

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies program is a 27-month, 126-credit, full-time course of study. The program is taught at the University's Lebanon, NH center. One new class is enrolled each year which begins in the winter graduate term.

Course Sequence

Didactic Phase

Term 1 November–February 17 credits

ME512 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences I	6
ME516 Clinical Medicine I	4
ME504 Basics of Pharmacology I	2
ME508 Patient Care I	2
ME510 Behavioral Medicine	2
ME500 Introduction to Clinical Reasoning	1

Term 2 March – May 17 credits

ME520 Professional Seminar I	1
ME540 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences II	4
ME544 Clinical Medicine II	5
ME506 Basics of Pharmacology II	2
ME536 Patient Care II	2
ME524 Clinical Reasoning I	1
ME528 Patient Communication and Education	2

Term 3 June–August 15 credits

ME552 Professional Seminar II	1
ME564 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences III	4
ME568 Clinical Medicine III	5
ME509 Basics of Pharmacology III	2
ME548 Clinical Reasoning II	1
ME532 Introduction to Epidemiology & Public Health	2

Term 4 September – November 16 credits

ME572 Professional Seminar III	1
ME592 Clinical Medicine IV	6
ME580 Clinical Reasoning III	2
ME556 Understanding and Accessing the Medical Literature	1
ME584 Evidence-based Medicine in Clinical Practice	1
ME588 Clinical Pharmacology	2
ME560 Advanced Clinical Skills	3

Clinical Phase

Term 5 December–February 11 credits

ME576 Preparation for Clinical Education	1
ME631 Clinical Rotation 1	5
ME632 Clinical Rotation 2	5

Term 6 March – May 12 credits

ME645 Seminar I	2
ME633 Clinical Rotation 3	5
ME634 Clinical Rotation 4	5

Term 7 June - August 12 credits

ME646 Seminar II	2
ME635 Clinical Rotation 5	5
ME636 Clinical Rotation 6	5

Term 8 September - November 12 credits

ME647 Seminar III	2
ME637 Clinical Rotation 7	5
ME638 Clinical Rotation 8	5

Professional Phase

Term 9 December - February 14 credits

ME648 Seminar IV	2
ME692 Preparation for Clinical Practice	2
ME619 Elective Clinical Experience	4
ME690 Senior Seminar	6

Total Program 126 credits

Course Descriptions

ME500 Introduction to Clinical Reasoning

This course will introduce students to the process of integrating data collection into a patient assessment and plan in lecture and facilitated small-group format. Concepts of differential diagnoses, use of diagnostic studies, and synthesizing data will be discussed. Students will learn oral and written case presentation skills. Students demonstrate competence through written evaluations, small-group presentations, and written assignments.

ME504 Basics of Pharmacology I

This course will give students a foundation in the mechanisms by which drugs alter the function of living cells to relieve symptoms and the physiologic manifestations of disease. This introduction to the principles of drug action, metabolism, elimination, toxicity and therapeutics covers the autonomic and central nervous systems, antimicrobials, basic chemotherapy, hematological agents, and treatment of the musculoskeletal system.

ME506 Basics of Pharmacology II

This course continues the exploration of the mechanisms by which drugs alter the function of living cells to relieve symptoms and physiologic manifestations of disease. This second course will introduce anti-parasitic, anti-fungal and anti-viral agents and will study drugs used to treat psychiatric disorders and diseases of the cardiovascular and respiratory system.

ME508 Patient Care I

Lecture and laboratory course designed to introduce students to medical terminology and the theory and application of interviewing and physical examination skills. The course will cover the basic skills necessary to perform a comprehensive screening history and physical examination and introduce students to problem-focused data collection based on patient presentation. Students demonstrate competence through written and practical evaluations.

ME509 Pharmacology III

This course continues to build on the foundation of pharmacology by emphasizing the mechanisms by which drugs alter the function of living cells to relieve symptoms and physiologic manifestations of disease. Lectures will focus on drugs used to treat the gastrointestinal, renal/genitourinary, reproductive and endocrine systems as well as alternative medicines and the use of pharmacotherapeutics in the pediatric population.

ME510 Behavioral Medicine

In this course, students will learn essential skills in the assessment of and communication with patients. The content will focus on human growth and development with an emphasis on interviewing techniques, dealing with conflict, and reflective practice to enhance practitioner self-awareness and self-care. Students demonstrate competence through written evaluations, class participation, and reflective journaling.

ME512 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences I

This course provides an in-depth study of topics in human anatomy, physiology, and sciences as they relate to pathophysiology and cell biology. Instruction will emphasize the clinical application of the material as it pertains to the integumentary, nervous, musculoskeletal, blood and immune systems. An introduction to clinical microbiology, immunology, basic oncology and laboratory medicine will be included.

ME516 Clinical Medicine I

This course is the first in a series of four courses designed to introduce students to the broad scope of clinical medicine and disease processes, including evaluation, management, and therapeutics in a system-based approach. This course will explore diseases of the skin, basic oncology/hematology, and the nervous and musculoskeletal systems.

ME520 Professional Seminar I

This lecture and experiential course introduces the students to the physician assistant profession and their role in the American healthcare system. Topics of discussion include the history of the profession, professional organizations, laws affecting practice, education, and the future of the profession. A mentorship experience is designed to introduce students to the PA role through observation.

ME524 Clinical Reasoning I

This course will enhance students' life-long learning abilities while integrating knowledge, skills, and attitude acquired in other courses. This case-based course will engage students' critical thinking skills using paper cases and standardized patients. Students work through a patient case using self-directed learning and small-group discussion with faculty facilitation. Students will continue to practice case presentation skills throughout the course.

ME528 Patient Communication and Education

An extension of Behavioral Medicine, this course will focus on patient-centered communication skills. Topics will include the therapeutic alliance, motivational interviewing, individualizing patient education; the effect of family, cultural factors, socioeconomic status, gender, and ethnicity on the clinical encounter; clinical approaches to issues such as diet and exercise, addiction, and sexual issues; and continued work to enhance practitioner self-awareness.

ME532 Introduction to Epidemiology and Public Health

Through directed self-study and lecture, this course develops basic competencies in epidemiology and public health, which are a necessary foundation to understanding research and evidence-based medicine. It will orient the student to problem-solving methods used in public health, as well as the social, environmental, and behavioral determinants of health, disease, and systems of medical care.

ME536 Patient Care II

A lecture and laboratory course designed to introduce students to age-specific examinations and health promotion and disease prevention. Appropriate history taking, physical examinations, and preventive care from pregnancy through childhood, adulthood, and elders will be covered. Additionally, examination of the male and female patient will be taught during this course. Students demonstrate competence through written and practical evaluations.

ME540 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences II

This course continues the study of topics in gross human anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical microbiology, and laboratory medicine, all designed to provide a foundation for instruction in the Clinical Medicine course. Sessions will emphasize the clinical application of basic science topics as they relate to the head, ears, eyes, nose and throat as well as the cardiovascular, pulmonary systems.

ME544 Clinical Medicine II

This course continues exploration of clinical medicine and disease processes, including evaluation, management, and therapeutics pertaining to diseases of the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, as well as diseases of the head, ear, eyes, nose and throat. This course will also include a module discussing the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders.

ME548 Clinical Reasoning II

A continuation of Clinical Reasoning I, this course will enhance students' life-long learning abilities while integrating knowledge,

skills, and attitudes acquired in other courses. This case-based course will engage students' critical thinking skills using paper cases and standardized patients. Students work through a patient case using self-directed learning and small-group discussion with faculty facilitation.

ME552 Professional Seminar II

Students explore relevant health-care law and policy issues that impact the Physician Assistant profession and health-care delivery systems. Medical ethics issues will be discussed and debated. Mentorship experiences will provide opportunities for students to become familiar with professional communications and comportment in the clinical setting.

ME556 Understanding and Accessing the Medical Literature

This course will introduce students to the use of qualitative and quantitative research in health care as it pertains to epidemiology, public health, and the practice of clinical medicine. It provides an introduction to accessing computer-based medically oriented information and evidence-based medicine databases and will emphasize the use of evidence-based literature to validate and improve the practice of clinical medicine.

ME560 Advanced Clinical Skills

This lecture and laboratory course is designed to introduce students to essential procedures and skills necessary for primary care practice such as advanced interpretation of EKGs, laboratory studies and radiographs; phlebotomy; injection techniques; splinting; suturing and more. Students will participate in Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification training during this course. Students demonstrate competence through written and practical evaluations.

ME564 Clinical Application of Basic Sciences III

This course continues the study of topics in gross human anatomy, physiology, and patho-physiology, as well as an introduction to nutritional principles designed to support instruction in the Clinical Medicine course. Sessions will emphasize the clinical application of basic science topics as they relate to the renal, gastrointestinal, and the genitourinary/ reproductive systems.

ME568 Clinical Medicine III

A continued discussion of the broad scope of clinical medicine and disease processes, this course will include the evaluation, management, and treatment of renal/genitourinary, gastrointestinal, endocrine, reproductive system diseases. A pediatric module will discuss the diagnosis and management of illnesses common in the pediatric population.

ME572 Professional Seminar III

This course will introduce students to many issues they will face on a daily basis in the delivery of health care. Various issues of concern will be covered, such as Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, access to care and managed care, along with discussions on billing and coding. Mentorship experiences will emphasize observation of charting, clinical procedures, and continuity of care.

ME576 Preparation for Clinical Education

This seminar course is designed to prepare students to begin their core clinical experiences. Topics will include communication in the clinical setting, the use of electronic medical records, and an in-depth discussion of program requirements for progressing through the clinical year.

ME580 Clinical Reasoning III

Building on skills learned to date, this continuation course will reinforce students' life-long learning abilities while integrating knowledge, skills, and attitude acquired in other courses. This case-based course will engage students' critical thinking skills using paper cases and standardized patients. Students work through a patient case using self-directed learning and small-group discussion with faculty facilitation.

ME584 Evidence-based Medicine in Clinical Practice

This course emphasizes the ability to critique published research, to identify patient situations where research would improve care, and to understand the value of evidence-based practice. Students will learn to review and critique published literature and to use medical literature as a tool for clinical decision-making by researching a clinical question and formally presenting their findings in class.

ME588 Clinical Pharmacology

A review of the principles of pharmacology and discussion of how to apply these principles to patient care situations will be undertaken in preparation for students to enter clinical rotations. Common side effects of prototypic drugs in major categories, drug side effects and drug-drug interactions, the interaction of drugs with the disease state under treatment, polypharmacy, and reputable sources of information about drugs will be explored. Pharmacological management of acute and chronic diseases will be discussed and prescription writing will be reviewed and practiced in concert with the Clinical Reasoning III course.

ME592 Clinical Medicine IV

This course is designed to introduce students to conditions commonly encountered in emergency medicine, general surgery, geriatrics, and in-patient management. Emphasis will be placed on the general principles of care for acute and chronic illnesses and

injuries, basic surgical principles, evaluation and management of the hospitalized, surgical, and elderly patient.

ME619 Elective Clinical Experience

This four-week rotation in a clinical setting of the student's choice is designed to allow students the opportunity to explore a specialty that is not available or offered in the core six-week rotations or in a practice setting where they may be seeking employment after graduation.

ME631 – 638 Core Clinical Experiences 1 - 8

These practical experiences are designed to provide students with supervised medical and surgical clinical practice enabling them to acquire the competencies needed for PA practice. Core rotations will include Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Women's Health, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, and an additional primary care elective.

ME645 – 647 Seminar I - III

These two-week Seminar courses will enhance students' clinical rotations through discussion and evaluation of their experiences in the health care system. In week one students return to campus for case presentations and preparation for a community service project which will be carried out during the second week of the course. Selected lectures will also be delivered at this time.

ME648 Seminar IV

This two-week Seminar course is designed to bring students back to campus at the conclusion of their clinical year for continued reflection and discussion of their experiences, lectures in clinical medicine, and presentations. Students will undergo a written and practical summative evaluation designed to assess their mastery of the Competencies for the Physician Assistant profession prior to the final term.

ME690 Senior Seminar

A review of history and physical examination skills and a thorough review of current medical topics will be undertaken to prepare students for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).

ME692 Preparation for Clinical Practice

In order to assist students with the transition of becoming a clinically practicing physician assistant, this course will provide information on how to obtain certification, licensure, malpractice insurance, and many other essential topics related to practicing medicine as a physician assistant.

Information provided is accurate at the time of publication; however, it is subject to change without notice.
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