

South College
2007-2008 Catalog Addendum

The Masters of Health Science Physician Assistant Program provides a competency-based graduate educational program with an ongoing commitment to academic excellence and patient-focused care. This comprehensive program is designed to be the starting pathway in the professional career for future health care providers. The program includes a 15-month didactic phase and a 12-month generalist clinical learning phase.

The program offers a comprehensive curriculum that begins with a didactic phase designed to provide a solid foundation in basic medical science. The didactic phase includes instruction in human gross anatomy, physiology, pathology, medical genetics, current and historical professional issues, health policy and management, pharmacology, clinical assessment, emergency medicine, behavioral medicine, clinical pediatrics, geriatrics, and women's health. This didactic phase includes a variety of learning strategies combining formal lectures, problem based learning, practical hands-on clinical laboratory classes, and clinical simulation assessment and procedure laboratory classes, objective structured clinical examinations with a continuous focus on competency-based clinical skills. Students also develop strong patient communication skills and advanced **clinical critical thinking problem solving skills**.

The clinical learning phase of the Masters of Health Science program in Physician Assistant Studies continues for twelve months following the didactic phase. Clinical learning rotations are divided into six week blocks ending with a Comprehensive Summative course prior to graduation. Seven core clinical learning rotations are required including: Primary Care/Geriatrics, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Women's Health, and Behavioral Medicine. The Clinical Learning phase involves clinical practice experience in a variety of in-patient and out-patient settings and specialties. A Capstone Project is required.

Mission and Goals

The mission of the Masters of Health Science Physician Assistant program is to educate highly qualified physician assistants, preparing them to become competent, compassionate, and comprehensive health care providers for clinical practice in rural and urban areas, focusing on underserved communities. Our vision is that graduates will be leaders in the health care community, continuously striving for excellence in their professional endeavors. Program goals are as follows:

1. The program seeks to prepare students to be successful health care providers empowering them to become competent, compassionate, and comprehensive health care providers for our region, state, and nation.
2. The program specifically identifies those students who have a strong interest and potential for a life long career as a Physician Assistant.
3. The program provides an ongoing focus on the importance of a lifelong path dedicated to continuous learning and self assessment.

4. The program promotes, at the graduate level, the importance of health maintenance, health education, and the prevention of disease.
5. The program provides comprehensive evidence based medical education that focuses on the future delivery of excellent health care.
6. The program strives for educational excellence as it prepares its physician assistant students with critical inquiry, humanistic communication skills, and understanding in the need for ongoing collaboration with the intra-disciplinary health care team while at the same time meeting the patient and family health care needs within an ever changing health care delivery system.

Programmatic Accreditation

The goals and objectives of the South College Masters of Health Science Physician Assistant program are guided by the criteria set forth in the **Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Physician Assistant** as established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

These guidelines state that the Physician Assistant is academically and clinically prepared to provide health care services with the direction and supervision of a licensed physician. The role of the Physician Assistant demands intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, appropriate interpersonal skills, and the capacity to react to emergencies in a calm and reasoned manner. An attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality in communicating with patients, and a commitment to the patient's welfare are essential attributes.

In September 2007, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. granted provisional accreditation status to the South College Masters of Health Science Physician Assistant program.

Provisional Accreditation is an accreditation status granted by the ARC-PA to a new program that has demonstrated its preparedness to initiate a program in accordance with the Accreditation *Standards* for Physician Assistant Education. Provisional accreditation is the only mechanism for new PA programs to become accredited by the ARC-PA. All new PA programs must seek provisional accreditation prior to admitting the first class of students.

All students completing study in an accredited program (provisional or continuing accreditation) are eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) administered by the NCCPA and for obtaining a state license. For more information on the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc., please visit their website (www.arc-pa.org).

Program Admission Requirements

Personal interviews with the core PA faculty are required for final admission and will be offered only to the most qualified individuals. In order to be considered for admission to the Masters of Health Science Physician Assistant program at South College, the following admission and prerequisite courses must be met:

1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree (Science, Nursing, Health Science recommended) from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States.
2. Applicants are encouraged to obtain patient care experience, sufficient to recognize the physical and psychological demands of dealing with patients and to appreciate the challenges and rewards of being a health care professional. Health care experiences should provide the applicant with a knowledge and/or orientation to the signs and symptoms of a variety of ill or injured patients. Health care experiences will be evaluated on an individual basis, with an emphasis on direct patient care.
3. Completion of all the pre-requisite coursework with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate coursework completed.
4. Completion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). The South College code is 1310. Applicants with prior advanced graduate degrees are exempt from taking the GRE exam. Submit three letters of recommendation; one must be from a health care professional such as a Physician (MD or DO), Physician Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner.
5. Current Basic Cardiac Life Support (BLS or BCLS) from the American Heart Association is required upon enrollment in the program.

Prerequisite Courses

1. Anatomy and Physiology I and II: Sequence with lab (8 semester hours or 12 quarter hours)
2. General Chemistry I and II with lab: Minimum of 8 semester hours or 12 quarter hours
3. Biology I and II with lab (Mammalian, Cell, or Human Biology): Sequence 8 semester hours or 12 quarter hours
4. English: Minimum of 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours
5. Statistics, Algebra, Calculus, Finite Math, or other equivalent Advanced Mathematics: Minimum of 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours
6. Humanities and/or Social Science: Minimum of 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours

Strongly suggested courses include: Genetics, microbiology, immunology, organic chemistry, biochemistry, and other advanced biology or chemistry courses.

Selection for the Physician Assistant program is very competitive. It is anticipated that the successful applicant will generally exceed the minimum criteria for consideration for admission. **All science prerequisites must have been completed within the last 10 years.** Applications are reviewed relative to undergraduate cumulative and pre-requisite course GPAs, health care experience, letters of reference, and GRE scores. Personal interviews with the core Physician Assistant faculty, practicing physicians, and physician assistants from the community will be required for final admission and will be offered only to the most qualified individuals.

Advanced Placement and Transfer of Credit

Applicants to the program should be aware that all courses within the professional didactic and clinical curriculum are required. The Masters of Health Science Physician Assistant program at South College will not grant advanced placement, credit for experiential learning or international medical experience, or transfer credits from another Physician Assistant program or medical school.

Technical Standards

The granting of a Masters of Health Science (MHS) degree and completion of the professional phase signifies that the student is prepared for employment as a Physician Assistant. In such a professional role, the physician assistant can provide medical services with the supervision of a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine in accordance with applicable laws of medical practice. The services must, for the safety and welfare of the patient, be of the same professional quality that would be rendered by the supervising physician. The Physician Assistant must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Candidates for the physician assistant profession must have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing. Candidate's diagnostic skills will also be lessened without the functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell, and taste. Additionally, they must have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain, and temperature) sufficient motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. They must be able to integrate all information received by whatever sense(s) employed, consistently, quickly, and accurately, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data. A candidate for the physician assistant profession must have abilities and skills of six varieties including observation, communication, motor, conceptual, integrative/quantitative, behavioral/social. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain of these areas, but such a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

General Abilities

The student is expected to possess functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, taste, and smell. All data received by the senses must be integrated, analyzed, and synthesized in a consistent and accurate manner. In addition, the

individual is expected to possess the ability to perceive pain, pressure, temperature, position, equilibrium, and movement.

Observational Ability

The student is expected to participate in and observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences including but not limited to physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, microbiological cultures, and microscopic study of organisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. The student is expected to observe the patient accurately at a distance and close at hand and accurately assess health/illness alteration. Inherent in this observation process is the use of the senses and sufficient motor capability to carry out the necessary assessment activities.

Communication Ability

The student is expected to be able to effectively communicate verbally and non-verbally and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and postures, and to perceive nonverbal communications. This requires the ability to read, write, and effectively utilize the English language. The student must be able to communicate effectively with patients and other professionals.

Motor Ability

The student is expected to be able to perform gross and fine motor movements required to perform a complete physical examination. The student is expected to have the psychomotor skills necessary to perform or assist with procedures, treatments, administration of medication, managing of equipment, and emergency intervention. The student is expected to be able to maintain consciousness, equilibrium, and stamina to perform satisfactorily in clinical experiences.

Other Motor Abilities

The student should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers. The student must be able to do laboratory tests and work with scientific and other instruments and machinery utilized in practice as a Physician Assistant.

Critical Thinking Ability

The student is expected to have the ability to develop and refine problem-solving skills. This includes the ability to measure, calculate, analyze, and synthesize objective as well as subjective data and make decisions that reflect consistent and thoughtful deliberation and clinical judgment. In addition, the student should be

able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Interpersonal Abilities

The student is expected to have the emotional stability required to exercise sound judgment and complete assessment and intervention activities. The student is expected to establish rapport and maintain sensitive, interpersonal relationships with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. The student is expected to have the flexibility to function effectively under stress. Concern for others, integrity, accountability, interest, and motivation are necessary personal qualities.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

A student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. The student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. The student must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of the uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admission and education process.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply to the program. However, it is the responsibility of the student to notify South College in writing (with medical documentation) and verbally (PA Program, South College 3904 Lonas Drive, Knoxville, TN 37909) if there is any reason why the abilities and/or expectations described cannot be met. Students will be presented with these technical standards when they are in the final stage of admission to the program. At that time they will review these standards with the program faculty and sign the form. Students who indicate verbally and in writing (with medical documentation) that they cannot meet one or more of these requirements will be reviewed by South College to determine what, if any, reasonable accommodations might be possible to facilitate successful completion of the degree requirements if they are admitted to the program.

Criminal Background Checks

Criminal background checks are becoming mandatory at medical institutions as a requirement for JCAHO. In order to ensure patient safety and security, South College will require students to go through a criminal background check prior to being admitted. Applicants should be aware that a prior criminal background might restrict the ability to obtain professional state licensure. Acceptance into a South College program does not imply or guarantee that a student will be able to obtain such licensure.

Student Work Policies

The South College PA program does not permit full-time employment while the student is in the didactic and/or clinical phase of the PA program. The Physician Assistant faculty believes that no student is capable of acquiring the level of knowledge that is needed to perform adequately as a physician assistant student if they engage in full-time employment while in the PA program.

Students are not to be employed while in their clinical learning rotations by preceptors or health care facilities. Students may not serve or perform as staff members of the program unless they are part of a specific federal, state, or South College work-study program. Work study students are not permitted to have access to confidential student records or student information and/or testing materials.

Students who have other valid professional licenses/titles such as Ph.D., Respiratory Therapist, Licensed Practical or Registered Nurse, or Laboratory Technician, may not function in those capacities nor utilize these titles in spoken or written communication while enrolled in the PA program. Students shall not misrepresent their status as students by identifying themselves as anything other than a Physician Assistant Student, nor shall they allow their patients to identify them as a graduate Physician Assistant or Physician.

Health Insurance

Students are responsible for purchasing and maintaining health insurance coverage. Verification of personal health insurance will be kept on file in the PA Program office and is required of all students. All clinical experiences require health and immunization information to be provided to clinical preceptors 4 weeks prior to a clinical rotation. Students should also have a copy of this form on their person the first day of the rotation.

Please note that students without health insurance can not be permitted to participate in patient contact activities both in the didactic and clinical phase, and therefore can not successfully complete the program.

Immunizations

Prior to entering the South College PA program, students must submit health provider proof of a health examination and updated information of immunization health certificate indicating TB testing results and HBV immunization series.

Specific related requirements include:

1. Provide proof of personal health insurance throughout the entire program;
2. Provide proof of current CPR and ACLS certification;
3. Provide proof of a satisfactory physical examination;
4. Provide proof of TB Tine Test (positive results will require the student to receive a chest x-ray and further evaluation);

5. Provide proof of Hepatitis B vaccine and positive Hep B Ab;
6. Provide proof of MMR vaccine or immunity; and,
7. Provide Varicella history or vaccination.

Prior to entering the clinical phase of the program, students must again update their immunization and health certificate and provide proof of the following:

1. Provide proof of current CPR certification;
2. Provide proof of updated annual TB PPD or tine test;
3. Provide proof of blood-borne pathogen orientation course; and
4. Provide proof of current personal health insurance, throughout the clinical year.

For more information about immunization of Health Care Workers go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>.

Estimated Program Costs*

1. Tuition (\$6,200 per quarter) x 9 quarters = \$ 55,800
2. Professional uniforms = \$ 150
3. Textbooks (didactic and clinical years) = \$ 2,300
4. Medical equipment = \$ 1,500**
5. PDA (Palm OS Combatible system) = \$ 350***
6. Laptop (PC Dell) = \$ 1,000
7. AAPA student membership (for 3 years) = \$ 75
8. TAPA student membership (for 3 years) = \$ 75
9. Medical library card = \$ 100
10. Clinical tracking expenses = \$ 90****
11. Housing costs for clinical year rotations = \$ 1,200*****
12. Housing costs for anatomy lab at ETSU = \$ 632
13. Health insurance to cover immunization, coverage for needle sticks and physical examinations = \$ 500*****

Totals Estimated Costs for entire Master of Science Program = \$ 63,772*

*These are estimated costs for the entire program. Tuition, fees, and costs are subject to change. Tuition for in-state and out-of state residents is the same.

**Medical Supply costs are dependent on personal selection of equipment; students will have the opportunity to purchase equipment during the orientation at South College.

*** The AAPA offers a group rate for the PDA; candidates should wait until they are in the program to purchase the PDA.

****The program uses the Typon system of tracking which offers the student a permanent record of procedures and patient encounters during the clinical year.

***** Housing costs are based on clinical sites that are over 50 miles from Knoxville.

*****Students are required to have their own health insurance prior to entering the program, many plans offer this service.

Academic Calendar

The PA program academic calendar may vary from the institutional calendar due to experiential requirements for the program. Information will be provided to PA students both in-person and via the institutional website.

Academic Standards, Grading, and Student Progress

The Academic and Clinical Committee on Students Progress will review each student's scholastic achievement record and clinical learning progress at the end of each quarter. The process for this committee includes review by the course instructor and/or course director, then review by the faculty advisor, then review by the director of academic services, and finally by the program director. The information is then presented to the committee by the directors of academic and clinical services. When conditions warrant an academic/clinical learning standards action, the core faculty and a representative from the office of Student Affairs will form the Academic and Clinical Committee on Students Progress and meet with the student in question. The ranges of academic deficiencies that will require committee action include warning, probation, remediation, and/or a student liable for dismissal from the program.

Categories of Academic/Clinical Learning Standing are:

1. **Good Standing:** Status of a student who has met course requirements in a satisfactory manner and has demonstrated good professional behavior.
2. **Warning:** Status of a student who has incurred a course failure subject to remediation and/or professional behavior issues.
3. **Probation:** Status of a student who has demonstrated a marginal level of performance and/or professional behavior issues to the degree that any additional course failures will make the student liable for dismissal according to South College academic policy.
4. **Dismissal:** Action, after review of the academic deficiency or other deficiencies such as professional behavior of a student by the program director, submitted to the South College Graduate Academic Committee and then approved by the Executive Vice President, whereby a student will be dismissed from the academic program of the college.

Probation

The South College Masters of Health Science, Physician Assistant program maintains a probation and dismissal policy in effect for all PA students. Students will be placed on Academic Probation if their cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0 on a 4.00 scale

during any quarter of the Masters of Health Science, Physician Assistant program or for professional behavioral deficiencies.

Remediation of Course Failures

A student on Academic Probation must first meet with his/her instructor or course director to define a plan for remediation, and then discuss this plan with the faculty advisor, present the final plan to the course director and the director of academic services, and if necessary present the plan to the Academic and Clinical Committee on Students Progress. The student, the instructor, the director of academic services, and the program director must sign remediation plans that are then presented by the student to the Committee. If the student fails to fulfill or achieve the outcomes described in his/her remediation plan, he/she is liable for dismissal from the PA program.

Dismissal

Students may be dismissed for reasons other than academic deficiency. Causes for non-academic dismissal may include violation of the Honor Code, South College rules, state or federal law, moral turpitude, unprofessional behavior, criminal activity, or other reasons as defined by the college. Students will be liable for dismissal when:

1. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 is not earned by the end of the didactic phase or at the end of the clinical learning year.
2. Grades lower than (70%) are earned in any course during the didactic and/or clinical learning year that causes a cumulative GPA of less than 3.0 at the end of the quarter.
3. A student fails to achieve the plans and outcomes listed in a remediation worksheet.
4. A student's professional conduct violates the performance standards set forth in the Physician Assistant program "Honor Code."
5. South College reserves the right to dismiss at any time a student who in its judgement is undesirable and whose continued enrollment is detrimental to himself/herself or his/her fellow students or whose presence is disruptive to the learning environment or the orderly operation of the college.

Grading

Course instructors, in concert with the course directors, determine the means by which the final grade will be computed, which may include exam scores, oral presentations, written assignments, laboratory exercises, practical examinations, class participation, and other means of evaluation. Except in the case of an error on the part of faculty or administration, no grade changes will be honored after the end of the course. All courses (including clinical learning rotations) will be graded with a letter grade from A-F. All courses will be assigned appropriate credit hours. One credit

hour is equal to approximately 10-12 hours of lecture, small group conference, and required practice session (laboratory session credit hours are determined separately).

Course directors also determine grade adjustments for the purpose of standardization with the A-F scale. Where objective testing is used, scores and grades will be correlated as follows:

| Letter Grade | Q.P. | Percentage Score Range |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| A | 4.00 | 100-90% |
| B | 3.00 | 89-80% |
| C | 2.00 | 79-70% |
| F | 0.00 | 69-0% |

Students enrolled in the Masters of Health Science, Physician Assistant program at South College must successfully complete all didactic courses in order to proceed to the clinical learning phase of the program. Progression from the didactic year to the clinical learning year requires a cumulative GPA of 3.0. In addition, in order to graduate and be awarded a Masters of Health Science students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0. Successful completion of the program is defined as having a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Attendance and Testing

The PA curriculum requires students to master a large amount of information and skills in a very short period of time. Excused absences must be obtained from the course instructor or course director, in person or by phone, not by e-mail. The PA program utilizes the following attendance and testing policies:

Attendance:

1. Attendance for all scheduled lectures, laboratory sessions and student meetings is mandatory for all didactic students.
2. Call Back Clinical Learning Days are mandatory for all clinical learning students.
3. Didactic courses and Call Back Clinical Learning Days may utilize an attendance and grade reduction policy that may result in a failing course grade (F) for unexcused absences. Course directors will outline and discuss their attendance and grade reduction policies in their course syllabus.

Testing:

1. Absence will typically be defined as being 15 or more minutes late for a scheduled class or laboratory session.
2. Instructors may offer "make up exams" in the event of an "Excused Absence" with the permission of the Director of Academic Services, within a reasonable period of time.

3. Make-up exams will not be given in the case of an “Unexcused Absence.”
4. Students who are late for a scheduled exam will not be allowed additional time to complete the exam and will not be allowed to enter the classroom and initiate the exam if another student has already completed the exam and left the room.

Course Syllabi and Objectives

For every course and clinical learning rotation, students will be provided with a complete syllabus, which includes specific, measurable, course goals and learning objectives, outlining the intended scope of the course. Course descriptions and course schedules will also be included. Students are expected to learn all information identified in the course goals and learning objectives, and should expect to be tested on such material.

Each instructor, in concert with the course director, reserves the right to alter the syllabus as time, teaching materials, new clinical and scientific information, or the necessity of a sequenced integrated PA curriculum dictate. Any altered materials will be made available to the student at lecture time. If there are questions regarding course goals, course objectives, learning objectives, or expected course outcomes the student is expected to direct their questions first to the course instructor, then the course director, and if needed to the Director of Academic Services.

Dress Code

The South College Physician Assistant program strives to prepare students to become assimilated into the professional medical and health science communities. Student’s general attire and general appearance should reflect an attitude for their future professional role and function. Student’s professional appearance and demeanor are a demonstration of self-respect, respect for their patients, and respect for their profession. From the outset, students will be viewed by the public as representatives of the Physician Assistant profession. Students may be asked to leave class because of inappropriate attire. They will not be permitted to return unless they are properly dressed.

The following standards of dress and appearance are to be observed by students at all times:

1. Students are expected to look professional and wear appropriate professional attire at all times. During the didactic year faculty may allow for casual dress in the classroom.
2. Jeans, hats, exercise clothing, sleeveless T-shirts or shirts with obscenities, mini skirts/mini shorts, crop tops, and bare feet are never permitted.
3. When students are in clinical laboratories, appropriate dress will be discussed by faculty.
4. Men should wear slacks and dress shirts. Women should wear dresses or skirts/slacks and blouses. Dress length should be appropriate for a dignified and professional appearance.

5. Shoes should be clean. Athletic shoes, open toed shoes (men and women) and/or sandals, shorts, mini-skirts, and denim jeans are not appropriate and should never be worn.
6. While present in any clinical setting or facility, students will be subject to rules and regulations established by that facility and South College concerning professional behavior.

Evaluation of Professional Conduct

In concert with the core competencies for the PA profession, the faculty of the Masters of Health Science, Physician Assistant program at South College has established standards for evaluating the professional and behavioral conduct of all students. This evaluation of professional conduct is in direct compliance with the core competency of professionalism that will be required of practicing PAs in their daily clinical life. At the end of every quarter, the core faculty will conduct a professional review of students.

Professional conduct evaluations will include the components of the Physician Assistant Program Honor Code and the following considerations:

1. Concern for the welfare of patients as evidenced by thoughtful and professional attitude in obtaining history and physical examinations; avoidance of foul language, offensive gestures, inappropriate remarks, or remarks with sexual overtones; treatment of patients with respect and dignity both in their presence and in discussions with peers; and manifestation of concern for the total patient.
2. Concern for the rights of others, behavior with professional and staff personnel, and with peer members of the PA class and health care team in a considerate manner and with a spirit of cooperation; acting with an egalitarian spirit towards all persons encountered in a classroom setting or a professional capacity regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or disability; and assuming an appropriate and equitable concern of duties among peers.
3. Responsibility to duty which involves effectively undertaking duties with alacrity and persevering until complete or notifying responsible persons of problems; punctual attendance of classes, rounds, conferences, and other clinical duties or offering appropriate explanation when unable to be present; notifying course directors and supervising MDs on academic health care teams of absence or inability to carry out duties; seeing patients regularly, and assuming responsibility for their care with appropriate supervision; identifying emergencies and responding appropriately; and ensuring that he/she can be located when on duty by faculty or staff personnel.
4. Trustworthiness that is being truthful and intellectually honest in communication with others; acceptance of responsibility for meeting multiple demands by establishing proper priorities and by completing work necessary for the optimal care of patients; discerning accurately when supervision or advice is needed before acting; and maintaining confidentiality of information concerning patients.
5. Professional demeanor which means a neat and clean appearance in attire that appears professional to the patient population; maintaining equilibrium under

pressures of fatigue, professional stress, or personal problems; and avoidance of the use or effects of alcohol or drugs while on duty or attending class.

The results of this review will be shared with and signed by each student; any student requiring additional counseling or professional development will meet with both his/her academic advisor, and the director of academic services. If a student receives an unsatisfactory evaluation regarding professional conduct, written notification to the student by the faculty is required together with written documentation of the events leading to the unsatisfactory evaluation. This notification also must be forwarded to the program director. If the documented event involves a serious offense, the student may be liable for dismissal from the Physician Assistant program regardless of previous academic record. If a student receives an unsatisfactory evaluation of professional conduct, or a violation of the Honor Code, the student may be issued a letter of warning or placed on professional probation, or depending on the violation, liable for dismissal from the program. This recommendation will be made to the Program Director of the Physician Assistant program, to the Graduate Appeals Committee, and then to the Executive Vice President.

Graduation Requirements

The following requirements must be met in order to qualify for graduation with the Masters of Health Science degree, and a certificate of completion from the South College Physician Assistant program. The Academic and Clinical Committee on Students Progress conducts evaluations of each student at the conclusion of each quarter, at the conclusion of the didactic phase, and the conclusion of the fifth quarter of the program, and prior to graduation. Successful candidates for graduation must:

1. Satisfactorily complete all the courses within the didactic phase of the PA program with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00.
2. Satisfactorily complete all the courses within the clinical learning phase of the PA program with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00.
3. Students must not have more than one grade below a "C" (70%) in any individual course or clinical learning rotation.
4. Students must have demonstrated appropriate professional and ethical behavior throughout the didactic and clinical phases of the program.
5. Satisfactorily complete the ACLS and BDLS courses.
6. Satisfactorily complete the didactic summative evaluation, comprehensive summative review, and capstone research project with a grade above a 70%.
7. Students must have settled all financial accounts with the Business and Financial Aid Office.*

*Each candidate for the Masters of Health Science degree must be free of indebtedness to the college. The graduate degree and the academic transcript or certification of completion will not be given until all financial obligations to South College have been met. Matriculation and attendance at the college are privileges granted to the student in consideration of performance of specified assignments and the maintenance of

established standards of personal and professional conduct. South College reserves the right, and the student by the act of matriculation, concedes to the college the right to require withdrawal at any time the college deems it necessary to safeguard the standards of scholarship, conduct, and compliance with regulations, or for such other reasons deemed appropriate by South College as set forth in this manual and/or the South College Catalog

Curriculum

Core Didactic Phase

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|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| <u>Term (I)</u> | Gross Anatomy (Lecture and Lab) | 7 quarter credits |
| | Human Physiology | 3 quarter credits |
| | Health Assessment and Physical Examination | 6 quarter credits |
| <u>Term (II)</u> | Medical Pathology/Genetics | 3 quarter credits |
| | Neuroanatomy | 1 quarter credit |
| | Pharmacotherapeutics I | 3 quarter credits |
| | Medical Nutrition | 2 quarter credits |
| | Epidemiology/Public Health | 3 quarter credits |
| | Clinical Assessment and Management I | 5 quarter credits |
| <u>Term (III)</u> | Behavioral Medicine | 3 quarter credits |
| | Pharmacotherapeutics II | 3 quarter credits |
| | Women's Health | 3 quarter credits |
| | Evidence Based Medicine | 1 quarter credit |
| | Clinical Assessment and Management II | 6 quarter credits |
| <u>Term (IV)</u> | Essentials of Radiology | 4 quarter credits |
| | Clinical Pediatrics | 3 quarter credits |
| | Clinical Laboratory Medicine | 2 quarter credits |
| | Introduction to PA History | 1 quarter credit |
| | Emergency Medicine | 4 quarter credits |
| | Clinical Assessment and Management III | 3 quarter credits |
| <u>Quarter (V)</u> | Professional Issues/Health Policy | 2 quarter credits |
| | Clinical Geriatrics | 2 quarter credits |
| | Health Care Law & Ethics | 1 quarter credit |
| | Fundamentals of Surgery | 6 quarter credits |
| | Research Design/Methodology | 1 quarter credit |
| | Didactic Summative Evaluation | 4 quarter credits |

Clinical Learning Phase

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | Internal Medicine | 9 quarter credits |
| | General Surgery | 9 quarter credits |
| | Family Medicine/Geriatrics | 9 quarter credits |

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|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Emergency Medicine | 9 quarter credits |
| Women's Health | 9 quarter credits |
| Pediatrics | 9 quarter credits |
| Behavioral Health | 9 quarter credits |
| Elective | 9 quarter credits |
| Capstone Research Project | 2 quarter credits |
| Comprehensive Summative Review | 4 quarter credits |

Course Descriptions

SCI 5100 Gross Anatomy (7 quarter credit hours)

This course provides a comprehensive study of human gross anatomy. A regional approach is used to study the structures and organ systems of the extremities and trunk. The clinical significance of topographical and radiological anatomical features is emphasized. Lectures are complemented by laboratory study of prosected cadavers, anatomic models, simulated and real dissection, and surface anatomy.

SCI 5120 Human Physiology (3 quarter credit hours)

This course will provide the students with a detailed overview of medical physiology. Students will attain knowledge of the normal functions of the human body that is essential for clinical medicine. Emphasis is placed on homeostasis and the integration among organ systems. Pathophysiology alterations in body function that occur with disease states are also discussed. Specific topics covered in the course include cellular structure, homeostasis, signal transduction mechanisms, neurophysiology and the nervous system, the cardiovascular system, and circulation and the respiratory systems.

PAS 5160 Health Assessment and Physical Examination (6 quarter credit hours)

This course is designed to provide physician assistant students with the fundamental grounding and cognitive knowledge to prepare them for their professional clinical role. This course will provide students with skills for interviewing, patient communication skills, and general physical examination procedures necessary to conduct age-appropriate and thorough medical interviews and comprehensive physical examinations on culturally diverse populations.

SCI 5200 Medical Pathology and Genetics (3 quarter credit hours)

This course provides the students with a basic knowledge of the genetic and molecular mechanisms of human disease and human genetics including cellular pathology, inflammation, diseases of immunity, neoplasia, infectious diseases, and aging. It will include both the cellular level as well as the clinical manifestations for each disease entity.

SCI 5210 Neuroanatomy (1 quarter credit hour)

This course consists of an in-depth study of neuroanatomy and physiology, neurological development, psychosocial aspects of neurological disability, and treatment principles. Discussions focus on common acute and chronic neurological disabilities and case

studies, as well as recent medical advances in the prevention and treatment of neurological problems.

PAS 5220 Pharmacotherapeutics I (3 quarter credit hours)

This is the first in a two-quarter course sequence designed to provide a solid foundation in pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and the physiology associated with drug action and interaction. Specific drug classes will be discussed, with attention given to individual drugs, their uses, side effects, similarities, and differences. Emphasis is placed on the most frequently prescribed agents for treatment of common diseases. Specific pharmacotherapeutic agents and/or disorders covered in this course include autonomic pharmacology, neurologic disorders, pain management, psychiatric disorders, gastrointestinal disorder, skin/bone/eye disorders, allergies, respiratory disorders, hematopoietic disorders, endocrine disorders (excluding diabetes), and reproductive issues.

These course materials/syllabi provide a topical outline of basic pharmacological classifications and updated supplementary information as part of each assignment. The course is designed to be completed primarily through independent study, supplemented by class discussions and periodic examinations. Core competencies covered in this course include: medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, patient care, and professionalism.

PAS 5230 Medical Nutrition (2 quarter credit hours)

This course introduces PA students to the basics of nutrition science as it relates to clinical medicine. Topics include nutrition assessment, focusing on dietary history taking, and physical exam skills needed for the management of health and disease. The basic principles of vitamins and minerals, their absorption, function, structure, deficiency, and toxicity will be included. Nutritional requirements in health, illness, and prevention, as well as age- and culture-appropriate nutritional issues, will be highlighted for children, pregnant and lactating women, and older adults.

PAS 5240 Epidemiology & Public Health (3 quarter credit hours)

This course provides students with an overview of the basic concepts of epidemiology, public health, and preventative medicine. Epidemiological concepts include distribution, prevalence, causation, mode of transmission, dissemination, control, and preventative countermeasures of infectious and non-communicable diseases, as well as environmental, occupational, behavioral, and chronic conditions. PA students will be introduced to research methodologies related to the study of disease and investigate epidemiological trends across a variety of cultures. Attention will be paid to professional responsibility, confidentiality, informed patient consent, and issues of patient welfare.

PAS 5260 Clinical Assessment and Management I (5 quarter credit hours)

This is the first course in a sequence of three courses designed to teach the essentials of medicine. PA students learn an organ-system and problem-oriented approach to understanding the etiology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, manifestations, laboratory

and diagnostic studies, and diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases encountered in general practice. They will continue to develop and refine culturally appropriate patient communication, medical history taking, and physical exam skills. Health care providers will discuss specific focused physical examinations of each organ system. For each disease or problem, related health promotion, disease prevention, and patient education topics will be presented. Competency with various medical instruments and procedures will be taught. The specific specialty areas and organ system covered include ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, endocrinology, dermatology, and infectious diseases.

PAS 5310 Behavioral Medicine (3 quarter credit hours)

This course provides students with an overview of behavioral medicine, broadly defined as an interdisciplinary field that aims to integrate biological, cultural, and psychosocial perspectives on human behavior. The integration of mental disorders and behavioral problems into primary care medicine will be addressed. Topics covered will include normal psychological development in pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients, detection and treatment of substance abuse, human sexuality, end of life issues, response to illness, injury, and stress, and principles of violence identification and prevention.

PAS 5320 Pharmacotherapeutics II (3 quarter credit hours)

This is the second in a two-quarter course sequence designed to provide a solid foundation in pharmacotherapeutics, pharmacodynamics, and the physiology associated with drug action and interaction. Specific drug classes will be discussed, with attention given to individual drugs and their uses, side effects, similarities, and differences. Specific pharmacotherapeutic agents and/or disorders covered in this course include antimicrobial agents, cancer chemotherapy, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and cardiovascular and renal drugs.

These course materials/syllabi provide a topical outline of basic pharmacological classifications and updated supplementary information as part of each assignment. The course is designed to be completed primarily through independent study, supplemented by class discussions and periodic examinations. Core competencies covered in this course include: medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, patient care, and professionalism.

PAS 5340 Women's Health (3 quarter credit hours)

This course provides an introduction to women's health issues, including the diagnosis, management, and treatment of common acute and chronic medical problems commonly encountered in reproductive health care and gynecology.

PAS 5350 Evidence Based Medicine (1 quarter credit hour)

This course will prepare the students to search, interpret, and evaluate the medical literature in order to maintain a critical, current, and operational knowledge of new medical findings and provide a basis for future evidence-based clinical work. Topics will include research methodologies, inquiry, reliability, validity, and statistics. The PA

students will study scientific writing, hypotheses, proposals, informed consent, and human volunteer and animal rights oversight committees.

PAS 5360 Clinical Assessment and Management II (6 quarter credit hours)

This is the second course in a sequence of three courses designed to teach the essentials of medicine. PA students learn an organ-system and problem-oriented approach to understanding the etiology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, manifestations, laboratory and diagnostic studies, and diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases encountered in general practice. They will continue to develop and refine culturally appropriate patient communication, medical history taking, and physical exam skills. For each disease or problem, related health promotion, disease prevention, and patient education specific topics are also presented. Other professional issues are considered, including competency with various medical instruments and procedures. Specific specialty areas and organ systems covered include pulmonology, cardiology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, and nephrology.

RAD 5410 Essentials of Radiology (4 quarter credit hours)

This case-based course provides students with a systematic method of interpreting common imaging studies seen in the primary care and emergency setting. Students will learn to appropriately select and correctly interpret imaging modalities including radiography, computerized tomography, ultrasonography, magnetic resonance imaging, and nuclear medicine imaging.

PAS 5420 Clinical Pediatrics (3 quarter credit hours)

This course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of pediatric medicine, covering the age span from neonate through adolescence. Topics covered include normal growth and development, preventive care and anticipatory guidance, common pediatric illnesses and disorders and their diagnosis and management, and less common but important disorders that are peculiar to the pediatric population.

PAS 5430 Clinical Laboratory Medicine (2 quarter credit hours)

This course introduces the students to clinical laboratory diagnostic tests. The basic theory, selection, and interpretation of procedures most commonly used in a primary care setting are studied. Students study techniques used to obtain, preserve, and handle laboratory specimens as well as use clinical laboratory results to screen, diagnose, evaluate, and monitor patients. Students are familiarized with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) and their implications for laboratory medicine.

PAS 5440 Emergency Medicine (4 quarter credit hours)

This course focuses on the specialty of emergency medicine including an understanding of pre-hospital care/emergency medicine system (EMS), and the interplay between 911 responders, the hospital emergency department, inpatient hospital services, and community medical providers in the primary care setting, as well as appropriate interaction with other medical providers in a variety of disciplines, including administrative. Emphasis is placed on the special skills and attitudes necessary and required to perform well in the emergency medical setting. Students take the Advanced

Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course as well as the Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) course.

PAS 5450 Physician Assistant History (1 quarter credit hour)

This course will present the history, development, trends, and current status of the Physician Assistant profession within the context of the system of health care in the USA. Issues addressed include the impact of socioeconomic issues affecting health care, and current professional practice issues such as reimbursement, quality assurance and risk management, and institutional credentialing. Students explore the physician-PA team relationship, political and legal issues that affect PA practice, PA professional organizations, PA program accreditation, PA certification and recertification, and global roles of PAs past and present.

PAS 5460 Clinical Assessment and Management III (3 quarter credit hours)

This is the third course in a sequence of three courses designed to teach the essentials of medicine. PA students learn an organ-system and problem-oriented approach to understanding the etiology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, manifestations, laboratory and diagnostic studies, and diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases encountered in general practice. They will continue to develop and refine culturally appropriate patient communication, medical history taking, and physical exam skills. For each disease or problem, related health promotion, disease prevention, and patient education specific topics are also presented. Other professional issues are considered, including competency in managing various general surgery conditions, competency with various medical instruments used in general surgery, and emergency medicine. Specific specialty areas and organ systems covered include urology, hematology, oncology, orthopedics, and neurology.

PAS 5510 Professional Issues and Health Policy (2 quarter credit hours)

This course provides a basis for the future physician assistant to use as a reference for professional issues including professional responsibility, the impact of socioeconomic issues affecting health care, health care delivery systems and health policy, reimbursement, documentation, coding, billing, quality assurance and risk management in medical practice, and cultural diversity issues and their impact on health care policy.

PAS 5520 Clinical Geriatrics (2 quarter credit hours)

This course is designed to provide the physician assistant students with an understanding of the medical problems of the elderly including the biological and psychological changes commonly associated with aging. The overall goal of this geriatric course is to provide all students with a foundation for competent, compassionate care of the older adult. This foundation includes attitudes, knowledge, and skills needed by those giving care to older people. In addition, this course focuses on developing an understanding of age-related disease, an increased incidence of undesirable drug interactions, multi-system organ failure, and limitations in mobility, communication, and other impairments. End of life issues and palliative care will be addressed.

PAS 5530 Fundamentals of Surgery (6 quarter credit hours)

This course is designed to provide the students with an introduction and an overview to the discipline of surgery. The management of acute surgical problems, critical illness, solid organ malignancies, and elective surgical procedures will be discussed, as well as the pre- and post-operative care of surgical patients. Laboratory sessions will teach technical skills such as sterile technique, basic suturing, universal precautions, and minor surgical procedures.

HSC 5540 Health Care Ethics and Law (1 quarter credit hour)

This course provides the future Physician Assistant a foundation to use as a reference to federal and state laws that impact PA practice. This course will review prescriptive authority, medical ethics, quality assurance and risk management in medical practice, as well as other legal issues of health care.

PAS 5550 Research Design and Methodology (1 quarter credit hour)

This course provides a foundation in medical research and design for health care providers. The students will review how to search, interpret, and evaluate the medical literature, then focus on a step-by-step approach to the development and implementation of medical research. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of research as they apply it to the practical, educational, and societal aspects of the Physician Assistant profession.

PAS 5560 Didactic Summative Evaluation (3 quarter credit hours)

This course provides a summative evaluation of the didactic year. It will focus on evaluating history taking and physical examination performance skills, as well as communication and clinical reasoning ability, the ability to summarize and document clinical encounter findings, and demonstration of psychomotor clinical and cognitive critical thinking skills. The summative evaluation will include a variety of assessment tools including multiple choice question examinations, the PACKRAT examination, comprehensive oral case presentations, standardized patient encounters, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), and clinical procedure performance skill laboratories. Students will be individually evaluated by core and adjunct faculty members.

PAS 5610 Internal Medicine (9 quarter credit hours)

This rotation will allow the student to demonstrate knowledge and core competencies of medical training pertaining to the pathophysiology, risks, indications, limitations, methodology, procedures and therapeutic strategies used in the practice of internal medicine. During this rotation the student is expected to recognize the signs and symptoms of a variety of medical illnesses and become familiar with treatment plans appropriate to internal medicine. This rotation will offer clinical experience in inpatient and/or outpatient facilities providing medical care for adult and geriatric patients. Testing and evaluation for this rotation will be based on the knowledge, skills, and abilities related to internal medicine.

PAS 5620 General Surgery (9 quarter credit hours)

This rotation will provide the PA student with the opportunity to learn surgical principles, surgical pathology, and relevant laboratory studies as seen in surgical settings, as well as indications, limitations, and methodology of surgical procedures and therapeutic strategies used in surgery today. During this rotation the student will recognize the signs and symptoms of a variety of surgical conditions and become familiar with treatment plans appropriate to surgery. This rotation will teach the student to respect and appreciate the contributions of other health care professionals in the overall delivery of health care and the importance of a team approach. This rotation will provide the student with access to patients in the inpatient setting, and may also include evaluating patients in the outpatient setting. Testing and evaluation for this rotation will be based on the knowledge, skills, and abilities related to general surgery.

PAS 5630 Family Medicine/Geriatrics (9 quarter credit hours)

This rotation will provide the PA student with the opportunity to learn how medicine is practiced in the office setting with a culturally diverse patient population of all ages. These populations have pathophysiology that is very challenging to practitioners and students alike. The students will be exposed to common presenting problems and at times a few esoteric ones. They will be aware of the indication, limitations, and methodology of primary care procedures and therapeutic strategies used in these settings. During this rotation the student is expected to recognize the signs and symptoms of a variety of medical illnesses and become familiar with treatment plans appropriate to family medicine and geriatric populations. This rotation will offer clinical experience in ambulatory practice and/or inpatient and long term care facilities focusing on the knowledge, skills and abilities related to providing medical care for the life span of patients.

PAS 5640 Emergency Medicine (9 quarter credit hours)

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

PAS 5650 Women's Health (9 quarter credit hours)

This rotation will provide the PA student with the opportunity to learn the basic and practical information in gynecology and women's health. Students will make use of the evidence-based paradigm tailoring it to the indications, limitations, and methodology as related to gynecology, and procedures and therapeutic strategies utilized in women's healthcare settings. During this rotation the student is expected to recognize the signs and symptoms of a variety of medical conditions and become familiar with treatment plans

appropriate to women's health, including gynecology and reproductive care. This rotation will offer clinical experience in inpatient and/or outpatient facilities providing medical care for female patients.

PAS 5660 Pediatrics (9 quarter credit hours)

This clinical rotation will provide the PA student with exposure to the care of the pediatric patient from neonates to late adolescents. The student is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the indications, limitations, and methodology of pediatric procedure and therapeutic strategies. An emphasis is given to developing a comprehensive database and a systematic evidence-based approach to common pediatric problems and those of adolescents. The student is expected to recognize signs and symptoms of a variety of pediatric disorders. In addition, the student will demonstrate the appropriate evaluation of normal child development, well-child care, current immunization updates and ongoing patient education and health promotion.

PAS 5670 Behavioral Aspects of Medicine (9 quarter credit hours)

The rotation will provide the student with an understanding of the variety of emotional and psychiatric states along with basic psychopathology and pharmacotherapeutics. In this rotation the students will augment and strengthen their deductive reasoning and clinical decision making skills by developing a systematic, evidence-based approach to common behavioral medicine problems. These problems are those most likely to be seen in primary and inpatient settings. This clinical learning rotation will enable the student to develop skills to make a mental health assessment. Emphasis will be placed on developing clinical and communication skills, further strengthening students ability to gain insight into the psychosocial aspects of comprehensive patient care.

PAS 5680 Elective Rotation (9 quarter credit hours)

The elective clinical rotation can be conducted in any of the current core clinical learning rotation areas mentioned above. Other elective rotations may be developed by the clinical coordinator or upon student request as approved by their faculty advisor and the Director of Clinical Services. The student will be responsible for developing an individualized clinical learning rotation syllabus in concert with their faculty advisor, clinical preceptor and the Director of Clinical Services. The clinical learning syllabus must include specific learning objectives and a method to demonstrate achievement of each of these objectives. These must be reviewed and signed off on by the clinical preceptor and approved by the Director of Clinical Services. The complete and signed syllabus must be submitted 4 weeks prior to the start of the rotation for approval.

PAS 5690 Summative Evaluation Course (4 quarter credit hours)

This course is intended to assure that students have met defined program objectives for the knowledge, skills, and attitudes suitable for clinical practice. It will include a multi-system approach to assess physical examination and history taking skills, communication skills and the ability to summarize and document findings, make a differential diagnosis and treatment plan. This course will include standardized patient encounters with problem based Objective Structured Clinical Examinations, a comprehensive oral case presentation to a faculty member, completion of a comprehensive multi-choice

examination, and completion of the PACKRAT examination. Students will be individually evaluated and advised throughout this course by faculty members.

PAS 5700 Capstone Research Project (2 quarter credit hours)

The Capstone Research Project requires the PA student to apply knowledge and skills acquired in the structured competency based PA curriculum to a specific research or practical clinical experience oriented project. The specific skills developed through this process include the ability to critically evaluation the relevant medical literature, comprehend the research process, and enhance the awareness of potential research questions related to general clinical practice. Each PA student is required to present his/her approved Capstone Research Project to a panel that includes at least two health science faculty members and an outside professional with expertise related to the project. PA students are expected to develop their Capstone Research Project in a format suitable for publication.

Core Faculty and Staff

Ken Harbert PhD, CHES, PA-C

Dean, School of Physician Assistant Studies

Rick Hillegas EdD (ABD), MPH, PA-C

Associate Director

Mindy Goldberg, MPH, PA-C

Director of Academic Services

Don Yager, DHSc, PA-C, MT (ASCP)

Director of Clinical Studies

Ed Michaud, PhD

Director of Genetic Sciences

Lorinda Sheeler, PhD

Faculty Member

John McElligott, MD, MPH

Senior Medical Director

Paul Jones, MD

Medical Director

Deenah Darom

Program Assistant/Data Manager

Additional Information

Additional program information is available via the South College website at <http://www.southcollegetn.edu/masters/physician-assistant>.