorship of a faculty advisor and present their project in the form of a professional article and formal presentation. Prerequisites: PAS 500-542.



Administration

Leo M. Lambert, B.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.
President

Gerald L. Francis, B.S., M.A., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President

Steven D. House, B.S., Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Elizabeth A. Rogers, B.S., M.Ed., Ed.D.
Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy Education

Arthur W. Fadde, B.S., M.Ed.
Associate Dean of Admissions and Director of Graduate Admissions

Faculty

Patti Ragan, A.S., B.S., M.P.H., Ph.D., P.A.-C.
Interim Program Director and Associate Professor of Physician Assistant Studies

Cindy Bennett, B.A., M.D.
Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies

Tracey Tonsor, B.S., M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.
Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies

Diane Duffy, B.S., M.D.
Director of Clinical Education

Andy Lamb, B.S., M.D.

Director of Physician Assistant Studies

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