Physician Assistant Master of Medical Science
at Arcadia University
Global Perspectives...Personal Attention...Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

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About the Physician Assistant Program

The PA program is within the College of Health Sciences which also includes the departments and programs in physical therapy, genetic counseling and public community and global health.

- Two campuses: Glenside, Pa., and Christiana, Del.
- Dual Degree program with Public Health
- Strong ties with regional medical communities
- International global health experiences
- Electronic note service and podcasting of lectures
- Attendance at National PA Conference included in tuition

Mission: Arcadia University’s Physician Assistant Program prepares graduate students from across the country for careers in today’s rapidly changing medical environment. Utilizing the resources of the medical community within the Delaware Valley, the Program provides students with the foundation for professional growth through personal attention, global perspective, and a commitment to excellence.

The master’s degree program in Medical Science (M.M.S.) at Arcadia University is designed to produce graduates who are well-equipped to deliver high-quality, cost-effective primary health care in a wide variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, physicians’ offices and other community settings.

Accreditation: The Arcadia University PA program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission of Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The ARC-PA only accredits physician assistant programs. The Council on Education for Public Health is the agency responsible for accrediting public health programs.

Coursework: The first three semesters of the program consist of didactic and laboratory coursework in the basic and clinical sciences, including a 9-week anatomy course with cadaver dissection at Jefferson Medical College. First-year students are introduced into clinical settings as part of the Physical Diagnosis I course in the fall semester. At the conclusion of the didactic phase of the program and prior to the start of the clinical rotations, students participate in a transitional phase. During several weeks, students complete

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their core competency examinations, receive training in clinical procedures and participate in standardized patient simulation experiences. The transitional phase concludes with student attendance at the AAPA National Conference. The conference is expected to be held in Boston in 2014 and San Francisco in 2015. Most of the costs associated with attending the conference are included in the tuition.

Clinical Rotations: The clinical phase consists of seven required rotations including Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Community Medicine, Internal Medicine, Women’s Health, Pediatrics, and Surgery. In addition, there are 12 weeks of clinical electives. During the clinical rotations, the students are visited by a faculty member to ensure that they are getting an appropriate learning experience. Every 12 weeks, the students return to campus for exams and professional practice lectures.

Two Campuses: The Arcadia University Department of Medical Science and Community Health opened a campus in Christiana, Del., in the fall of 2006. This program builds on the relationships that Arcadia enjoys in the Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey medical communities. Arcadia University has affiliations with all Delaware hospitals and numerous physician practices for the clinical education of Physician Assistant students. The Christiana Campus is located in an executive center in the growing Newark area and provides an adult learning environment.

The campus is immediately adjacent to the Christiana Hospital and the Delaware Academy of Medicine Library, which provides access to all students. The campus includes classrooms and laboratory spaces, a Student Center, offices and meeting rooms.

The Glenside campus is the historic home of Arcadia University and serves both undergraduate and graduate students. The Physician Assistant program is located in Brubaker Hall, which offers dedicated classrooms, laboratory space, offices and a student resource room. Students at the Glenside campus have access to student services on the campus, including the Landman Library.

The Physician Assistant program faculty is based at each respective campus, but the faculty share teaching and supervisory responsibilities at both campuses.

Both campuses follow the same curriculum and share many lecturers. Student from both campuses attend Anatomy class together at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and also attend the annual conference of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Combined, the two campuses offer the resources and advantages of a large program with the personal attention of smaller classes. Students come to Arcadia to pursue their careers as Physician Assistants of distinction.

General Admissions Procedures

Application Deadline: All applications are processed by the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org. Official transcripts and references are considered part of the CASPA application and should be sent directly to CASPA. A paper application is available by calling CASPA at 240-497-1895.

Applications will not be accepted by CASPA after December 1st. Students are accepted on a rolling basis and encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Arcadia students applying for assured admission must submit their application no later than September 1st.

Deposit: A $500 deposit must accompany the acceptance reply. This deposit is applied to the first semester’s tuition, but it is nonrefundable if the student fails to enter the program on the date for which he or she is accepted. A second deposit of $1,000 is required by April 1.

Admissions Requirements for the Physician Assistant Program

1. A Physician Assistant application to be completed through CASPA at www.caspaonline.org.
2. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution with a recommended GPA of 3.0 or better.
3. One official transcript from each college, university or professional school attended. Transfer credits included on a transcript must include grades earned; if not, an official transcript from the original school must be submitted. Transcripts must be sent from the issuing school in a sealed envelope and contain the appropriate signatures and seals to be considered official. Please send transcripts directly to CASPA.
4. Students must have completed the following prerequisites:
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a. Biological Sciences—five courses to include Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology. Biochemistry is recommended.
b. Chemistry—three courses to include at least one semester of Organic Chemistry.
c. Psychology—one course.
d. Statistics—one course.

NOTE: Students with exceptional clinical experience may have one or more prerequisites waived. The program does not allow students to waive courses, nor does it accept students with advanced standing.

5. Three letters of recommendation. Ideally, one should be from a professor and one from a practicing licensed physician or physician assistant.

6. Test scores from either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), taken within the last five years. (Arcadia’s GRE code is 2039.) These tests are required for all applicants, including those who already have a graduate degree.

7. A minimum of 200 hours of patient care experience.

8. Students must meet the minimal technical requirements for admission, continuation and graduation. The technical standards are posted on the program Web page at www.arcadia.edu/pa

9. An interview is required and is by invitation only.

10. International applicants should visit www.arcadia.edu/international for detailed information on admissions requirements and application procedures. Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS are required for all students for whom English is a second language except for non-native speakers of English who hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required.

11. Arcadia performs a holistic review of each student’s application. The program does not allow students to waive courses, nor does it admit students with advanced standing. However, students who have withdrawn or who have been dismissed from the program can be readmitted and granted credit for courses they have completed successfully.

12. Increasingly, clinical facilities are requiring that students seeking placements undergo various criminal background checks, child abuse clearances, and/or drug screens prior to placements. Therefore, students should be prepared to participate in these screenings. Applicants who are unable to pass these background checks may be denied admission into the program.

Support Services

Professional counseling services are available through the Arcadia University Counseling Center. Students with suspected or documented disability are recommended to consult with the Office of Academic Development located in Knight Hall.

Expenses

Approximate costs are calculated annually and subject to change. Please note that all tuition listed is for 2013-2014.

M.M.S. (Physician Assistant)

For students entering in May of 2014, tuition for the two-year Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant) program is as follows:

- Year One: $34,650 (includes Summer, Fall and Spring Semesters)
- Year Two: $34,650 (Includes Summer, Fall and Spring Semesters)

Fees Not Covered By Tuition

1. Technology/Lab Fee (paid over the life of the program): $1,200
2. AAPA Student Membership (required) (one-time fee that expires four months after date of graduation): $75
3. Mandatory clearances, which include criminal background checks, immunization tracking, child abuse screening, etc. Additional costs associated with drug screening varies upon clinical rotation: $150
4. Books, supplies and medical equipment
   Didactic phase: $1,500
   Clinical phase: $500
5. Students are required to cover housing and transportation costs related to all off-campus and clinical experiences.
6. University provided student health insurance
   2014-2015 annual premium-$1340 *

*Medical Insurance: Upon enrollment into their programs, all students must provide proof of medical insurance and also provide information about their health and medical history. Students who do not provide proof of adequate health insurance will be required to purchase health insurance through the University. Information and
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applications are available in Office of the Student Health Services.

Financial Aid
Tuition and fees for the program are billed in equal increments over the course of the program. Information on current costs is available at www.arcadia.edu/finaid. Financial aid is available to assist qualified students in covering tuition and related expenses, as well as living costs. Upon review for admission, students automatically will be reviewed by the academic department for a limited number of merit scholarships. Additionally, students can apply to receive up to $20,500 annually through the Federal Direct Stafford Loan at a fixed interest rate. In addition to the Stafford Loan, students can choose to borrow either a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan or a private alternative student loan to cover remaining expenses. Graduate assistantships also may be available to those who qualify. For more information on available financial aid and how to apply, visit www.arcadia.edu/finaid and click on Graduate.

Program-Specific Loan Options: The National Health Service Corps offers loan repayment programs for primary care physician assistants who agree to provide service in a priority health-professional shortage area (HPSA) for a two-year period following graduation. Other loan programs are available through the Allied Health Education Loan Program.

Scholarships: Information on the following scholarships can be obtained from the Office of Enrollment Management in Grey Towers Castle:
• Salzer Foundation: grants ranging from $1,000 to $2,000.
• Association of Physician Assistants in Cardiovascular Surgery: scholarships for second-year students.
• Department of Veterans Affairs: full scholarships plus monthly stipends for second-year students. (Obligation is two years’ service at a V.A. medical center.)
• Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants: scholarship of $500 to students in their final year of study.

Laptop Computer
Students are required to bring their own laptop computer to PA classes.

Academic Policies and Procedures
A student accepted into the Physician Assistant program is expected to abide by the regulations set forth by Arcadia University and the written policies of the Physician Assistant program. For a discussion of the general academic policies and procedures for graduate students, see the Academic Policies section in this catalog and the Student Handbook www.arcadia.edu/handbook on the Web. The policies of the Physician Assistant program are published in the Physician Assistant Policies and Guidelines Handbook, revised annually and provided to students at orientation.

To remain in good academic standing, students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.70 in each semester. Failure to meet this standard for two consecutive semesters will result in the student being dismissed from the program.

All courses in the Physician Assistant curriculum are required and are sequential, and students must receive a minimum grade of “C” in courses before progressing in the program. If a grade lower than a “C” is earned in a course, it is considered a failing grade and the student will be dismissed from the program.

In order to progress to the clinical phase of the program, the student must have no course grades below “C” and a minimum GPA of 2.70 (“B–”). The student also must successfully complete the core competency examination, and obtain permission of the Physician Assistant program. If this minimum GPA requirement has not been met by the end of the didactic phase, students will not be allowed to enter the Clinical Phase and will be dismissed from the program. The student also must meet all compliance issues, which include immunizations and physical examination, criminal background checks and drug screening.

In the second year of the program, the student must continue to maintain a minimum 2.70 cumulative GPA. In addition, students must pass a comprehensive written and practical exam. Students who fail one clinical rotation may be allowed to repeat the clinical rotation and must meet all academic requirements, and receive Department permission before continuing into the next clinical affiliation. Permission to continue is dependent upon the cause of the unsatisfactory performance and is determined by the program
consultation with clinical preceptors, the clinical coordinators, the program director and the student. Failure of an additional clinical rotation experience will result in the student being dismissed from the program. Students who must repeat a rotation will be billed at the prevailing credit fee.

Students who withdraw or are dismissed from the program and who want to re-enter must apply for readmission within six months of departure. Permission to do so is determined by the Academic and Professional Review Committee after careful, deliberate consideration. Based upon a review of their performance, those students may be readmitted with the possibility of advanced standing.

Student Work Policy: Due to the intensity of the PA programs, students are discouraged from outside employment while enrolled in the PA program. Employment during this program makes it difficult to have time for social activities, hobbies and recreational activities, and rest. Students are prohibited from applying compensated clinical experience toward academic credit.

Additionally, students may not provide services within a preceptor’s practice apart from those rendered as part of the clinical year of the program. Students are not permitted to have clerical or teaching responsibilities within the PA program. Students may not receive compensation for any work performed within the preceptor’s site or practice.

Academic and Clinical Facilities
This program utilizes the extensive academic facilities of Arcadia University and has specialized audio-visual computer-based instructional materials, physical examination equipment and facilities for the first-year didactic and workshop activities. Human cadaver dissection is conducted at a gross anatomy laboratory at Jefferson Medical College.

Clinical training is conducted in required and elective clinical rotations in area hospitals and physician practices. The program has more than 300 clinical affiliations with hospitals, clinics and physicians’ offices.

Requirements for the Master of Medical Science Degree (Physician Assistant)
The Master of Medical Science degree is awarded after completion of the following requirements:

1. The program’s curriculum with a minimum GPA of 2.70 maintained throughout the program.
2. All courses and clinical rotations with a grade of “C” or higher.
3. Successful completion of core competency exams, comprehensive written and practical exams.
4. Meet technical standards for admission, continuation and graduation. (Technical standards are available at www.arcadia.edu/pa.)

Master of Medical Science Degree Requirements and Program Design (116 credits)

Didactic Phase
Summer (18 credits)

- PA 509A  Professional Practice I (1 credit)
- PA 510  Medical Interview and Counseling Skills (2 credits)
- PA 517  Human Gross Anatomy (5 credits)
- PA 522  Microbiology and Immunology (3 credits)
- PA 524  Mechanisms of Disease (6 credits)
- PA526A  Pharmacology Therapeutics I (1 credit)

Fall (25 credits)

- PA 504  Evidence-Based Practice (2 credits)
- PA 509B  Professional Practice II (1 credit)
- PA 514  Physical Diagnosis I (5 credits)
- PA 526B  Pharmacology and Therapeutics II (3 credits)
- PA 528  Behavioral Health (3 credits)
- PA 532A  Diagnostics and Clinical Procedures I (3 credits)
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title and Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA 536A</td>
<td>Medicine I (8 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring (25 credits)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 509C</td>
<td>Professional Practice III (1 credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 526C</td>
<td>Pharmacology and Therapeutics III (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 530</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis II (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 532B</td>
<td>Diagnostics and Clinical Procedures II (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA536B</td>
<td>Medicine II (6 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 540</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 541</td>
<td>Surgery (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 542</td>
<td>Clinical Decision Making in Primary Care (3 credits)</td>
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Transitional Phase
Clinical Skills and Simulations
National PA Conference

Clinical Year
(48 credits)
(Summer, Fall, Spring)
Core Rotations: (1 week = 1 credit)
Clinical Phase (36 weeks of required rotations, 36 credits)

- PA 561 Emergency Medicine (8 weeks)
- PA 562 Family Medicine (8 weeks)
- PA 568 Community Medicine (4 weeks)
- PA 564 Internal Medicine (4 weeks)
- PA 565 Women’s Health (4 weeks)
- PA 566 Pediatrics (4 weeks)
- PA 567 Surgery (4 weeks)
- PA 577-579 Electives (total of 12 weeks)

Elective Clinical Rotations may be selected from the following: (12 weeks, 12 credits):
- Cardiology
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Dermatology
- Forensic Medicine
- Neonatology
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Public Health
- Radiology
- Rehabilitation
- Trauma Surgery

Other medical and surgical subspecialties may be arranged. With approval of the program, students may suggest as many as two of their own rotation sites. These external rotations will be arranged by the clinical coordinators to ensure that the experience meets all clinical rotation objectives. The program does not allow students to waive courses, nor does it accept students for advanced standing. Curriculum is subject to change.

Physician Assistant Courses (PA)

509A
Professional Practice I
(1 credit, Summer)
This is a first course in a three part seminar course series that will begin with presentations on the US Health Care System that provides a broad overview of the US health system and its major components. This course also serves as a lead-in to discussion of the role of the PA and their participation in this system.

509B
Professional Practice II
(1 credit, Fall)
This is the second course in a three part seminar series that began with presentations on the US Health Care System and provides a broad overview of how health care is delivered. This course also serves as a lead-in to a discussion on ethical practices and the role of the PA in the health care system.

509C
Professional Practice III
(1 credit, Spring)
This is the third course in a three part seminar series that began with presentations on the US Health Care System and provides a broad overview of how health care is delivered. This course also serves as a lead-in to a discussion on ethical practices and the role of the PA in the health care system.

510
Medical Interview and Counseling Skills
(2 credits, Summer)
This course provides direction on the general approach to the patient with special attention to providing culturally competent care. Instruction is provided on how to elicit and document a complete history and how to offer basic counseling to patients.

517
Human Gross Anatomy
(5 credits, Summer)
The gross anatomy segment consists of lectures, demonstrations, and cadaver dissection to identify and explore the interrelationships of gross structures of the body. Also includes small group training in radiographic anatomy.
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522
**Microbiology and Immunology**  
(3 credits, Summer)  
The course begins with a review of principles and techniques in the laboratory diagnosis of infectious disease. This is followed by a systematic review of clinically relevant infectious disease agents. Each of the major organisms is reviewed in terms of its most salient morphologic and physiologic characteristics.

524
**Mechanisms of Disease**  
(6 credits, Summer)  
Lectures and conferences cover the function of cells, tissues, organs, and systems of the human body and the pathogenesis of common human illnesses.

526A
**Pharmacology and Therapeutics I**  
(1 credit, Summer)  
This course covers chemical concepts fundamental to understanding how pharmacotherapeutic agents exert their effects, to include physiologic and pharmacologic receptors, dose-response relationships and the pharmacokinetics of drug absorption, distribution, biotransformation and excretion. Further discussion is on the autonomic nervous system and drugs that affect it.

526B
**Pharmacology and Therapeutics II**  
(3 credits, Fall)  
Lectures and conferences cover the pharmacology of drugs commonly used for the treatment and management of disease states.

526C
**Pharmacology and Therapeutics III**  
(3 credits, Spring)  
This course is a continuation of Pharmacology and Therapeutics I and II and includes lectures and conferences on the pharmacology of drugs commonly used for the treatment and management of disease states.

504
**Evidence-Based Practice**  
(2 credits, Fall)  
This course reviews how to conduct a medical literature review with application to the practice of evidence-based medicine. Lecture and discussion include the basics of clinical research study designs, epidemiology, clinical testing parameters, and inferential and clinical statistics.

532A
**Diagnostic and Clinical Procedures I**  
(3 credits, Fall)  
Lectures and demonstrations provide a systematic presentation of the common clinical modalities used in the diagnosis of disease. The course includes instruction in laboratory medicine, diagnostic imaging and electrocardiography.

532B
**Diagnostic and Clinical Procedures II**  
(3 credits, Spring)  
The technique of diagnostic and clinical procedural skills is reviewed through lecture, small group instruction and workshop participation. Instructional tools used include live clinical models and simulation. The course includes instruction in radiology, clinical skills and CPR/ACLS.

528
**Behavioral Health**  
(3 credits, Fall)  
This course provides an overview of behavioral health conditions commonly encountered in medical practice as well as various treatment modalities. Evaluation and management of the psychiatric patient is explored in both the primary care and emergent settings.

514
**Physical Diagnosis I**  
(5 credits, Fall)  
This course includes lectures, demonstrations and practical exercises in the principles of medical history-taking and an introduction to the medical physical examination.

530
**Physical Diagnosis II**  
(3 credits, Spring)  
A continuation of PA514, this course consists of lectures, demonstrations and hands-on practical instruction in the process and techniques of physical examination, including adults, children, obstetric, gynecologic and geriatric patients.

536A
**Medicine I**  
(8 credits, Fall)  
This is the first of two Medicine courses. This course is divided into modules related to body systems. Each module typically begins with a brief review of related anatomy and physiology followed by a discussion of pathophysiology, symptoms and signs, diagnostic testing, and therapeutic management of specific conditions.

536B
**Medicine II**  
(6 credits, Spring)  
This is the second of two Medicine courses. This course is divided into modules related to body systems or disease conditions. Each module typically begins with a brief review of related anatomy and physiology followed by a discussion of pathophysiology, symptoms and signs, diagnostic testing, and evidence based therapeutic management. Also included are conditions related to the obstetric, gynecologic and pediatric patient.
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540
Emergency Medicine
(3 credits, Spring)
General concepts needed for the physician assistant to function in emergency medicine, urgent care, as well as primary care settings are presented. The course emphasizes stabilization, medical management, and emergency procedures.

541
Surgery
(3 credits, Spring)
This course is designed to prepare the physician assistant student for the field of Surgery and provide a foundation regarding the care of the surgical patient. General surgical concepts needed for the physician assistant to function in primary care and surgical settings are presented. The course emphasizes the role of the surgical Physician Assistant, the concept of and techniques used to maintain asepsis, various surgical procedures, and anesthesia. Evidence-based medicine practice is woven through the above areas where available and appropriate.

542
Clinical Decision Making in Primary Care
(3 credits, Spring)
This is an interactive case-based course where students learn to do diagnostic work-ups, develop differential diagnoses and treatment plans for primary care patients. The students prepare their cases both individually and in teams. They learn to defend their decisions using the current medical literature.

543
Emergency Medicine
(8 credits/weeks)
The eight (8) week Emergency Medicine rotation takes place in an Emergency Department and provides the students with exposure to urgent care and acute problems. Through supervised patient contact, the student will gain experience in performing the directed history and physical examination, triage, managing episodic illness, performing lifesaving techniques, and handling emergency equipment. Emphasis is on providing the student with practical clinical experience in the management of acute medical and surgical emergencies.
**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of the didactic phase of the PA program.

544
Surgery
(4 credits/weeks)
The eight (8) week Surgery rotation is spent with a physician, physician assistant, and/or nurse practitioner preceptor in a primary care setting. Strong attention is given to utilizing preceptors who currently employ or have previously worked with physician assistants. Through supervised exposure to patients in a family practice environment, the student is given the opportunity to apply, integrate, and affirm those skills necessary for becoming a certified physician assistant. During this phase, the student masters the technique of directed data collection through exposure to ambulatory medical patients. Emphasis is placed on the evaluation and management of primary care medical problems. Patient education and counseling are stressed, and the student is familiarized with the role of the physician assistant in a general practice setting.
**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of the didactic phase of the PA program.

545
Internal Medicine
(4 credits/weeks)
The four (4) week Internal Medicine rotation takes place in a hospital and/or out-patient setting. The purpose of the Internal Medicine rotation is to provide the student with practical clinical experience in working with the hospitalized or ambulatory patient who presents with acute or chronic diseases that are routinely seen by Internists. Students may be required to attend conferences, lectures, and take call.
**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of the didactic phase of the PA program.

546
Women’s Health
(4 credits/weeks)
This is a required four (4) week rotation which takes place in a hospital, clinic or private practice setting. The purpose of the Women’s Health rotation is to provide the student with practical clinical experience in the differential diagnosis, evaluation, and management of normal and abnormal conditions within gynecology to include prenatal care and women’s health.
**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of the didactic phase of the PA program.

547
Pediatrics
(4 credits/weeks)
This four (4) week rotation takes place in an outpatient and/or inpatient setting. Through supervised exposure to patients in a pediatric practice setting, the student is given the opportunity to become familiar with the parameters of normal growth and development, proper assessment of the newborn, immunizations schedules, nutritional requirements, the evaluation and management of common pediatric problems, and acute illness in the pediatric population.
**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of the didactic phase of the PA program.

548
Family Medicine
(8 credits/weeks)
The eight (8) week Family Medicine rotation is spent in an Emergency Department and provides the students with exposure to urgent care and acute problems. Through supervised patient contact, the student will gain experience in performing the directed history and physical examination, triage, managing episodic illness, performing lifesaving techniques, and handling emergency equipment. Emphasis is on providing the student with practical clinical experience in the management of acute medical and surgical emergencies.
**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of the didactic phase of the PA program.

549
Surgery
(4 credits/weeks)
The four (4) week Surgery rotation provides the student with the opportunity to apply basic principles of surgery. The student is provided with practical experience in data collection, and evaluation and management of surgical problems. An opportunity is afforded for development of manual skills and for exposure to basic operating room procedures and techniques. Longitudinal care is
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encouraged in order to provide the student with an opportunity to follow patients from admission through the post-operative process. Students may be required to attend conferences, lectures, and take call. **Prerequisite:** successful completion of the didactic phase of the PA program.

568 **Community Medicine**  
(4 credits/weeks)  
This is a four-week rotation that takes place in a setting that addresses the care of patients in the context of their daily lives. Community medicine involves comprehensive health services ranging from preventive, promotive, curative to rehabilitative and behavioral health services. The emphasis in community medicine is on the early diagnosis of disease, the recognition of environmental and occupational hazards to good health, and the prevention of disease in the community. Community medicine takes place in a variety of settings which include outpatient and institutionalized populations which may include children, adolescents, adults and geriatric patients. The purpose of the community medicine rotation is to provide the student with practical experience in caring for patients with an emphasis on understanding and appreciating the socioeconomic, cultural and behavioral challenges patients confront while receiving care in a complex often disorganized health care system.

**Electives**
There are twelve (12) weeks of elective rotation time, divided into three four (4) week courses. This is an opportunity for the student to increase his/her knowledge base and skill in a field of interest, or in a complimentary medical field.

577 **Clinical Elective I**  
(4 credits)

578 **Clinical Elective II**  
(4 credits)

579 **Clinical Elective III**  
(4 credits)
Master of Public Health/Physician Assistant at Arcadia University

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Coordinators
Andrea Crivelli-Kovach, Ph.D., M.A., MCHES, Professor & Director of the Community & Global Public Health Programs, College of Health Sciences
Michael Dryer, Dr.P.H., PA-C, Chair and Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences

Dual Degree Program
Master of Public Health and Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant)

About Arcadia’s Dual Degree Program in Public Health and Physician Assistant

The dual degree offers a synergistic integration of individual patient management with health promotion and disease prevention affecting local communities and global populations.

Arcadia’s College of Health Sciences has nationally recognized health care, science and business programs that make the world a laboratory by providing real-world, experiential learning. Graduate programs use evidence-based research and project-based learning to prepare health care and business professionals for a rapidly changing global environment. Applied and pro bono clinical research, clinical rotations, public health internships, international fieldwork, and multicultural assessment are threaded through the curricula. Graduate students also conduct research and publish with expert faculty in many fields.

Dual degree candidates must be accepted into each of the programs in order to pursue dual degrees: Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).

This dual degree program prepares graduates for leadership roles in meeting community health care needs in today’s rapidly changing medical environment. The master’s degree program in Medical Science (M.M.S.) is designed to produce graduates who are well-equipped to deliver high-quality, cost-effective primary health care in a wide variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, physicians’ offices and other community settings. The Master of Public Health degree focuses on population health and includes the disciplines of epidemiology and biostatistics with an in-depth fieldwork thesis project oriented toward a student’s primary area of research interest.

Admission to the Master of Public Health Program

In addition to the general admission requirements for graduate students, the following program-specific requirements must be met:

1. A completed graduate application including personal statements, to be completed online at www.arcadia.edu/gradapp.
2. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution with a recommended GPA of 3.0 or better in the major course of study.
3. One official transcript from each college, university or professional school attended. Transfer credits included on a transcript must include grades earned; if not, an official transcript from the original school must be submitted. Transcripts must be sent from the issuing school in a sealed envelope and contain the
appropriate signatures and seals to be considered official.

4. Three letters of recommendation, at least one from a professor (if a recent graduate) and one from a health professional.

5. Test scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT), taken within the last five years. Test scores are not required for students with an earned graduate degree in a related field.

6. Knowledge of the profession through work or volunteer experience.

7. International applicants should visit www.arcadia.edu/international for detailed information on admission requirements and application procedures. TOEFL/IELTS results are required for all students for whom English is a second language or who have not earned degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required.

Admission to the Physician Assistant Program

1. A Physician Assistant application to be completed through CASPA at www.caspaonline.org.

2. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution with a recommended GPA of 3.0 or better.

3. One official transcript from each college, university or professional school attended. Transfer credits included on a transcript must include grades earned; if not, an official transcript from the original school must be submitted. Transcripts must be sent from the issuing school in a sealed envelope and contain the appropriate signatures and seals to be considered official.

4. Students must have completed the following prerequisites:
   a. Biological Sciences—five lab/lecture courses from a biology department, to include Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology. Biochemistry is recommended.
   b. Chemistry—four lab/lecture courses from a chemistry department, to include Organic Chemistry.
   c. Psychology—one course; Developmental or Abnormal Psychology is highly recommended.
   d. Statistics—one course.
   e. Humanities—five courses; a course in Ethics or Medical Ethics is highly recommended.

   **NOTE:** Students with exceptional clinical experience may have one or more prerequisites waived. The program does not allow students to waive courses, nor does it accept students with advanced standing.

5. Three letters of recommendation, at least one from a professor and one from a practicing licensed physician or physician assistant.

6. Test scores from either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), taken within the last five years.

7. A minimum of 200 hours of patient care experience or a combination of patient care experience and research.

8. Students must meet the minimal technical requirements for admission, continuation and graduation. The technical standards are available upon request from the Physician Assistant program office and are posted on the program Web page.

9. International applicants should visit www.arcadia.edu/international for detailed information on admissions requirements and application procedures. Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS are required for all students for whom English is a second language except for non-native speakers of English who hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an
Master of Public Health/Physician Assistant at Arcadia University

independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required.

10. Increasingly, clinical facilities are requiring that students seeking placements undergo various criminal background checks, child abuse clearances, and/or drug screens prior to placements. Therefore, students should be prepared to participate in these screenings. Applicants who are unable to pass these background checks may be denied admission into the program.

Expenses
Tuition and fees for the dual degree program are billed in equal increments over the program's nine semesters. Information on current costs is available at www.arcadia.edu/finaid. Financial aid is available to assist qualified students in covering tuition and related expenses, as well as living costs. Upon review for admission, students automatically will be reviewed by the academic department for a limited number of merit scholarships. Additionally, students can apply to receive up to $20,500 annually through the Federal Direct Stafford Loan at a fixed interest. In addition to the Stafford Loan, students can choose to borrow either a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan or a private alternative student loan to cover remaining expenses. Graduate assistantships also may be available to those who qualify. For more information on available financial aid and how to apply, visit www.arcadia.edu/finaid and click on Graduate.

Requirements for the Dual Degrees in Public Health and Physician Assistant
(152 total credits, with 6 shared credits)

Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant) (116 credits)

Master of Science in Public Health (42)

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer (12 credits)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PBH 501</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health &amp; Disease (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBH 510</td>
<td>Health Care Systems (3 credits)</td>
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<th>Fall (25 credits)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PBH 560</td>
<td>Issues in Community and Environmental Health (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBH 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBH 630</td>
<td>Program Planning and Evaluation for Health Professionals (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBH Elective</td>
<td>Elective Course in Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<th>Spring (12 credits)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PBH 620</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBH 645</td>
<td>Program Evaluation in Public Health (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBH 689</td>
<td>Public Health Internship (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBH 694</td>
<td>Pre-Public Health Capstone Research Project Seminar I (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Summer (18 credits)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA 509A</td>
<td>Professional Practice I (1 credit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 510</td>
<td>Medical Interview and Counseling Skills (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 517</td>
<td>Human Gross Anatomy (5 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 522</td>
<td>Microbiology and Immunology (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 524</td>
<td>Mechanisms of Disease (6 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA526A</td>
<td>Pharmacology Therapeutics I (1 credit)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Fall (15 credits)</th>
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<tr>
<td>PA 504</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Practice (2 credits)</td>
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</table>
Master of Public Health/Physician Assistant at Arcadia University

PA 509B  Professional Practice II  
(1 credit)
PA 514  Physical Diagnosis I  
(5 credits)
PA 526B  Pharmacology and 
Therapeutics II (3 credits)
PA 528  Behavioral Health  
(3 credits)
PA 532A  Diagnostics and Clinical 
Procedures I (3 credits)
PA 536A  Medicine I (8 credits)

**Second Year**

**Spring** (25 credits)

PA 509C  Professional Practice III  
(1 credit)
PA 526C  Pharmacology and 
Therapeutics III (3 credits)
PA 530  Physical Diagnosis II  
(3 credits)
PA 532B  Diagnostics and Clinical 
Procedures II 3credits)
PA 536B  Medicine II (6 credits)
PA 540  Emergency Medicine  
(3 credits)
PA 541  Surgery (3 credits)
PA 542  Clinical Decision Making in 
Primary Care (3 credits)

**Third Year**

(Summer, Fall and Spring, 48 weeks)

Core Rotations: (1 week = 1 credit)

PA 561  Emergency Medicine (8  
credits)
PA 562  Family Practice (8 credits)
PA 568  Community Medicine (4  
credits)
PA 564  Internal Medicine (4  
credits)
PA 565  Women’s Health (4  
credits)
PA 566  Pediatrics (4 credits)
PA 567  Surgery (4 credits)
PA 577-579  Electives (total of 12  
weeks)

Three elective four-week clinical rotations from  
the following (12 credits):
Cardiology
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Dermatology
Forensic Medicine
Neonatology
Neurology
Orthopedics
Radiology
Rehabilitation
Trauma surgery

PBH 689  MPH Internship (3 credits)  
This is a required MPH internship done in  
conjunction with a PA Elective Rotation.  
MPH Internship is completed at this time if  
not done during Year 1 in the MPH  
Program.