



PLAZA COLLEGE  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

***Informational Packet for  
Admissions Applicants***

**Physician Assistant Studies  
Master of Science**

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## **Physician Assistant Studies Master of Science Program**

The intent of this rigorous curriculum is to prepare students for professional practice as a licensed physician assistant. The curriculum is based on the fundamental knowledge necessary to practice across a variety of settings, with the overall goal of providing safe, high-quality patient care grounded in evidence-based medicine.

Plaza College's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) Program is a 24-month PA Program, with a 12-month didactic phase and 12-month clinical phase. This program is an intensive training program that integrates practical skills, simulation training, and didactic education in the pre-clinical phase, and 9 clinical rotations, each 5 weeks in length, with a variety of our clinical partners delivering a high level of care to a diverse patient population.

The Plaza College Physician Assistant Program graduate, given successful curriculum completion and demonstration of competency, will be qualified to take the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) to obtain national board certification and be eligible for licensure in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

### **Admissions**

The Physician Assistant Studies Program at Plaza College has a limited number of seats, accepting a maximum of 40 students per cohort, making acceptance extremely competitive. The faculty and administration are aware of how important gaining admission into this program is to each of its applicants. Therefore, the admissions team works to ensure each applicant is fully prepared for the application and admission process. Each application is reviewed with the intent to select those applicants with the best chance of successfully achieving the PA Program's goals and competencies.

### **Minimum Requirements and Suggestions for a More Competitive Application**

Admissions decisions are based on a holistic review of the applicant's previous academic performance, clinical and healthcare experiences, letters of recommendation, in-person interviews, and other portions of the CASPA application, such as the personal statement and answers to application questions.

To be considered for admission to the PA Program, applicants must complete a verified Centralized Application Service for Physical Assistants (CASPA) application prior to the application deadline. Applications and application materials updated or submitted after the deadline will not be considered. The application must demonstrate the applicant's compliance with all minimum requirements. The college has also outlined suggestions and preferences for making an applicant more competitive in the applicant pool.

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States, completed before the submission of the application.
  - All official transcripts must be submitted from all colleges attended.
  - *Canadian Transcripts*: Those issued in English are not considered foreign and do not need to be evaluated. French-Canadian transcripts must be evaluated.
  - *Caribbean Medical School Transcripts*: Must be evaluated regardless of the language in which they were issued.
  - CASPA lists the following transcript evaluation services in their Applicant Guide:
    - World Education Services, Inc. (WES); [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)
    - Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.; [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org)
    - Josef Silny & Associates, Inc.; [www.jsilny.com](http://www.jsilny.com)
    - International Education Research Foundation, Inc.; [www.ierf.org](http://www.ierf.org)
- Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (C) on a 4.0 scale, as calculated by CASPA.
  - **Suggestion: Overall GPA of 3.5 or better**
- Take and achieve a minimum score of 20 on the Wonderlic SLE exam (scheduled by the Plaza College Admissions Department after CASPA application submission).
- Pre-requisite courses completed within the last 10 years:
  - English Composition: 1 course, at least 3 credits
  - Math: 1 course, at least 3 credits
  - Statistics or Biostatistics: 1 course, at least 3 credits
  - Psychology: 1 course, at least 3 credits
  - Biology (with labs): 2 courses, at least 8 credits\*
  - Chemistry (with labs): 2 courses, at least 8 credits\*
    - LS189 & LS190/LS190a, all taken at Plaza College, will meet this requirement.
  - Microbiology: 1 course, at least 3 credits\*
  - Biochemistry: 1 course, at least 3 credits\*
  - Anatomy & Physiology I & II (2 courses, both with labs) OR individual Anatomy and Physiology courses totaling at least 8 credits\*
  - Medical Terminology: 1 course, at least 3 credits
  - Genetics: 1 course, at least 3 credits
  - **Suggestion: Additional courses in Organic Chemistry, Physics, and other advanced sciences**
- Cumulative science GPA of 3.0 (C) on a 4.0 scale (courses marked with \* above), as calculated by CASPA.
  - **Suggestion: Overall science GPA of 3.5 or better**
  - **Suggestion: All prerequisite courses (not just science) with a "C" grade or better**
- Two letters of recommendation:
  - One from a college-level academic instructor or professor speaking to the applicant's academic performance. Examples of an appropriate reference are an undergraduate or graduate professor, a research mentor, a post-doc professor, etc.
  - One from an MD/DO or PA speaking to the applicant's clinical acumen and/or professionalism. This is not a character reference and may not be written by a family friend, acquaintance, or anyone else who cannot speak directly from professional experience with the applicant regarding the applicant's professionalism in a clinical patient setting.
- 250 hours of direct patient care/contact experience.

- Applicants can obtain healthcare experience in a variety of ways. Plaza College does not differentiate between volunteer and paid experiences, nor does it value one more favorably than the other. While not a complete list, examples of healthcare experience may be working or volunteering as a:
  - Medical Assistant (clinical with direct patient care component)
  - Emergency Medical Technician
  - Paramedic
  - Medic or Medical Corpsman (Military)
  - Lab Assistant/Phlebotomist
  - Registered Nurse
  - LPN
  - Emergency Room Technician
  - Surgical Technologist
  - Certified Nursing Assistant
  - Patient Technician
  - Phlebotomy
  - ECG Technician
  - Ophthalmology Technician
  - Physical Therapy Aide/Assistant
  - Dental Hygienist
  - Scribing where vital signs, ECG, labs etc. are also done (actual patient contact/care, not solely administrative scribing)
  - Clinical Research Assistant with direct patient care (not just communication with patients)
- Applicants may contact Admissions to obtain an evaluation of applicable patient contact hours before application submission.
- ***Suggestion: Direct patient contact hours of greater than 1000 hours.***
- ***Suggestion: Physician Assistant in-person shadowing experience. Other shadowing experience (MD/DO, NP, RN, etc.) can and should be reported on the CASPA application.***
- Ability to meet all Physician Assistant Program Technical Standards, outlined on page 10.

In addition to the minimum and suggested requirements above, the college prefers applicants with:

- Higher overall and science GPAs.
- Transcripts documenting fewer withdrawals, incompletes, and/or grades of C or lower.
- Upper-level science courses with grades of B or better (not including prerequisites).
- Two or more science courses taken in a single semester.
- Students with diverse clinical experiences (i.e., 2 or more settings – EMS, hospital, etc.).
- Personal statement that is well-written and thoroughly answers question(s).
- Students who have completed prior undergraduate degree(s) at Plaza College.

If any additional clarifying information or material is required for an application, the applicant will be contacted directly with instructions for submitting the information. Once a CASPA application is submitted, it will be reviewed and evaluated based on the submission; any updates

and additional materials submitted via CASPA and not requested by Plaza College will *not* be considered.

### **Standardized Tests**

Standardized tests (GRE, PA-CAT, MCAT) are not required for admission to the MSPAS Program at Plaza College. Applicants may choose to report standardized test scores, but these scores are not factored into interview offers or admission decisions. All Plaza College applications must take the Wonderlic SLE, offered on campus at no cost to the student, and PA program applicants must achieve a minimum of 20.

### **International Students**

The MSPAS Program does accept international students who meet all of the requirements of the program. In addition to the transcript evaluation requirements as per CASPA, all international applicants will need to provide proof of English proficiency:

- A minimum TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 575 (233 computer-based; 80 internet-based) is generally required for admission for all international applicants, including those from English-speaking countries or non-U.S. education.
- Waivers of this requirement will be considered on an individual basis. TOEFL scores are valid for two years.
- TOEFL scores must be reported to CASPA as per the CASPA instructions and prior to the e-submission of the application to Plaza College.

### **Admissions Interviews**

Submitted applications are reviewed for completeness and compliance with minimum requirements by CASPA. All applications that meet these requirements are then reviewed by Plaza College, and the most qualified and competitive applicants are offered an in-person interview. Interviews are not guaranteed for all applicants, but are required for admission into the program.

### **Transfer Students and Advanced Standing**

The MSPAS Program does not award or grant advanced standing under any circumstances. All courses in the curriculum must be completed within the program.

The MSPAS Program does not accept transfer students from other PA programs. All courses in the curriculum must be completed at Plaza College, even if successfully completed with passing grades at the previous institution.

### **Admissions Decisions**

Each application cycle has a defined application period and an application deadline for the new class of entering Physician Assistant students (“cohorts”). Applications must be submitted

through CASPA. Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted. If any additional clarifying information or material is required for an application, the applicant will be contacted directly with instructions for submitting the information. Once a CASPA application is submitted, it will be reviewed and evaluated based on the submission; any updates and additional materials submitted via CASPA and *not* requested by Plaza College will *not* be considered.

Applications are reviewed as they are received. The application goes through an initial screening to ensure that all the PA Program requirements are met. Those that pass this screening are then evaluated by a PA Program faculty member, and scored based on the components of the CASPA application, including *the suggestions for a competitive application and Plaza College Preferences*, as per above.

Applicants who meet the minimum score on the faculty evaluation are then invited to an in-person interview on campus, which will occur approximately once monthly, starting in June and concluding in December. Once the interviews for a given session are concluded, the Admissions Committee meets and evaluates each applicant who interviewed in a holistic way, considering their application, faculty evaluation and interview findings, to make a decision regarding applicant status.

Following within approximately 4 weeks of the interview, a follow up communication will be sent to those that interviewed, with the outcome of the committee's decisions, resulting in an acceptance letter, decline letter, or offer to be placed on a waitlist of applicants, and instructions for follow up if necessary.

Applicants who receive letters of acceptance must successfully complete a number of additional steps by the defined cohort deadline in order to successfully start in the program, which include, but are not limited to:

- **Submit Non-Refundable Deposit:** Upon being offered a seat in the cohort, candidates must confirm their place in the cohort by submitting a \$500.00 non-refundable deposit before the specified due date. PA Program is offered to the applicant. *In the event that Provisional Accreditation is not granted to Plaza College by the ARC-PA, delaying the matriculation of the cohort scheduled to start in September of 2027, deposits will be fully refunded at the candidate's request.*
- **Submit the following required forms, completed and signed:**
  - Attestation of Acknowledgement, Compliance, and Agreement with Plaza College Requirements and Policies
  - Student Technical Standards: Compliance and Attestation of Acknowledgement, Compliance, and Agreement with Technical Standards
  - Certification of Medical Examination and Medication Disclosure – Applicants must provide evidence of current medical examination within six (6) months of matriculation via the **Certification of Medical Examination form** provided. The student must have all immunizations up to date as directed by the program director, along with disclosing any debilitating diseases or conditions that may affect the

educational experience of the student while participating in the Plaza College Physician Assistant Studies Program, or affect their professional life upon graduation.

- **MMR:** Submit one of the following requirements: a) Vaccination series: two vaccinations at least 28 days apart OR; b) serological proof of immunity: positive (+) IgG titers for mumps/rubeola; measles and rubella
- **Varicella (Chicken Pox):** Submit one of the following requirements: a) vaccination series:
  - two vaccinations at least 28 days apart OR; b) serological proof of immunity: positive (+) IgG titers for varicella.
- **Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis (Tdap):** submit one of the following requirements: a) documentation of a Tdap booster within the past ten years OR; b) evidence of one dose of Tdap and a TD booster within the past ten years
- **TB Skin Test:** Students are required to submit proof of the absence of active Tuberculosis (TB).
  - Tuberculosis screening with either initial 2-step tuberculin skin test and annual testing OR yearly Quantiferon gold blood test. If positive, clinical follow up has been documented and clearance established by personal physician or health department
  - Students with newly converted positive PPD's, regardless of BCG status, must have a follow-up chest x- ray and submit the radiology report. Students must be on documented prophylaxis drug treatment, as required by the Department of Health, in order to attend clinical. Repeat chest x-ray for positive PPD is required every 5 years.
- **Hepatitis B:** Submit one of the following requirements: a) documentation of Immunization: a series of three vaccines over six months followed by a post-series surface antibody titer at least 4-8 weeks after the last vaccine is given; or b) Hepatitis B Declination Waiver: Although not recommended, students may have the option to decline Hepatitis B.
- **COVID-19:** Students are required to submit proof of immunization. **There are no exemptions.**
- Further, the student must disclose any and all medications that are taken at the time of application, and if any current prescription medications indicate change or if there are any additions/subtractions they are mandated to alert the admissions committee immediately.
- **Clear Background Check** – Applicants must pass a background check. The applicant should note that a history of criminal convictions may prevent the student from attending or completing the clinical and experiential requirements of the program or may prevent his or her credentialing in the profession. If there are any questions regarding the results of the criminal background check, the applicant must make an appointment with the program director to discuss the consequences of the results. A background check is required before the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the program, a 2<sup>nd</sup> time prior to the start of the clinical year, and throughout the clinical year as required by SCPE clinical rotation sites
- **Negative Urine Toxicology Screening** – Applicants must pass an alcohol and drug



screening test before the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the program, a 2<sup>nd</sup> time prior to the start of the clinical year, and throughout the clinical year as required by SCPE clinical rotation sites. Inconclusive test results (such as dilute sample and/or an insufficient sample) will require the applicant to be retested at the applicant's expense.

- **N-95 Fit-Testing:** All students will need to successfully complete N-95 mask fit-testing prior to being allowed to start clinical rotations. Please note that this may require the shaving of facial hair for proper fit of the mask.
- **Financial Counseling** – Applicants must meet with the Financial Aid Department to complete financial counseling. Each student's financial situation is unique and the financial aid they qualify for is different. Plaza College participates in a number of financial assistance options to help you fund your education, including state and federal grants, federal loans, non-federal alternative loans, and payment plans.
- **Orientation Exercises** – The physician assistant program has a number of **mandatory** activities that will happen during the week before and after classes begin. These include, but are not limited to: (i) orientation, and (ii) course assignments. Student participation in these activities is **mandatory**.
  - In addition, as consistent attendance is expected during the entirety of the program, *any absence during the first two weeks of class may result in the rescinding of the student's acceptance into the program.*

## **Technical Standards for Physician Assistant Students**

The Plaza College Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program is committed to the admission and matriculation of candidates who possess the necessary capabilities and skills to meet the demands of physician assistant education, as well as those needed to practice medicine in a broad variety of clinical situations to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Candidates must also possess the stamina, both physical and emotional, to function competently in educational and practice settings that potentially involve stressful situations and physically demanding workloads. These standards reflect what has been determined as reasonable expectations for physician assistant (PA) students and graduate PAs in performing common and important functions, keeping in mind the safety and welfare of patients. All candidate and students must meet, in order to matriculate, and must continuously meet throughout their time as a PA student, the following technical standards in order to successfully complete the program; any change in the ability of an applicant or student to meet these standards will be evaluated and if it is determined that a candidate or a student does not meet any of the standards may be denied matriculation or dismissed from the program.

All applicants and physician assistant students must possess the following abilities and skills:

**1. Observation– A candidate must possess:**

- Vision, hearing, and touch, or the functional equivalent.
- The ability to perceive pain, pressure, temperature, position, vibration, equilibrium, and movement
- The ability to observe demonstrations, exercises, and patients accurately at a distance and close at hand
- The ability to note verbal and non-verbal signals

**2. Communication – A candidate must be able to:**

- Communicate effectively in a professional manner with patients, families, caregivers, faculty and colleagues
- Elicit and transmit patient information in oral and written English to all members of the healthcare team
- Accurately describe changes in mood, activity and posture sufficiently to complete curricular requirements and provide clinical care for patients
- Write or type appropriate medical documents according to protocol in a thorough and timely manner
- Sharing and receiving patient information in written and oral English

**3. Motor Function – A candidate must be able to:**

- Perform the basic and advanced clinical procedures that are requirements of the PA program curriculum
- Execute motor movements required to provide and/or direct the provision of general care and emergency treatment of patients, including but not limited to obtaining vital signs, performing physician examinations and performing

diagnostic maneuvers

- Carry out treatment maneuvers, which may include lifting, transferring of patients and assisting during ambulation while assuring their own safety as well as the safety of the patient
- Coordinate the use of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and prolonged standing or sitting
- Elicit information from patients while conducting diagnostic and therapeutic procedures including but not limited to palpation, auscultation, percussion, and movement of limbs

**4. Critical Thinking Ability – A candidate must be able to:**

- Calculate, reason, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data in a consistent and accurate manner
- Independently access and interpret medical histories or files
- Identify significant findings from history, physical examinations, and laboratory data to provide a reasonable explanation for likely diagnoses, prescribed medications and therapy
- Recall and retain information in an efficient and timely manner and be able to ascertain the relationship between this retained information and its application in clinical practice
- Incorporate new information from peers, teachers, and the medical literature in formulating diagnoses and plans

**5. Behavioral and Social Skills – A candidate must be able to:**

- Demonstrate the maturity and emotional stability required for full use of their intellectual abilities
- Exercise good judgment and professionalism in both the educational and clinical settings
- Be honest, self-assess and reflect on one's own mistakes, respond constructively to feedback and assume responsibility for maintaining professional behavior
- Promptly complete responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients under potentially stressful circumstances, emergency situations, and extended hours
- Develop empathic, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, families, caregivers, faculty and colleagues
- Adapt to changing environments and to learn in the face of uncertainties inherent in the practice of medicine including managing unforeseen clinical challenges
- Respond to supervision appropriately and act within the scope of practice, when indicated

**6. Additional Requirements:**

- Candidates must meet the skills required for certification in American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
- Candidates must be able to perform a head-to-toe, comprehensive examination:
  - a. On a patient of any gender.

- b. Including genital-urinary and rectal examination.
  - c. Within the allotted time without accommodation.
- In-person participation and assessment are required; remote coursework or clinical instruction is not permitted.

## **ADA Compliance**

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended in 2008, defines a disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The college will not discriminate against such individuals who are otherwise qualified but will expect that minimum technical standards be met by all applicants and students as set forth herein.

More information about Plaza College's policies and procedures for students with disabilities can be found at <https://plazacollege.edu/about/consumer-information/>

## **Program Mission, Goals, and Competencies**

### **Program Mission**

The mission of the Plaza College Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program is to educate and develop highly competent, compassionate, culturally sensitive physician assistants who excel at the practice of medicine.

In alignment with Plaza College's mission the PA program is committed to the personal and professional advancement of our students through an inclusive, supportive, and dynamic learning experience that promotes the education, health, and success of the communities that our students and the institution support and serve.

### **Program Goals**

1. Admit qualified applicants who will successfully meet the criteria for progression and completion of the program.
2. Foster a culture that values professional and community engagement.
3. Deliver a curriculum that graduates entry-level, practice-ready PAs.
4. Graduate physician assistants who will help address the healthcare needs of New York City and adjacent communities (the 5 boroughs of NYC, Long Island, Westchester, the surrounding cities of New Jersey and Connecticut).

### **Program Graduate Competencies**

The Plaza College PA Program graduate competencies represent the student performance requirements for graduation from the Plaza College Physician Assistant (PA) Program. These competencies include medical knowledge and clinical reasoning, interpersonal skills, communication skills, clinical and technical skills, and professional behaviors.

These program-defined competencies were informed by the “Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession” as developed jointly by the National Commission on Accreditation of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), the Accreditation Review Commission for Education of the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), as well as the PAEA “Core Competencies for New Physician Graduates. These documents provide guidance regarding the expected knowledge, skills and abilities expected of a “practice-ready” PA program graduate.

### **1. Medical Knowledge for Practice**

Graduates of the Plaza College PA Program will be able to apply comprehensive knowledge of biomedical and clinical sciences to acute, chronic, urgent, and emergent patient-centered care across the lifespan of all patients.

#### ***Competency:***

- 1.1: Demonstrate critical thinking in making patient care decisions.
- 1.2: Discern among acute, chronic, urgent, and emergent disease states and conditions.
- 1.3: Apply principles of basic and clinical sciences to the care of patients.
- 1.4: Select, interpret, and apply diagnostic studies to inform clinical decision-making related to patient care.

### **2. Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

Graduates of the Plaza College PA Program, students will be able to demonstrate effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, patient-identified family or proxies, other health professionals and members of the interprofessional patient care team.

#### ***Competency:***

- 2.1: Utilize effective communication skills to provide information to and elicit information from patients and other members of the health care team.
- 2.2: Accurately and adequately document medical information in a concise, clear, and legally competent manner.

### **3. Clinical and Technical Skills**

Graduates of the Plaza College PA Program will be able to demonstrate the clinical reasoning and technical skills required to provide age-appropriate, patient-and setting-specific assessments and evaluations.

#### ***Competency:***

- 3.1: Elicit a detailed and accurate history and perform a comprehensive and problem-oriented appropriate physical examination on a patient.
- 3.2: Develop treatment and management plans for common medical problems, including written medical orders.
- 3.3: Perform routine medical procedures including but not limited to injections, immunizations, suturing, wound care, intravenous catheterization, phlebotomy, arterial blood gas sampling, urinary catheter insertion, splint and casting applications.

### **4. Professionalism Behaviors**

**4.1 Interprofessional Collaboration:** Graduates of the Plaza College PA Program will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage with an interprofessional team of other healthcare professionals in a manner that optimizes safe, effective, patient- and population-centered care.

***Competency:***

- 4.1.1: Recognize when consultations or referrals are needed and make them to the appropriate health care provider.
- 4.1.2: Communicate effectively with other professionals, striving to improve patient outcomes.

**4.2 Professionalism and Ethics:** Graduates of the Plaza College PA Program will be able to demonstrate integrity and a commitment to practicing medicine in ethically and legally appropriate manner, while emphasizing the professional maturity and accountability for delivering safe and high-quality patient- and population-centered care.

***Competency:***

- 4.2.1: Demonstrates self-reflection and commitment to ongoing learning and development, including being receptive to formative feedback.
- 4.2.2: Demonstrate professionalism and respect for the PA Profession and patients by wearing appropriate professional clothing including a clearly visible identifier or name tag, hand hygiene as appropriate, asking permission of patients before initiating an examination, preserving patient modesty, always maintaining a professional, polite tone and manner with patients, colleagues and co-workers, and demonstrating compassion for patients.

**4.3 Practice-Based Learning:** Graduates of the Plaza College PA Program will be able to demonstrate the ability to learn and implement quality improvement practices by engaging in critical analysis of one's own practice experience, the medical literature, and other information resources for the purposes of self-evaluation, lifelong learning, and practice improvement.

***Competency:***

- 4.3.1: Demonstrate self-awareness to identify strengths, address weaknesses, and recognize limits in knowledge and expertise.

**5. Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Ability**

Graduates of the Plaza College PA Program will be able to demonstrate the clinical reasoning and problem-solving ability required to provide patient care in an age-appropriate, setting specific manner, including conducting an assessment, the development of a differential diagnosis, and the design of an appropriate plan of care for all patients.

***Competency:***

- 5.1: Demonstrate the ability to apply clinical reasoning and problem-solving ability to develop appropriate and complete diagnostic evaluation plans.

5.2: Demonstrate the ability to gather and synthesize patient information to formulate a differential diagnosis.

## **6. Society and Population Health**

Graduates of the Plaza College PA Program will be able to recognize and understand the influences on the patient and their care including but not limited to the individual, their family, population, culture, environment, health policy and the effects therein on health, delivery of care and health outcomes, and integrate knowledge of these determinants of health into patient care decisions.

### ***Competency:***

- 6.1: Describe the impact of social and cultural influences on health, disease, healthcare-related behaviors, and compliance.
- 6.2 Describe the influence of genetic, socioeconomic, environmental, and other determinants on the health of the individual and community.

## Course Sequencing

	Course #	Course Title	Semester Credits
Semester 1 (Didactic)	PA501	Anatomy & Radiology	6
	PA502	Physiology	4
	PA503	Medical Interviewing	3
	PA504	Introduction to the PA Profession	3
	PA505	Epidemiology & Public Health	2
	PA506	Surgery 1: Introduction to Surgery & Skills	3
	PA507	Clinical Pathology	3
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<b>24</b>
Semester 2 (Didactic)	PA508	Essential Principles of Medicine 1	6
	PA509	Surgery 2: Surgery & Skills	3
	PA510	Physical Diagnosis 1	4
	PA511	Clinical Pharmacology	4
	PA512	Behavioral & Mental Health	3
	PA513	Research 1: Introduction to Research	2
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<b>22</b>
Semester 3 (Didactic)	PA514	Essential Principles of Medicine 2	6
	PA515	Surgery 3: Surgical Specialties & Skills	3
	PA516	Physical Diagnosis 2	4
	PA517	Emergency Medicine	3
	PA518	Geriatrics	2
	PA519	Pediatrics	2
	PA520	Women's Health	2
	PA521	Research 2	2
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<b>24</b>
Semester 4 (Clinical)*	PA5501	Internal Medicine SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5
	PA5502	Surgery SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5
	PA5503	Geriatrics SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<b>15</b>
Semester 5 (Clinical)*	PA5504	Behavioral & Mental Health SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5
	PA5505	Pediatrics SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5
	PA5506	Emergency Medicine SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<b>15</b>
Semester 6 (Clinical)*	PA5507	Women's Health SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5
	PA5508	Family Medicine SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5
	PA5509	Elective SCPE (Clinical Rotation)	5



<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Semester Credits</b>
PA5510	Orientation to Practice: Capstone & Competencies	2
PA5511	Research 3	2
<i>Subtotal</i>		<b>19</b>
<b><i>Total Program Requirements (Semester Credits)</i></b>		<b>119</b>

<p>*Clinical rotation courses may occur in any sequence</p>
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## **Course Descriptions**

### **PA501    Anatomy & Radiology**

6 credits

The Anatomy and Radiology course is designed to provide the physician assistant student with a comprehensive and clinically relevant foundation in human gross anatomy and the basics of radiographic imaging, in preparation for clinical practice. This course incorporates didactic lectures and virtual dissection laboratory sessions, with atlases and visual aids made available. The material will be presented in a regional approach, emphasizing relationships of structures, normal variants, and correlated to pathology and clinical applications. This course is intended to expand on prior undergraduate anatomy prerequisite coursework.

### **PA502    Physiology**

4 credits

The Physiology course is designed to provide the physician assistant student with a comprehensive overview of human physiology and normal physiologic function, the genetic and molecular mechanisms of health and disease as well as the etiology, pathogenesis and disease symptoms in an integrated morphological, biochemical, pathophysiological, molecular and functional perspective that will be emphasized from a clinical perspective. This course is intended to expand on prior undergraduate physiology prerequisite coursework, in preparation for PA508 and PA514, Essentials of Clinical Medicine I & II, where the pathophysiology of specific diseases and conditions will be discussed.

### **PA503    Medical Interviewing**

3 credits

The Medical Interviewing course is designed to introduce the physician assistant student to the skills necessary for successful medical interviewing and developing a professional relationship with the patient. The course will include instruction in interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families and other health professionals. Course materials and readings will explore the relationship and interaction between the PA and the patient. The student will learn and practice various techniques for eliciting an accurate medical history from patients across the lifespan (infant, children, adolescents, adults and the elderly) in a variety of clinical settings, with an introduction to and development of “Cultural Competency” with considerations of the techniques for providing care for all patients including those with disabilities, special health care needs, and those individuals of diverse ethnicities, races, religious beliefs, spirituality, sexual orientation and gender identities (social aspects of disease and health). Patient confidentiality will be stressed, and HIPAA training is required. Medical Terminology will also be introduced and reviewed during this course.

The application of the concepts and techniques in conducting a medical interview will be practiced in standardized patient encounters during the course, as well as required for further patient encounters in subsequent semester courses (PA510 Physical Diagnosis I and PA516 Physical Diagnosis II) and clinical rotations. This course is a prerequisite for PA510 Physical Diagnosis I.

### **PA504    Introduction to the PA Profession**

3 credits

The Introduction to the PA profession course is designed to introduce the physician assistant student to the history and the role of the physician assistant (PA) profession in the

U.S. healthcare system. The course will delve into the history, evolution and structure of medicine and the PA profession, including the PA relationship with the physician and other health care providers, laws and regulations regarding professional practice and conduct, licensure and certification, policy issues that affect practice, and professional organizations. Interprofessional collaboration, team-based care, and emerging trends in the profession, as well as specific considerations of practice will be explored. PA students will be introduced to the concepts of academic integrity, intellectual honesty, professionalism, and professional behaviors. This course will introduce the principles and practice of medical ethics, patient safety obligations, preventing medical errors, and the involvement of risk management and quality improvement. Provider impairment, burnout and stress management will also be discussed. Additional topics include health promotion, general disease prevention (more will be discussed in the focused individual disease states in PA508-Essential Principles of Medicine 1, PA514-Essential Principles of Medicine 2, PA519-Pediatrics, and PA520-Women's Health).

#### **PA505 Epidemiology & Public Health**

2 credits

The Epidemiology and Public Health course is designed to introduce the physician assistant student to the history and principles of public health and the public health system (public health practice), including healthcare disparities, the social determinants of health, patient advocacy and the maintenance of population health. The Epidemiology and Public Health course will introduce the basic principles of epidemiology and health-related research, including Disease surveillance and reporting, the application of the scientific method to the study of disease in populations. The epidemiological method for studying a problem involving description of the frequency and determinants of a disease in a defined population, evaluation of factors that may cause a disease, and experimental studies of the effects of modifying risk factors on the subsequent frequency of a disease and disease prevention as well as the development of public health intervention development. The basics of biostatistics and research will be discussed, including framing research questions, the interpretation and limitations of basic biostatistical methods, sampling methods for data collection, and the use of common databases to access medical literature. The limitations of medical research will also be discussed. After completion of the course, the student should be able to apply those fundamentals in evaluating medical research, including the assessment of the validity of data and a methodological critique of current research as it relates to the practice of medicine. This course will prepare students for PA513 Introduction to Research course.

#### **PA506 Surgery 1: Introduction to Surgery & Skills**

3 credits

The Introduction to Surgery and Skills course will introduce the physician assistant student to the basic concepts of surgical patient care, including pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative care considerations commonly encountered while working in surgery. Included in this course are the basic concepts of surgical patient care including but not limited to sterile technique, sterile fields, surgical instrumentation, fluids & electrolytes management, and radiology principles. A brief introduction to anesthesia is offered, which includes the use of general anesthesia and the potential need for intensive post-operative patient management. This course will include didactic discussions and lectures, demonstrations and skills labs to facilitate the PA student's ability to properly put on and

remove surgical gowns and sterile glove. Students will also be instructed and allotted supervised time to practice performing technical procedures including phlebotomy, venipuncture, intravenous fluid administration, and injections.

**PA507 Clinical Pathology**

3 credits

The Clinical Pathology course introduces the physician assistant student to the natural history, etiology, pathogenesis (gross and microscopic), genetic basis and clinical findings associated with commonly observed disease states. Instruction is presented mainly in lecture format with the use of visual aids. Emphasis is placed on commonly encountered disorders, and will include an introduction to pathophysiology in preparation for PA508 and PA514, Essentials of Clinical Medicine I & II, where the pathophysiology of specific diseases and conditions will be discussed.

**PA508 Essential Principles of Medicine 1**

6 credits

The Essential Principles of Medicine 1 course is the first in a series of two clinical medicine courses designed to prepare the physician assistant student for their clinical role. The pathophysiology of commonly encountered disease states and conditions in clinical practice will be discussed using a systems-based approach, and disorders are studied in a clinical context with the inclusion of Lab/ Diagnostic Medicine, genetics, microbiology, and pathophysiology. The disciplines of Dermatology, Pulmonology, Cardiology/Vascular, Gastroenterology, Otolaryngology, Infectious Diseases, Endocrinology will be introduced. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including lectures, self-directed learning and problem-based scenarios.

**PA509 Surgery 2: Surgery & Skills**

3 credits

Surgery 2: Surgery and Skills 2 course builds on the physician assistant student's knowledge of surgical principles first introduced in PA506: Introduction to Surgery and Skills 1. This course will highlight medical and surgical approaches to investigating commonly encountered diagnoses in general surgery. Students will develop a core knowledge base of commonly encountered general surgery conditions involving the gastrointestinal tract and vascular systems and the indications/contraindications of diagnostic testing and intervention. Recognition of common complications and their prevention will be emphasized. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including didactic discussions and lectures, self-directed learning, faculty-facilitated demonstrations, and problem-focused case-based scenarios. Students will also be instructed and allotted supervised time to practice performing technical procedures including wound care, wound closure, suturing, and arterial blood gas sampling. Students will also be allotted supervised time to practice performing technical procedures taught in the Surgery 1 course.

**PA510 Physical Diagnosis 1**

4 credits

The Physical Diagnosis 1 course is the first of two courses introducing the physician assistant student to patient assessment. The students will learn how to perform and document a medical interview and physical assessment for selected body systems with an emphasis on acquiring the physical diagnosis skills to perform a comprehensive history and physical examination. This course will be presented using an organ system approach that incorporates a combined lecture and laboratory format including didactic discussions, self-

directed learning, demonstrations, faculty-facilitated interactions between students and standardized patients to form the foundation for correlating pathologic findings with underlying diseases.

**PA511 Clinical Pharmacology**

4 credits

The Clinical Pharmacology course will introduce the physician assistant student to the pharmacological foundation for clinical practice. General and specific concepts of medical pharmacology including but not limited to drugs by class, mechanism of action, indications and contraindications, adverse reaction and drug interactions as well as Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics in the application to clinical therapeutics will be discussed. Concepts of medication ordering, prescription writing and the importance of patient education will be introduced.

**PA512 Behavioral & Mental Health**

3 credits

The Behavioral and Mental Health course introduces the physician assistant student to basic psychiatric and mental health conditions commonly observed in clinical practice. Students will learn how to conduct a psychiatric interview and classify disorders in accordance with the Diagnostic and Statistical manual (DSM). Discussion of interviewing techniques and counseling skills including methods of listening and communication, patient education, the psychosocial history, coping mechanisms, asking difficult questions, chemical dependency, substance abuse disorders, death and dying, and other chronic conditions will be discussed.

**PA513 Research 1: Introduction to Research**

2 credits

The Introduction to Research course will introduce the physician assistant student to research methodology including the application and interpretation of basic biostatistics methods, framing of research questions, types of sampling methods, and the limits of medical research. The importance of ethics in research, academic integrity, intellectual honesty and professional conduct will be discussed. Foundation skills to access common databases and the educated interpretation of that medical literature will be developed. This course incorporates didactic discussions, lectures and self-directed learning.

**PA514 Essential Principles of Medicine 2**

6 credits

The Essential Principles of Medicine 2 course builds on the physician assistant student's knowledge presented in PA508 Essentials Principle of Medicine 1, with an emphasis in developing independent critical reasoning skills to apply in their clinical role. Emphasis will be on diseases common in the patient care setting and the development of a differential diagnosis and management plan. Disciplines of Neurology, Oncology, Rheumatology, Hematology, Nephrology (including details of acid-base disorders), and Musculoskeletal Diseases will be introduced. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including lectures, self-directed learning and problem-based scenarios.

**PA515 Surgery 3: Surgical Specialties & Skills**

3 credits

Surgery 3: Surgical Specialties & Skills is the third course in a three-course sequence that broadens the physician assistant student's foundation of surgical knowledge. It will build on the student's proficiency of surgical concepts presented in PA506 Surgery 1 & PA509 Surgery 2 courses while expanding the surgical knowledge for didactic PA students with

correlations from prior surgical courses, including indications for surgical and surgical specialty consultation and care of patients across the lifespan. Students will develop an understanding of the indications for surgical care and intervention including common presentations of disease or injury requiring surgical referral and focused care including common bedside and surgical procedures as indicated. The disciplines of ENT, Cardiothoracic, Neurosurgery, Trauma, Plastics, Orthopedic, Transplant surgery, and Urologic patient care will be introduced. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including didactic discussions and lectures, self-directed learning, and demonstrations. Students will also be instructed and allotted supervised time to practice performing technical procedures including splinting, casting, foley catheter and nasogastric tube placements. Students will also be allotted supervised time to practice performing technical procedures presented in the Surgery 1 and Surgery 2 courses.

**PA516 Physical Diagnosis 2**

4 credits

The Physical Diagnosis 2 Course is the second in a two-course sequence that broadens the physician assistant student foundation in physical examination and build upon skills learned in PA510 Physical Diagnosis 1. This course will be presented using an organ system approach that incorporates a combined lecture and laboratory format including didactic discussions, self-directed learning, demonstrations, faculty-facilitated interactions between students and standardized patients to form the foundation for correlating pathologic findings with underlying diseases.

**PA517 Emergency Medicine**

3 credits

The Emergency Medicine course expands on concepts introduced in the Essentials of Medicine 1 and 2 courses (PA508 and PA514) and the Surgery 1, 2, and 3 courses (PA506, PA509, and PA515), with an emphasis on the urgent and emergent medical and surgical care of common presenting complaints seen in emergency medicine settings, their diagnosis and treatment are addressed with focus on recognition of and appropriate early intervention of the treatment of injuries, life-threatening illnesses, and emergencies across the lifespan. Introduction to the concept of telemedicine and its applications to be discussed. Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training are curricular components of this course and a requirement for successful completion of the course. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including didactic discussions and lectures, self-directed learning, simulation training, skills demonstrations, and faculty-facilitated skills practice.

**PA518 Geriatrics**

2 credits

The Geriatrics Course will introduce the physician assistant student to this specialized field of medicine focusing on the unique health needs and challenges for older adults. Emphasis will be on diagnosis, prevention and treatment of commonly encountered acute and chronic diseases as well as initiatives to improve overall well-being, quality of life and patient-centered care. Rehabilitation, palliative care and end-of life care will be introduced. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including didactic discussions, lectures, and self-directed learning.

**PA519 Pediatrics**

2 credits

The Pediatrics course will introduce the physician assistant student to this specified field of medicine focusing on the unique health and development needs of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. The course will focus on well-child care including immunizations, screening programs and nutrition, developmental disabilities, behavioral problems and modification, including basic counseling, developing coping mechanisms with the goals of adherence to treatment plans and the intent of the prevention of disease. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including didactic discussions, lectures, and self-directed learning.

**PA520 Women's Health**

2 credits

The Women's Health course will introduce the physician assistant student to this specialized field of medicine focusing on the unique health needs and challenges of women through the reproductive and post-menopausal years and provide the foundation needed for practicing women's health. Topics will include reproductive health, pregnancy and obstetrics (prenatal, perinatal and postnatal care), breast health, mental and sexual health and identification of disease states and their management unique to the female patient including screening, prevention and health promotion. Common gynecological procedures and labor and delivery to be discussed. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including didactic discussions, lectures, and self-directed learning.

**PA521 Research 2**

2 credits

The Research 2 course will build on the concepts presented in PA513 Research 1: The Introduction to Research course. The course will enhance the physician assistant student's understanding associated with specific research methods and enhance critical analysis and the student's ability to review clinical medical literature for application in patient care. Topics include enhancing the understanding of scientific methods, conducting literature reviews, designing research studies, and analyzing data. Students will learn to design, plan, and implement a research project, apply ethical research practices and synthesize information from various sources. Students will begin to develop a research study that will culminate in PA5511: Research 3. This course incorporates a variety of learning techniques including didactic discussions, lectures, and self-directed learning.

**PA5501 Internal Medicine SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with an opportunity to gain practical clinical experience in the inpatient internal medicine setting. The student will learn, understand, and practice the care of the adults and aging population with a supervising licensed provider focused on internal medicine. Topics including medical history review, physical examination, diagnostic testing, development of a differential and management are emphasized, as is the importance of functioning on a multidisciplinary team.

**PA5502 Surgery SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with practical clinical exposure to patients with commonly encountered surgical disorders. Students will work as a member of the surgical team and be involved in all aspects of surgical care to include appropriate evaluation, diagnosis, pre-operative, intra-operative and

post-operative assessment and management of surgical patients and follow-up. The student will learn, understand, and practice surgical care of patients with a supervising licensed provider focused in surgery.

**PA5503 Geriatrics SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with an opportunity to gain practical clinical experience, to learn, understand and practice the care specific to the geriatric and aging population. Students will work as a member of the patient care team and be involved in all aspects of care including appropriate evaluation, diagnosis, assessment, management and follow-up of the elderly patient. The student will learn, understand, and practice geriatric care of patients with a supervising licensed provider focused in geriatrics.

**PA5504 Behavioral & Mental Health SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with practical clinical experience in the care for patients with mental and/or behavioral health disorders. The student will actively function as an integral member of the psychiatric healthcare team, performing psychological interviews and evaluating acute and chronic psychological problems while under the direct supervision of the attending physician or PA.

**PA5505 Pediatrics SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with practical clinical experience in caring for pediatric patients in an outpatient setting. The student will actively function as an integral member of the healthcare team while under the direct supervision of the attending physician or PA. The student will have exposure to well child development and presentations of illnesses in this population.

**PA5506 Emergency Medicine SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with practical clinical experience in the triage, evaluation and care of patients in an emergency room setting. It is designed to augment, strengthen, and refine the student's knowledge and skills learned in the didactic phase. The student will learn, understand, and practice urgent and emergent care of patients across the lifespan with a supervising licensed provider focused in emergency medicine.

**PA5507 Women's Health SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with practical clinical experience in the inpatient, outpatient, and surgical settings to provide non-urgent, urgent, emergent, and surgical management of gynecologic and/or obstetric issues occurring throughout the lifespan. The student will learn, understand, and practice women's health care with a supervising licensed provider focused in women's health.

**PA5508 Family Medicine SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with practical clinical experience in an outpatient setting providing continuity of care, treating acute and chronic illnesses, including preventive medicine, treating acute and chronic



illness to all members of the family across the lifespan including infant, child, adolescent, adults and the elderly. The student will learn, understand, and practice family medicine with a supervising licensed provider focused in family medicine.

**PA5509 Elective SCPE (Clinical Rotation)\*\***

5 credits

The purpose of this clinical rotation is to provide the physician assistant student with practical exposure to patients in the clinical setting selected by the student (based on existing and available sites and specialties), and is designed to augment, strengthen, and refine the student's knowledge and skills relevant to the elective rotation, with a supervising licensed provider focused in the corresponding clinical setting.

**PA5510 Orientation to Practice: Capstone & Competencies**

2 credits

The purpose of the is clinical rotation is to provide educational guidance for the PA student as they prepare to complete their training and enter into clinical practice. Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to licensure requirements, board certification, an introduction to coding and billing (ICD and CPT codes), credentialing, policy issues that impact practice, professional PA organizations, preparing for job interviewing and placements (C.V., interviewing, and more). A comprehensive and mandatory PANCE Board Review will also be delivered.

**PA5511 Research 3**

2 credits

The Research 3 course will build on the concepts presented in PA513 Research 1: The Introduction to Research and PA521: Research 2 courses. With the facilitation of a research mentor, students will continue their research study, culminating in a paper, oral defense and a poster presentation required for the successful completion of the research series.

\*\*The Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs), or Clinical Rotations, are each 5 weeks in length, with an expectation of at least 40 hours per week; a minimum requirement of 200 hours of clinical contact time is required for each and every clinical rotation.

**All didactic courses (PA501 -PA521) are delivered primarily in person at the Forest Hills campus.**

**All clinical courses (PA5501-PA5509) are conducted primarily in person at the assigned clinical rotation sites.**

**PA5510 and PA5511 are conducted primarily in person with occasional self-guided, online, or hybrid sessions.**

## **Grade/Progression Requirements**

### **Program Retention Criteria:**

Students must receive no less than a 78% (C+) overall as a final grade in any course to successfully pass the course. For the Essential Principles of Medicine I and II courses (PA508 and PA514), students must also successfully pass each module with a minimum of 78% (C+) in order to successfully pass the course.

Failure of any portion of a course (didactic, lab, or clinical) will result in failure of the entire course. Due to prerequisite requirements from future courses, all courses must be successfully passed in order to progress toward graduation.

If student fails the course, please refer to the current *Student Handbook* for guidelines. Details regarding grading and the **remediation process** are located in the syllabus of each course.

In the event a course is failed, then successfully remediated, the course is then considered remediated (passed) and the maximum grade for the course will then be a 78% (C+). No more than two (2) courses during the didactic year or two (2) SCPE courses may be remediated. If at any time a 3<sup>rd</sup> didactic or 3<sup>rd</sup> SCPE course is failed for any reason, the student may not attempt remediation, and will immediately be referred to the Professionalism and Progression Committee, as per policy in the Student Handbook, for consideration for dismissal from the PA Program.

### **Graduation Requirements**

In order to graduate, PA students must complete all didactic, laboratory, and clinical competency evaluations, requirements, and assignments successfully with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B). Students must also demonstrate the expected competency via successfully completing a comprehensive, multi-modal summative evaluation within the final 4 months of the PA Program.

### **Clinical Placement Sites**

Clinical site placements and assignments are not negotiable. Students are obligated to adhere to the applicable policies and procedures of the clinical agencies to which they are assigned. Students are required to know and comply with all policies and procedures.

The clinical coordinator is responsible for arranging clinical placements for students. Students will be required to travel up to 50 miles each way for a clinical site. *Plaza College Physician Assistant Program students who decline to proceed to an assigned clinical rotation site will be deemed to have voluntarily withdrawn from the program.*

***Students are not required to provide or solicit clinical sites or preceptors.***

***Students are not permitted to contact a clinical site or a preceptor about or to solicit a clinical placement.***

Students are permitted to begin a clinical placement after the Clinical Coordinator ensures that the student has successfully completed the health clearance process, required background checks, mandatory training, and passed the clinical calculation examination by the stated deadline. Students will not be considered for a clinical placement until they have satisfied all prerequisites. If a student does not submit all requisite documents required for a clinical placement by the deadline, the clinical placement may not be granted, which may result in a cancellation of the clinical placement or a delayed start to the clinical rotation, both of which can result in a delayed completion of the PA Program.

### **Employment Background Checks**

Potential employers may conduct a criminal and/or personal background check. Institutions that accept our students for potential employment may conduct a criminal and/or personal background check. Students with criminal records that include felonies or misdemeanors (including those that are drug-related) or personal background issues such as bankruptcy might not be accepted by employers following completion of the program. Some employers may require candidates to submit to a drug test. Employment decisions are outside the control of Plaza College.

### **Uniform**

- Plaza College-issued student ID are to be worn at all times, above the waist and clearly visible, while on campus or on SCPE clinical rotation sites.
- Plaza College-issued scrubs or business-casual clothing and your short white coat, issued by Plaza College, must be worn at all times while on campus.
- Clean sneakers or business dress shoes should be worn. No open-toed or unprofessional footwear is permitted.
- While at a clinical site, students must comply with the dress code of the clinical setting.
- Jewelry should be kept to a minimum (watch with a second hand, wedding band, and one pair of post earrings per ear are allowed. No dangling earrings are permitted). No additional rings, earrings, necklaces or bracelets are permitted. If you arrive at clinical with more than the minimum requirements, you will be required to remove it at your own risk.

### **Personal Hygiene**

- All students are expected to be well-groomed and non-offensive to others. Obvious, detectable odors (perfume, smoke, body odor) are not acceptable. Vaping is not permitted.
- Piercings (unless nose piercing is part of your culture) must be removed.
- All hair and facial hair should be neat, clean and trimmed. Shoulder-length hair should be tied up off the collar and pulled back from the face. ***Hair must be a natural shade. Please note: Facial hair may interfere with proper fit of the N-95 respirator mask which is a requirement for clinical rotations.***
- Fingernails must be well-groomed, short (not longer than the fingertips), and clean. Only clear nail polish may be worn. No artificial nails, tips, gels, or extensions are permitted.

- Make-up should be minimal. No lipstick, gloss or tinted lip balm is permitted.
- All visible tattoos must be covered.
- False eyelashes are not permitted.
- Hats, headscarves, and bandanas are not permitted except for religious head coverings.

### **Drug/Alcohol Policy**

All students are expected to perform all classroom activities safely and efficiently, without the use of drugs, alcohol, or prescription medications. Plaza College is a drug-free campus and is in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. Any student found to be non-compliant with the standards outlined in the Plaza College Student Handbook may face disciplinary action.

### **Medical Insurance**

Students will be working in a clinical environment and may be exposed to infectious and communicable diseases. Students will also be handling sharp instruments and will be exposed to biohazardous materials. **Students are required to carry their own health insurance coverage in the event of needing medical care during their clinical practice. Students must be able to provide proof of current health insurance coverage at any time while a PA student at Plaza College.** In the event of becoming ill or contracting an infectious disease, including, but not limited to Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, and HIV (AIDS), the student is responsible for all medical costs associated with treatment and recovery from the condition.

## Acknowledgement of Receipt and Understanding

By signing below, I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the current *Informational Packet for Admissions Applicants* for the Plaza College Physician Assistant, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree program.

This packet describes the admissions procedures including background check and urine drug screening; program mission, purpose, philosophy, and goals; program sequence of content; appearance and dress code; and medical insurance.

By signing below, I also acknowledge that I understand and accept all of the information provided in the document.

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Student Signature

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Print Name

---

Date

Original signature copy will be retained in the student's program file.



## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENT SCRUB ORDER FORM

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Student Name

Last 4 Digits SS #

### ***ON-CAMPUS SCRUBS***

Cherokee Workwear: To be worn while on campus in didactic and laboratory courses. You will receive two pairs and additional pairs may be purchased in the Campus Store.

These scrubs are unisex.

**TOPS:**           XXS           XS           S           M           L           XL           XXL

**BOTTOMS:**    XXS           XS           S           M           L           XL           XXL

Regular pant inseam length is 31". Short inseams (29") are available in sizes XS-XL. Long inseams (34") are available in sizes S-XL. Please indicate short or long (34") length, if needed: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***CLINICAL WHITE COAT***

XXS           XS           S           M           L           XL           XXL

\_\_\_\_\_ Ladies Fit

\_\_\_\_\_ Mens Fit

Your signature below indicates that you accept your scrubs order as indicated above and acknowledge that exchanges will only be authorized on an "as-available" basis. All sizes are not guaranteed to be available for exchange. All scrub sales are final and may not be returned.

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Student Signature

Date

## Textbook Format Request

The textbooks you will receive as part of your program are available in both e-book and printed versions. The e-book version has been included in your tuition and fees as outlined. You may opt to purchase printed versions for additional cost through the Campus Store.

Please indicate below the textbook version you would like to receive:

☐

I would like to receive e-books.

☐

I would like to purchase printed textbooks.

By signing below, I confirm the above request and acknowledge that I am responsible for any additional charges for printed textbooks. I also acknowledge that, should I wish to change the version in which I receive my textbooks, I must notify the Physician Assistant Program Director no later than 4 weeks prior to the start of the next semester.

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Student Signature

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Print Name

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Date