

Master of Physician Associate Studies, MPA

Requirements

The Master of Physician Associate Studies (MPA) requires a minimum of 128 s.h. of credit. The curriculum spans 28 months and consists of a didactic phase (16 months) and a clinical phase (12 months). The program admits a new cohort of 25 students every August.

The Master of Physician Associate Studies requires the following work.

Didactic Curriculum

The MPA program's didactic phase is built on a triple-helix model whose three strands consist of clinical and professional skills (CAPS), mechanisms of health and disease (MOHD), and medicine and society (MAS). The strands are interwoven, assuring that their material is integrated and revisited throughout the didactic phase so that students' understanding and mastery of the material deepens progressively.

The didactic curriculum consists of the following courses.

Human Anatomy and Foundations of Life

Course #	Title	Hours
ACB:8101	Medical Gross Human Anatomy	5
MED:8123	Foundations of Cellular Life	5

Clinical and Professional Skills

The clinical and professional skills (CAPS) strand provides students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for professional development and clinical excellence, including the sense of inquiry and lifelong habits of skill acquisition, self-assessment, and reflective practice. CAPS features developmental learning through increasingly challenging experiences across the curriculum, repeated practice opportunities, observation and feedback, and self-directed learning and reflection. CAPS requires the following three courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
MED:8121	Clinical and Professional Skills I	3
MED:8131	Clinical and Professional Skills II	4
MED:8221	Clinical and Professional Skills III	4

Mechanisms of Health and Disease

The mechanisms of health and disease (MOHD) strand focuses on multisystem mechanisms. MOHD requires the following five courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
MED:8124	Mechanisms of Health and Disease I	8

MED:8133	Mechanisms of Health and Disease II	7
MED:8134	Mechanisms of Health and Disease III	11
MED:8223	Mechanisms of Health and Disease IV	10
MED:8224	Mechanisms of Health and Disease Keystone	7

Medicine and Society

The medicine and society (MAS) strand teaches students about disease prevention, health promotion services, public health, epidemiology, health services organizations and delivery, and community dimensions of medical practice. MAS requires the following three courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
MED:8122	Medicine and Society I	3
MED:8132	Medicine and Society II	4
MED:8222	Medicine and Society III	4

Summer Curriculum

The summer curriculum consists of a six-week summer session that includes didactic workshop material in cardiology and radiology. Students complete a two-week introduction to clinical medicine before beginning the clinical rotations. The summer curriculum requires the following four courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
PA:8212	Fundamentals of EKG and ACLS for Physician Assistant Students	2
PA:8213	Fundamentals of Radiology for Physician Assistant Students	1
PA:8301	Seminar for Physician Assistant Students	1
PA:8302	Physician Assistant Professional and Clinical Skills	2

Clinical Curriculum

The program's second phase concentrates on clinical education. Students complete four weeks of didactic workshops and rotations and a 36-week core of required primary care clinical rotations, including general internal medicine, surgery, family medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, gynecology, and psychiatry in affiliated hospitals throughout the United States and select international locations. Students then select eight weeks of electives, which may include rotations such as geriatrics, cardiology, dermatology, and orthopedics.

The primary care clinical rotations are designed to provide instruction and experience in caring for patients in a way that enables students to integrate the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes they learned in the program's didactic phase. Clinical training is provided at University of Iowa Health Care, the VA Iowa City Health Care, the VA Central Iowa Health Care System, Broadlawns Medical Center in Des Moines, and other affiliated hospitals throughout Iowa. In elective rotations, students gain additional clinical experience through placement with selected preceptors involved in office-based practices, typically in medically underserved rural areas.

Students also complete a master's degree project as part of the clinical curriculum.

Required Clinical Rotation

The following clinical rotations are required.

Course #	Title	Hours
PA:8303	Physician Assistant Senior Capstone (taken twice for 1 s.h. each)	2
PA:8304	Emergency Medicine for Physician Assistant Students	4
PA:8305	Gynecology for Physician Assistant Students	4
PA:8306	Family Practice I for Physician Assistant Students	4
PA:8307	Family Practice II for Physician Assistant Students	4
PA:8308	General Surgery for Physician Assistant Students	6
PA:8309	Internal Medicine for Physician Assistant Students	4
PA:8310	Pediatrics for Physician Assistant Students	4
PA:8311	Psychiatry for Physician Assistant Students	4
PA:8357	Physician Assistant Transitions to Clinical Rotations	1

Elective Clinical Rotations

Students complete 10 s.h. of elective clinical rotations from one of the following general categories. Subspecialties for the clinical rotations are included with each general category. Registration in the subspecialty area may vary based on availability from year to year.

Course #	Title	Hours
PA:8325	Pediatric Elective for Physician Assistant Students (Subspecialty areas: allergy, bone marrow transplant, cardiology, gastroenterology, genetics, neonatal intensive care (NICU), neonatology, orthopedics, pulmonary, and psychiatry)	arr.
PA:8326	Radiology Elective for Physician Assistant Students	arr.
PA:8329	Psychiatry Elective for Physician Assistant Students	arr.
PA:8330	Surgery Elective for Physician Assistant Students (Subspecialty areas: burn, cardiothoracic, neurology, surgical neonatal intensive care (SNICU), transplant and organ retrieval)	arr.

PA:8335	Internal Medicine Elective for Physician Assistant Students (Subspecialty areas: alternative medicine, cardiology, correctional medicine, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, genetics, gynecological oncology, hospice, infectious disease, interventional radiology, medical intensive care unit (MICU), migrant health, nephrology, neurology, obstetrics, ophthalmology, oncology, orthopedics, otolaryngology/ear, nose, throat, palliative care, pulmonary, rheumatology, and urology)	4
PA:8337	Internal Medicine (EKG) Elective for Physician Assistant Students	arr.
PA:8346	Family Practice Elective for Physician Assistant Students	arr.
PA:8347	Gynecology Elective (Women's Health) for Physician Assistant Students	arr.
PA:8353	International Medicine for Physician Assistant Students	arr.
PA:8364	Emergency Medicine Elective for Physician Assistant Students (Subspecialty areas: occupational health, toxicology, urgent care, and wilderness medicine)	2,4,6,8,10