

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

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The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) program is a professional program designed for students who hold a bachelor's degree and want to pursue board certification as a PA by The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) and licensure to practice medicine as a PA. Franklin College MSPAS received Accreditation-Continued status from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). A degree from an ARC-PA accredited program is necessary for students to be eligible for the NCCPA Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).

Accreditation Statement

The Higher Learning Commission has granted approval for Franklin College to offer the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **Franklin College Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program** sponsored by **Franklin College**.

Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA *Standards*. Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the *Standards*. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be **2033**. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation *Standards* and ARC-PA policy.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <https://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-franklin-college/>.

25-Month Professional Program

The MSPAS program is a 25-month, 111 credit full-time course of study. The curriculum is divided into a 12-month didactic phase, a 12-month clinical phase, and a 1-month capstone phase. The program begins a new cohort of students in January each year.

As the program is sequential, students must take all courses each semester and a part-time option is not available.

Advanced Placement and Transfer Policy

Advanced Placement or transfer credits for MSPA curriculum courses will not be awarded. No credit will be awarded to students for prior work experience.

Additional Estimated Program Expenses

In addition to the above tuition/fees, the following are estimated expenses that are the responsibility of the student during the course of the program.

- Criminal Background Check/drug screen – \$150
- Text books and course resources – \$1000-\$1500
- Laptop computer – \$1500
- Diagnostic medical equipment – \$800-\$1000
- Memberships – \$95 (IAPA \$20, AAPA \$75)
- Required certifications (BLS)– \$250

- Estimated housing and living expenses per year
 - Room and board (off-campus) – \$8500/year
 - Transportation – \$1000
- Vehicle parking permit (2 years) – \$50

Upon completion of the MSPAS Program, graduates will assume responsibilities for all costs associated with being a licensed and practicing PA.

MSPAS Admissions Process

Step 1: Review the admission requirements and technical standards listed below

- Applicants will not be considered for an interview if they do not meet all of the requirements.

Step 2: Apply to the PA Program

- Applications for the cohort of students to begin in January 2027 will be accepted through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) beginning April 30, 2026.
- Application deadline: September 1 with “Completed” status.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all application and supporting documents are submitted directly to CASPA by the deadline. Application materials sent directly to the program will not be accepted.
- Applications will not be considered if the application is not designated as “Complete” by CASPA prior to the deadline. Application, payments, transcripts, and at least two letters of reference must be received by 11:59 pm ET on the deadline date. To ensure items arrive on time, try to send all documents to CASPA several weeks before the deadline.
- The PA program conducts rolling admissions and it is possible that all interview slots may be filled prior to the application deadline. For this reason, it is recommended that applicants submit early in the application cycle.

Step 3: On-campus interviews

- Each completed and verified application is reviewed by the PA Program admission’s committee to evaluate a student’s qualifications for admission. Qualified applicants are invited to an on-campus interview which will assess knowledge of the PA profession, communication and interpersonal skills, and commitment to the mission of the PA program.

Step 4: Admission Decisions

- At the end of each interview session, applicants will be notified of admission decisions (accept, wait-list, denial) within 2 weeks of their on-campus interview.
- The PA program admits on a rolling basis.
- Preference for admission to the program is given to interviewed applicants that best demonstrate knowledge of the PA profession, strong communication and interpersonal skills, and a strong commitment to the mission of the PA program.

Step 5: Pay your deposit

- Accepted students will have 1-2 weeks (or less) to accept or decline the offer. Upon acceptance of an offer, a \$1000 non-refundable enrollment deposit must be made to hold the applicant’s spot in the class. The total deposit will be applied to the first semester tuition once the student matriculates.

<https://franklincollege.edu/academics/what-to-study/graduate-programs-at-franklin-college/master-of-science-in-physician-assistant-studies/admissions-and-policies/pay-your-mspas-deposit/>

Step 6: Prior to matriculation

- Obtain a physical exam and provide documented proof of program and college required immunizations. Program required immunizations are based on current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for health professionals (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/adult-medical->

condition.html#table-conditions). Proof of physical exam and immunizations should be submitted to the Student Health Center (<https://titanium.franklincollege.edu/health>) for verification.

- Submit to a criminal background check through the agency selected by the PA program as required by clinical training sites and state licensing boards. Students will be subject to drug screens as required by clinical training sites. Cost of all screenings are the responsibility of the student and paid directly to the agency providing the service.
- Provide documentation of current certification for American Heart Association, Red Cross, or other qualified program Basic Life Support (BLS) for Health Care Providers.

Admissions Requirements

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited United States institution prior to matriculation into the PA program. Official transcripts conferring degrees completed after submitting the application through CASPA must be sent directly to the PA program at Franklin College.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required. A minimum BC GPA (biology and chemistry) of 3.0 as calculated by CASPA is also required. No individual course grades below a "C" may be counted for a pre-requisite course. Admission to MSPAS programs is highly competitive and a much higher GPA than the minimum is normally required for admission.

Required Classes

All pre-requisite course work should be completed prior to September 1st in the year before the January program start. A student could still reasonably apply early in the cycle with "in-progress" pre-requisite course(s), allowing the program time to review the applicant's coursework. However, an applicant may only have a maximum of ONE outstanding pre-requisite course after September 1 to be considered for matriculation to the program.

Official transcripts for any courses completed after submitting the application through CASPA must be sent directly to the PA program at Franklin College and demonstrate a minimum of a "C" or better in the required course.

Furthermore, the final grade obtained in a course cannot diminish the minimum overall Science GPA required for entry into the program. If a candidate applies to the program and is accepted with outstanding coursework but fails to maintain the minimum GPA required, they forfeit their seat in the program, even if a deposit has been made.

Course/grade substitution may be requested, only after a complete CASPA application has been received by the program.

- Chemistry (3)
 - General Chemistry with labs (2 semesters)
 - Organic Chemistry with lab (1 semester)
- Biology (5)
 - General Biology with labs (2 semesters)
 - Human Anatomy & Physiology with labs (2 semesters)
 - Microbiology with lab (1 semester)

*Chemistry and biology course work should be completed within 7 years of matriculation. Biology and chemistry courses designed for science majors are preferred. Online labs are NOT accepted, but due to COVID-19 online labs taken in 2020 and 2021 will be considered. Applicants should not assume "consideration" as synonymous with guaranteed acceptance. Due to COVID-19, Satisfactory or Pass course outcomes may be considered in lieu of letter grades for courses taken from January 2020 until August 2021. However, candidates are reminded that this is a competitive program. Benefits may be found in retaking some course for a letter grade.

- Social Sciences (2)
 - General Psychology (1 semester)*
 - 1 additional behavioral/social science class (1 semester)*

- Statistics/Biostatistics (1)*
 - Any course (1 semester)*
- Composition or communications course (1 semester)*
- Medical terminology (1 semester)*

Recommended Classes

- Biochemistry
- Bioethics
- Cell Biology
- Genetics
- Immunology
- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology

*Semester attendance is for course duration. Two semesters should take an academic year to complete.

Patient Care Hours

A minimum of 200 documented patient care hours under the supervision of a licensed health care professional is required.

- Applicants should NOT include anticipated hours. Only record the hours that have been successfully accomplished by the time of application submission.
- Direct, hands-on patient care hours are intended to demonstrate the applicants experience working in a healthcare setting.
- Assessment of the quality of the patient care hours will be based upon the description of the applicant's duties performed, in terms of patient contact and interaction with other healthcare providers. Examples of direct patient care are not limited to nurse, certified nurse assistant (CNA), medical assistant, EMT, paramedic, emergency room technician, scribe, surgical technician, athletic trainer, physical therapy aide, etc.

Physician Assistant Shadowing

We encourage you to observe ("shadow") a PA who is actively working in the industry. We prefer PA shadowing in multiple specialties.

Note: shadowing hours are recorded in CASPA and should not count towards your patient care hours.

Letters of Recommendation

Applicants must provide a minimum of three letters of recommendation. One from a professor/instructor **and** one from a physician or other healthcare provider. Letters from high school teachers, coaches, and/or advisors who didn't have direct teaching experience with applicant will **NOT** be accepted as an appropriate substitute for a letter from a professor.

The third letter is of the applicant's choice. This letter should **NOT** be from a personal reference, and one should avoid using clinicians that the applicant shadowed as a reference. Personal reference letters will receive zero points during quality reviews, diminishing the likelihood of being offered an interview.

Special Consideration

The following admission and enrollment practices are followed.

- Franklin College students and graduates are at an advantage in the admission process. Any current Franklin College student or recent graduate (<5 years) that has met all the standards for admission AND has a CASPA calculated cumulative and BCP GPAs of 3.4 or above will be guaranteed to move onto the interview phase of the admissions process.
- Such an applicant is still required to apply to Franklin College through the CASPA portal, similar to all applicants.

- While an interview cannot be guaranteed, any Franklin College graduate that does not meet the above GPA requirement may still apply through CASPA and be considered for admission to the PA program.
- University of Indianapolis students are at an advantage in the admission process. Upon completion of their third year at the University of Indianapolis, students who have a CASPA calculated biology and chemistry (BC) GPA of 3.4 or above, have met all the up-to-date admission standards published on the Franklin College website and have completed an application through CASPA by September 1st will be guaranteed an interview.
- Applicants must have all prerequisite courses completed, in progress, or planned to be completed prior to January for matriculation of their agreed cohort.
- Courses in progress or outstanding must be documented on the Outstanding Courses Form.
- The program gives preference to applicants with higher cumulative and BCP GPAs, higher Junior/Senior/Grad GPA, more direct patient care hours, a higher quality of patient care hours, higher shadowing hours (and higher number of different specialties shadowed), higher quality personal statements, stronger professional references, and stronger mission outreach.
- Applicants who meet any of the following criteria will receive additional consideration in the admissions process for each criterion met. **Students must declare their CASPA application, under the Franklin College section, that they wish to be considered.**
- The applicant is a graduate of Franklin College.
- Applicant is from a medically underserved area in Indiana as designated by the [Indiana State Department of Health](#).
- The applicant is themselves a current or former member of the US military.

Early Admission for Franklin College Undergraduate Students

Franklin College undergraduate students may apply as early as their junior year to be considered for early admission. Candidates must have all prerequisite courses completed, in progress, or planned to be completed prior to January matriculation of their agreed upon cohort. Courses in progress or outstanding courses must be documented on the Outstanding Courses Form to be considered.

The Franklin College undergraduate students must apply through CASPA. Juniors and seniors with a cumulative and BCP GPA of 3.4 or above will be guaranteed to move onto the interview phase of the admissions process. Students with a cumulative and BC GPA less than 3.4 will be evaluated for attributes outlined on the Admission Requirement website page before a decision is made regarding an invitation for an interview.

Program orientation

All graduate students will be required to attend a master's program orientation prior to the start of Winter (January) courses. A detailed description of orientation events will be included with students' acceptance letters.

Graduation Requirements

To successfully graduate from the PA Program, students must:

- (1) Complete the entire program within three and one-half (3.5) academic years; and
- (2) Successfully complete and pass all required courses, rotations, and program requirements with a grade of C or better and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.
- (3) Maintain professionalism.

Academic Requirements

Students must complete and pass all semester courses before they can progress to the next semester of the program. Successful completion of a course is defined as the ability to demonstrate competence in course content. Criteria for successful completion of each course are conveyed to the student via the course syllabus.

Each student within the PA Program must maintain a minimum 3.0 (4.0 scale) cumulative GPA and semester GPA to maintain good standing in the program. For the purposes of determining academic standing, January term and spring

term are counted as one spring semester (term) during both the didactic and clinical years. Student progress in the program will be discussed continually by the program faculty at regularly scheduled faculty meetings and at the conclusion of each semester. If a student's term OR cumulative GPA falls below the 3.0 (4.0 scale) minimum, he/she will be placed on academic probation. Students will have one semester to improve his/her term AND cumulative GPA to acceptable standards (minimum 3.0) or risk being dismissed from the MSPAS Program following an evaluation of student progress by the Program Director and the faculty and recommendation to the VPAA.

- A grade of "C" or higher is required for all required courses within the MSPAS program. If a student receives a "F" or below in a course required by the program, the course must be repeated and the student is placed on academic probation. The student will be removed from probation when he/she has successfully repeated the course with a "C" or higher. The MSPAS graduate students will be allowed a maximum of two (2) opportunities to successfully pass each course or rotation. They will be permitted to repeat a failed course or rotation only as part of a detailed remediation plan. Failure to pass a course or rotation on the second opportunity will result in academic dismissal from the program.
- All courses within the MSPAS program are sequential and are prerequisites for subsequent semester courses. MSPAS didactic courses are only offered once a year so any course that must be repeated will result in deceleration of the student from the current cohort. During the clinical year, repeated courses may result in a delay in graduation. The MSPAS program faculty and staff make every effort to provide support and access to appropriate assistance to help all students restore good academic standing. Yet, it remains the student's responsibility to see this support from the program.
- Students may also be dismissed due to professionalism violation(s).
- If a student is placed on probation a second time, either for low cumulative GPA or failure of a course, the student may be dismissed from the MSPAS Program and graduate studies. Concerns for a second probation will be a discussion with the academic committee, program director, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA).

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Didactic Year Curriculum

Winter Immersive (4-5 wks)

MSPA 500 Principles of PA Practice I	1
MSPA 505 Foundations of Clinical Anatomy	2
MSPA 510 Intro to Pathophysiology	2
MSPA 515 Intro to Clinical Pharmacology	1
MSPA 520 Applied Patient Care I	2
Total hours	8

Spring Semester (15 wks)

MSPA 501 Principles of PA Practice II	1
MSPA 521 Applied Patient Care II	2
MSPA 530 Intro to Evidence-Based Practice	1
MSPA 550 Systems Pharmacology I	2
MSPA 560 Clinical Hematology and Infectious disease	4
MSPA 561 Clinical HEENT	2.5
MSPA 562 Clinical Dermatology	1.5
MSPA 563 Clinical Pulmonology	4
Total hours	18

Summer Semester (12 wks)

MSPA 502 Principles of PA Practice III	1
MSPA 522 Applied Patient Care III	2
MSPA 551 Systems Pharmacology II	2
MSPA 570 Clinical Cardiology	5
MSPA 571 Clinical Nephrology and Urology	3
MSPA 572 Clinical Orthopedics and Rheumatology	4
Total hours	17

Fall Semester (16 wks)

MSPA 503 Principles of PA Practice IV	1
MSPA 523 Applied Patient Care IV	3
MSPA 552 Systems Pharmacology III	2
MSPA 580 Clinical Gastroenterology	3
MSPA 581 Clinical Endocrinology	2
MSPA 582 Clinical Behavioral Health and Neurology	4
MSPA 583 Clinical Gynecology and Obstetrics	3
MSPA 584 Clinical Pediatrics	3
MSPA 590 Research Methods	2
Total hours	23

Clinical Year Curriculum**Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall Terms**

MSPA 650 Surgery Clinical Course	4
MSPA 651 Internal Medicine Clinical Course	4
MSPA 652 Emergency Medicine Clinical Course	4
MSPA 653 Family Medicine Clinical Course	4
MSPA 654 Women's Health Clinical Course	4
MSPA 655 Pediatrics Clinical Course	4
MSPA 656 Behavioral Health Clinical Course	4
MSPA 657 Clinical Elective 1	4
MSPA 658 Clinical Elective 2	4

****The order of rotations will be unique for each student****

Capstone Requirements

MSPA 630 Bridge to Clinical Practice I	1	Spring
MSPA 631 Bridge to Clinical Practice II	1	Summer
MSPA 632 Bridge to Clinical Practice III	1	Fall
MSPA 633 Bridge to Clinical Practice IV	4	Winter
MSPA 665 Community Engagement	2	Winter

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Course Descriptions

MSPA 500 Principles of PA Practice I		1 credit hour
Winter		Prereq: Admission to MSPAS

This is the first in a series of four courses that will focus on the non-clinical aspects of PA practice. This course introduces PA students to the Physician Assistant profession and discusses topics such as: licensing, credentialing, patient safety, risk management, professional organizations pertinent to students, the impact of US health care delivery system, public health policy, and inter-professional healthcare teams. Students will develop communication skills and define professionalism as it applies to the health care field.

MSPA 501 Principles of PA Practice II		1 credit hour
Spring		Prereq: All winter term courses

This is the second in a series of four courses that will focus on the non-clinical aspects of PA practice. This course provides an overview of ethics and social issues in health care in a rapidly changing society. It teaches students to approach ethical dilemmas using theoretical frameworks and decision making processes. Instruction related to medical care and diversity prepares students to evaluate their own values and avoid stereotyping and assists students in becoming aware of differing health beliefs, values, and expectations of patients and other health care professionals. Includes a discussion of the Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession.

MSPA 502 Principles of PA Practice III		1 credit hour
Summer		Prereq: All spring term courses

This is the third in a series of four courses that will focus on the non-clinical aspects of PA practice. This course will continue to define the PA role in the healthcare system and apply knowledge learned in previous courses on ethics and social issues to case studies related to the body system being discussed in the clinical courses.

MSPA 503 Principles of PA Practice IV		1 credit hour
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

This is the final course in a series of four courses that will focus on the non-clinical aspects of PA practice. This course will continue to define the PA role in the healthcare system and apply knowledge learned in previous courses on inter-professional healthcare teams to scenario-based activities with students in other healthcare professions.

MSPA 505 Foundations of Clinical Anatomy		2 credit hours
Winter		Prereq: Admission to MSPAS

Prepares the student for clinical practice with an understanding of functional and applied anatomy stressing the normal landmarks and common clinical findings. Coordination and sequencing with Applied Patient Care I will occur to integrate clinical anatomy with physical examination skills. Additionally, this course contains an overview of neuroanatomy in preparation for learning the anatomy of each body system in the clinical medicine courses.

MSPA 510 Intro to Pathophysiology		2 credit hours
Winter		Prereq: Admission to MSPAS

This lecture based course introduces students to the pathophysiology and etiology of human disease states through genetic, molecular, physiological, and histological changes. The cell physiology portion of the course will present the physiological fundamentals and processes at the human cellular and tissue level which is needed as a foundation to understand pathophysiology. The genetics portion of the course will present the basic concepts and principles of genetics as a foundation to build upon the role of genetics in disease risk, development, and prevention which will be presented throughout the curriculum where clinically relevant.

MSPA 515 Intro to Clinical Pharmacology		1 credit hour
Winter		Prereq: Admission to MSPAS

Develops an understanding of the theoretical concepts surrounding pharmacology, such as drug classifications, the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs, adverse effects of drugs, the concepts surrounding pharmacotherapy, and the rationale for therapeutic use of prescription and nonprescription medications. The course will also explore the drug discovery and regulation process through integrating the Lilly "Making Medicine" module.

MSPA 520 Applied Patient Care I		2 credit hours
Winter		Prereq: Admission to MSPAS

In the first of a four course series, this course will prepare students by developing skills in physical exams and documentation. In this lecture and laboratory based course, students will learn and practice the physical exam techniques necessary for patient care. Lectures will focus on the components of a comprehensive physical exam and laboratory sessions will focus on developing and practicing, towards a defined level of proficiency, the skills needed to complete a head to toe physical exam. Patient-centered communication skills will be incorporated throughout the course series.

MSPA 521 Applied Patient Care II		2 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: All winter term courses

In the second of a four course series, this course continues to prepare students to begin patient care through developing skills in history taking, physical exams, and documentation of a full history and physical exams. During the term, students will complete a comprehensive head to toe screening exam. Advanced physical exam and special tests will be included based upon the body systems covered in the clinical medicine courses during the semester. The focus will be on developing a differential diagnosis using problem-based small group cases. Patient-centered communication skills will be incorporated throughout the course activities.

MSPA 522 Applied Patient Care III		2 credit hours
Summer		Prereq: All spring term courses

In the third of a four course series, this course continues to prepare students to begin patient care through developing skills in history taking, physical exams, appropriate diagnostic test ordering, and documentation during chief complaint focused visits. Advanced physical exam and special tests will be included based upon the body systems covered in the clinical medicine courses during the semester. The focus will be on refining the differential diagnosis using problem-based small group cases and standardized patients. Patient-centered communication skills will be incorporated throughout the course activities.

MSPA 523 Applied Patient Care IV		3 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

In the final of a four course series, this course finishes preparing students to begin patient care through developing skills in history taking, physical exams, appropriate diagnostic test ordering, and documentation during chief complaint focused visits. Advanced physical exam and special tests will be included based upon the body systems covered in the clinical medicine courses during the semester. The focus will be on refining the differential diagnosis using problem-based small group cases and standardized patients. Additionally, the clinical skills necessary for patient care will be covered including surgical prep, splinting/casting, suturing, and IV's. Patient-centered communication skills will be incorporated throughout the course activities.

MSPA 530 Intro to Evidence-based Practice		1 credit hour
Spring		Prereq: All winter term courses

Introduces students to evidence-based medicine and provides an in-depth review of research methods used in clinical medicine. Emphasis is placed on clinical questions typically encountered in PA practice and the tools available to answer them.

MSPA 550 Systems Pharmacology I		2 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: All winter term courses

In the first of a three course series, this course examines major classes of pharmacological agents, with special attention to mechanisms of therapeutic and adverse effects, including molecular, cellular, physiological, psychological, and pathological phenomena. The focus of this course is the immune system, infectious disease, hematology, integumentary system, HEENT system, and pulmonary system covered in the clinical medicine courses.

MSPA 551 Systems Pharmacology II		2 credit hours
Summer		Prereq: All spring term courses

In the second of a three course series, this course examines major classes of pharmacological agents, with special attention to mechanisms of therapeutic and adverse effects, including molecular, cellular, physiological, psychological, and pathological phenomena. The focus of this course is the cardiovascular system, renal system, genitourinary system and musculoskeletal system covered in the clinical medicine courses.

MSPA 552 Systems Pharmacology III		2 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

In the final of a three course series, this course examines major classes of pharmacological agents, with special attention to mechanisms of therapeutic and adverse effects, including molecular, cellular, physiological, psychological, and pathological phenomena. The focus of this course is the gastrointestinal system, endocrine system, nervous system, behavioral and mental health, gynecological, obstetrics, and pediatrics covered in the clinical medicine courses.

MSPA 560 Clinical Hematology and Infectious Disease		4 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: All winter term courses

Systems-based course addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the hematology and infectious disease across the lifespan. This course will include modules on the structure of the immune system and a review of the microbiology of organisms. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests as related to the disease states presented will be included.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care II course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 561 Clinical HEENT		2.5 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: All winter term courses

Systems-based course addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the HEENT system across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests as related to the disease states presented will be included.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care II course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 562 Clinical Dermatology		1.5 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: All winter term courses

Systems-based course addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the integumentary system across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests as related to the disease states presented will be included.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care II course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 563 Clinical Pulmonology		4 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: All winter term courses

Systems-based course addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the pulmonary system across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests including chest x-ray and chest CT as related to the disease states presented will be included.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care II course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 570 Clinical Cardiology		5 credit hours
Summer		Prereq: All spring term courses

Systems-based course addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the cardiovascular system across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests including ECG, cardiac markers, radiographic imaging, and stress testing will be covered.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care III course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 571 Clinical Nephrology and Urology		3 credit hours
Summer		Prereq: All spring term courses

Systems-based course addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the renal and urinary systems across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests including urinalysis, ultrasound, and CT scan as related to the disease states presented will be covered.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care III course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 572 Clinical Orthopedics and Rheumatology		4 credit hours
Summer		Prereq: All spring term courses

Systems-based course addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the orthopedics and rheumatic systems across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests including x-ray, MRI, joint fluid analysis, and laboratory markers as related to the disease states presented will be covered.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care III course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 580 Clinical Gastroenterology		3 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the gastroenterology across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests including abdominal x-ray, CT scan, endoscopy, colonoscopy, liver function tests, and other laboratory markers as related to the disease states presented will be covered.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care IV course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 581: Clinical Endocrinology		2 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the endocrine system across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests as related to the disease states presented will be covered.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care IV course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 582 Clinical Behavioral Health and Neurology		4 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing involving the behavioral medicine and neurology systems across the lifespan. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests as related to the disease states presented will be covered.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care IV course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this organ system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 583 Clinical Gynecology and Obstetrics		3 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

Systems-based course addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and diagnostic testing in gynecology and obstetrics. Appropriate ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests as related to gynecology and prenatal screening will be covered.

In conjunction with the Applied Patient Care IV course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this system along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning sessions.

MSPA 584 Clinical Pediatrics		3 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

Systems-based course addressing development, clinical medicine, pathophysiology, and diagnostic testing in the pediatric population. The course builds upon the knowledge attained in previous clinical medicine courses and applies it to the recognition, evaluation, treatment and management, including referral of common clinical conditions and diseases seen in the pediatric population.

In conjunction with Applied Patient Care IV course, students will be provided the opportunity to apply their newly learned medical knowledge regarding conditions and disease states in this population along with evidence based medicine approaches and health promotion and disease prevention concepts to the ongoing development of their history taking and physical examination and critical thinking skills in case based learning dynamics.

MSPA 590 Research Methods		2 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: All summer term courses

Introduces students to research methods and application in the clinical setting. Covers basic concepts of epidemiology and statistics related to medical practice. Prepares students to complete capstone Community Engagement Project.

MSPA 630 Bridge to Clinical Practice I		1 credit hour each
Spring		Prereq: All didactic year courses

Provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their clinical experiences and to share best practices related to being a practicing physician assistant. Focuses on students' work in collaborative, inter-professional, patient-centered teams, and the development of problem solving and medical decision-making skills. Students will present evidence-based medicine cases in a grand rounds format.

MSPA 631 Bridge to Clinical Practice II		1 credit hour each
Summer		Prereq: All didactic year courses

Provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their clinical experiences and to share best practices related to being a practicing physician assistant. Focuses on students' work in collaborative, inter-professional, patient-centered teams, and the development of problem solving and medical decision-making skills. Students will present evidence-based medicine cases in a grand rounds format.

MSPA 632 Bridge to Clinical Practice III		1 credit hour each
Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

Provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their clinical experiences and to share best practices related to being a practicing physician assistant. Focuses on students' work in collaborative, inter-professional, patient-centered teams, and the development of problem solving and medical decision-making skills. Students will present evidence-based medicine cases in a grand rounds format.

MSPA 633 Bridge to Clinical Practice IV		4 credit hours
Winter		Prereq: All didactic year courses

This course assists students with the transition of becoming practicing physician assistants. This course provides students with information on how to prepare for their new career including obtaining certification, licensure, malpractice insurance, laws and regulations, and other essential items needed before beginning clinical practice. Students will also spend significant time preparing for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE). This course contains the following components of the summative evaluation, which assesses the Franklin College PA Program Outcomes (Competencies): 1. Written Comprehensive Exam 2. Standardized Patient OSCE 3. Technical Skills Stations

MSPA 650 Surgery Clinical Course		4 credit hours
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

This is a five-week required clinical rotation for a second-year PA student that focuses on the role of the physician assistant in surgery. The rotation is designed to provide students with supervised medical and clinical experiences enabling them to meet program expectations (outcomes) and acquire the competencies needed for entry-level clinical PA practice.

Under the supervision of a surgical clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain experience focusing on the care of the surgical patient and the role of the physician assistant in the surgical patient management team to include pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative care. In addition, students will work toward expanding their knowledge of surgical care as well as their surgical skills through active participation and engagement as part of the surgical team within the hospital and operating room settings. For the Surgery Clinical Course, the program-determined preceptor will be a physician who is or has been board-certified in general surgery or a surgical subspecialty, a NCCPA-certified PA who practices in surgery, or a certified nurse practitioner who practices in surgery.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge and clinical skills gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, clinical, and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning, and problem solving as applied to the evaluation and management of problems encountered in the surgical setting.

MSPA 651 Internal Medicine Clinical Course		4 credit hours
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

This is a five-week required clinical rotation for a second-year PA student that focuses on the role of the physician assistant in internal medicine. The rotation is designed to provide students with supervised medical and clinical experiences enabling them to meet program expectations (outcomes) and acquire the competencies needed for entry-level clinical PA practice.

Under the supervision of an internal medicine clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain experience in the diagnosis and treatment of adult and geriatric patients in the inpatient setting which will allow the student to focus on the management of more complex patients requiring hospitalization. For the Internal Medicine Clinical Course, the program-determined preceptor will be a physician who is or has been board-certified in internal medicine or an equivalent field, a NCCPA-certified PA who practices internal medicine, or a certified nurse practitioner who practices internal medicine.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge and clinical skills gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, clinical, and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning, and problem solving as applied to the evaluation and management of problems encountered in the inpatient setting.

MSPA 652 Emergency Medicine Clinical Course		4 credit hours
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

This is a five-week required clinical rotation for a second-year PA student that focuses on the role of the physician assistant in the emergency department setting. The rotation is designed to provide students with supervised medical and clinical experiences enabling them to meet program expectations (outcomes) and acquire the competencies needed for entry-level clinical PA practice.

Under the supervision of an emergency medicine clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain knowledge and experience in the rapid and methodical assessment, evaluation, stabilization, and treatment of acutely ill, traumatic, urgent, life-threatening, and/or emergent pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients and work as a member of the emergency department team. For the Emergency Medicine Clinical Course, the program-determined preceptor will be a physician who is or has been board-certified in emergency medicine or an equivalent field, a NCCPA-certified PA who practices emergency medicine, or a certified nurse practitioner who practices emergency medicine.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, clinical, and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning, and problem solving as applied to the evaluation and management of acute, urgent, and emergent problems encountered in emergency medicine.

MSPA 653: Family Medicine Clinical Course		4 credit hours
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

This is a five-week required clinical rotation for a second-year PA student that focuses on the role of the physician assistant in family medicine. The rotation is designed to provide students with supervised medical and clinical experiences enabling them to meet program expectations (outcomes) and acquire the competencies needed for entry-level clinical PA practice.

Under the supervision of a family medicine clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain experience in the evaluation, treatment, and management including referral of common diseases and conditions encountered in an outpatient family medicine setting emphasizing adolescent, adult, and geriatric patients. Students will perform history and physical exams, obtain/interpret diagnostic testing, and develop differential diagnosis and treatment plans. Students may perform clinical procedures at the discretion of the preceptor. For the Family Medicine Clinical Course, the program-determined preceptor will be a physician who is or has been board-certified in family medicine or an equivalent field, a NCCPA-certified PA who practices family medicine, or a certified nurse practitioner who practices family medicine.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, clinical, and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning, and problem solving.

MSPA 654: Women's Health Clinical Course		4 credit hours
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

This is a five-week required clinical rotation for a second-year PA student that focuses on the role of the physician assistant in women's health. The rotation is designed to provide students with supervised medical and clinical experiences enabling them to meet program expectations (outcomes) and acquire the competencies needed for entry-level clinical PA practice.

Under the supervision of a women's health clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain experience in the evaluation, treatment, and management of common diseases and conditions encountered in gynecology and obstetrics. Students will perform history and physical exams, obtain/interpret diagnostic testing and develop differential diagnosis and treatment plans. Students may perform clinical procedures at the discretion of the preceptor. For the Women's Health Clinical Course, the program-determined preceptor will be a physician who is or has been board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology or an equivalent field, a NCCPA-certified PA who practices women's health, or a certified nurse practitioner who practices women's health.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, clinical, and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning, and problem solving.

MSPA 655: Pediatrics Clinical Course		4 credit hours
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

This is a five-week required clinical rotation for a second-year PA student that focuses on the role of the physician assistant in pediatrics. The rotation is designed to provide students with supervised medical and clinical experiences enabling them to meet program expectations (outcomes) and acquire the competencies needed for entry-level clinical PA practice.

Under the supervision of a pediatrics clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain experience in the evaluation, treatment, and management including referral of common diseases and conditions encountered in an outpatient pediatric setting emphasizing infants, children, or adolescent patients. Students will perform history and physical exams, obtain/interpret diagnostic testing and develop differential diagnosis and treatment plans. Students may perform clinical procedures at the discretion of the preceptor. For the Pediatrics Clinical Course, the program-determined preceptor will be a physician who is or has been board-certified in pediatrics or an equivalent field, a NCCPA-certified PA who practices pediatrics, or a certified nurse practitioner who practices pediatrics.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, clinical, and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning, and problem solving.

MSPA 656: Behavioral Health Clinical Course		4 credit hours
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

This is a five-week required clinical rotation for a second-year PA student that focuses on the role of the physician assistant in behavioral health. The rotation is designed to provide students with supervised medical and clinical experiences enabling them to meet program expectations (outcomes) and acquire the competencies needed for entry-level clinical PA practice.

Under the supervision of a behavioral health clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain knowledge and experience toward the refinement of skills needed for the unique medical, physiological, behavioral, and psychosocial components and issues common to the practice of psychiatry, behavioral health, and mental health. Students will work to adapt the standard medical history, physical examination, diagnostics, and treatment plans to the psychiatric patient. For the Behavioral Health Clinical Course, the program-determined preceptor will be a physician who is or has been board-certified in psychiatry or an equivalent field, a NCCPA-certified PA who practices in psychiatry, a certified psychiatric nurse practitioner. Students may also complete a portion of their rotation with other licensed practitioners who specialize in behavioral health.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning, and problem solving.

MSPA 657 Elective Clinical Course		4 credit hours each
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

Each student is granted to opportunity to complete two five week elective rotations designed to facilitate the student's ability to evaluate health-related problems encountered in an area of medical interest. It can include the choice to obtain additional experience in one or two of the core rotation disciplines or other medical specialties.

Under the supervision of a clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain knowledge and experience in the evaluation, treatment, and management including referral of common diseases and conditions encountered in the chosen discipline or medical specialty. During one of the elective rotation blocks the student will have a rotation deliverable, which will be an inter-professionalism project.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning and problem solving.

MSPA 658 Elective Clinical Course		4 credit hours each
Spring, Summer, Fall		Prereq: All didactic year courses

Each student is granted to opportunity to complete two five week elective rotations designed to facilitate the student's ability to evaluate health-related problems encountered in an area of medical interest. It can include the choice to obtain additional experience in one or two of the core rotation disciplines or other medical specialties.

Under the supervision of a clinical preceptor designated by the PA program, the student will gain knowledge and experience in the evaluation, treatment, and management including referral of common diseases and conditions encountered in the chosen discipline or medical specialty. During one of the elective rotation blocks the student will have a rotation deliverable, which will be an inter-professionalism project.

The student will actively engage in applying medical knowledge gained during the didactic year and demonstrate continued development of interpersonal, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning and problem solving.

MSPA 665: Community Engagement		2 credit hours
Winter		Prereq: All didactic year courses

Students will select a health promotion/disease prevention topic of interest and design and create a methodology and curriculum for an educational presentation. Students will collect and analyze data and present results to faculty, staff, community partners, and fellow students.