

MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MEDICINE

Program Director: Dr. Jeremy M. Welsh

The mission of the School of PA Medicine is to educate physician assistants (PAs) to become compassionate health care providers with an emphasis on teamwork, communication, and patient-centered care. The dynamic interdisciplinary advanced curriculum will facilitate the highest standard of patient care while also creating leaders within medicine, local and global communities, and accelerate the advancement of the profession. The PA Medicine Program consists of a 27-month Master of Physician Assistant Medicine (MPAM) (101 credit hours).

The ARC-PA (Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. 1200 Findley Road, Suite 150, Johns Creek, GA 30097 or 770.476.1224) has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the University of Lynchburg Physician Assistant Program sponsored by the University of Lynchburg. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has no enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program’s ability to meet the ARC-PA **Standards** or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the **Standards** as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

Upon completion of the MPAM program, physician assistant students will:

1. demonstrate that medical knowledge includes the synthesis of pathophysiology, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, health promotion, and disease prevention;
2. demonstrate core knowledge about established and evolving biomedical and clinical sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care in their area of practice;
3. demonstrate an investigative and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations;
4. demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange with patients, patients’ families, physicians, professional associates, and other individuals within the health care system;
5. demonstrate that patient care includes patient- and setting-specific assessment, evaluation, and management;
6. demonstrate care that is effective, safe, high quality, and equitable;
7. exemplify professionalism as an expression of positive values and ideals as care is delivered;
8. prioritizing the interests of those being served above one’s own;
9. acknowledge their professional and personal limitations;
10. demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements;
11. engage in critical analysis of their own practice experience, the medical literature, and other information resources for the purposes of self- and practice-improvement;
12. assess, evaluate, and improve their patient care practices;
13. demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger system of health care to provide patient care that balances quality and cost, while maintaining the privacy of the individual patient;
14. actively engage within processes that will improve the health care system of which their practices are a part.

MPAM program prerequisites include the following:

- 500 hours of clinical hands-on experience
- Coursework as follows:
 - 4 semester hours of anatomy with a lab
 - 4 semester hours of physiology with a lab
 - These above two courses can be completed with Anatomy & Physiology I/II (with lab)
 - 8 semester hours of biology with a lab (A&P cannot be used to fulfill these hours)
 - 4 semester hours of introductory or general Chemistry with a lab
 - 4 semester hours of Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry with a lab
 - 4 semester hours of microbiology with a lab
 - 3-4 semester hours of introductory or developmental psychology
 - 3 semester hours of statistics
 - 3 semester hours of genetics
 - 3 semester hours of social sciences (e.g. ECON, SOCI, POLI)

The PA Medicine Program is a 27-month master's program (MPAM) consisting of 101 semester credits hours. During the first year (12 months) students will complete coursework in basic sciences, general studies, clinical medicine, history, and physical examination techniques, and surgical and technical clinical skills. Many of these courses have both a lecture and a laboratory component and will also have a focus on problem-based learning and simulation. The PA Medicine curriculum features a modular based format which will allow students to study multiple components of medicine within the same organ system. The curriculum mirrors a compressed version of medical training seen in both allopathic and osteopathic physician training programs. The students will also have early exposure to clinical medicine while serving in free clinics throughout the local and surrounding areas. During the second year (14 months), students are provided with opportunities to develop clinical skills and to expand their knowledge by starting with an intensive clinical procedures course and then participating in structured clinical experiences under the supervision of physician assistants, physicians or other licensed practitioners in a variety of specialties. In order to provide students with a broad range of clinical experience the program utilizes numerous hospitals, primary care centers, and free standing clinical settings. The students will also be given a rotation in a research clerkship to explore and gain experience in data collection working towards a publishable paper. The last phase is summative and will prepare the students for successful completion of the national board exam.

The Physician Assistant Medicine Program (MPAM) curriculum is an intensive and rigorous, progressive program of study, comprised of fundamental science and clinical medicine. Each annual class will enter and proceed through the curriculum as a cohort.

MPAM Curriculum			Hours
PA	600	Introduction to the Profession	1
PA	601	Medical Practice I	5
PA	602	Medical Practice II	5
PA	603	Medical Practice III	5
PA	604	Critical Thinking in Medicine I	2
PA	605	Critical Thinking in Medicine II	2
PA	606	Critical Thinking in Medicine III	2
PA	608	Human Anatomy I	4
PA	609	Human Anatomy II	4
PA	610	Social & Cultural Aspects of Healthcare	3
PA	611	Health Ethics	1
PA	612	Pathophysiology I	3
PA	613	Pathophysiology II	3
PA	614	Physical Diagnosis I	2
PA	615	Physical Diagnosis II	2
PA	616	Physical Diagnosis III	2
PA	617	Community Clinic I	1
PA	618	Community Clinic II	1
PA	627	Pharmacotherapeutics I	3
PA	628	Pharmacotherapeutics II	3
PA	629	Medical Microbiology	3
PA	634	Medical Informatics	3
PA	640	Advanced Clinical Procedures	5
PA	645	Primary Care Supervised Clinical Practice	3
PA	650	Emergency Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice	3
PA	655	Inpatient Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice	3
PA	660	General Surgery Supervised Clinical Practice	3
PA	665	Women's Health Supervised Clinical Practice	3
PA	670	Pediatric Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice	3
PA	675	Behavioral Health Supervised Clinical Practice	3
PA	680	Elective I Supervised Clinical Experience	1.5
PA	683	Elective, Supervised Clinical Experience	1.5
PA	685	Elective II Supervised Clinical Experience	1.5
PA	688	Elective, Supervised Clinical Experience	1.5
PA	690	Research Clerkship	3