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## DOC 2013-01 Master of Physician Assistant Practice (MPAP) Program

University of Dayton. School of Education and Allied Professions

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**PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

TITLE: Master of Physician Assistant Practice (MPAP) Program

SUBMITTED BY: School of Education and Allied Professions

DATE: Approved: February 15, 2013

ACTION: Legislative Authority

REFERENCE: Constitution of the Academic Senate of the University of Dayton, Academic Senate DOC 11-04

## 1.0 Background and Proposal

The timeline for the development and accreditation of the Master of Physician Assistant Practice (MPAP) degree program and the department of Physician Assistant Education required the establishment of the department, hiring of faculty, and allocation of associated resources prior to the finalization of the curriculum of the MPAP program, which took place after the Chair of the department of Physician Assistant Education was hired. Consequently, at the December 2, 2011 meeting of the Academic Senate DOC 11-04: “Proposal to establish a department of Physician Assistant Education for the purpose of developing the Master of Physician Assistant Practice (MPAP)” was approved. DOC 11-04 included the following note: “Because the proposal involves the establishment of a department of Physician Assistant Education the master’s program curriculum will be submitted to the Academic Senate for review and approval.” This document details the curriculum of the MPAP program. Approval of this document would indicate the Academic Senate’s approval of the establishment of the MPAP program and of the curriculum detailed in this document. Significant description of the MPAP program was provided in DOC 11-04, which should be considered as background for this document.

## 2.0 Overview of Curriculum

The MPAP is a lock-step, year-round post-bachelor’s program to be housed within the department of Physician Assistant Education. The mission statement for this department is

*To develop practicing PAs who are skillful and caring health care providers experienced in diversity issues in health care within the context of the Catholic faith. The learning model emphasizes primary care medicine.*

The curriculum of the MPAP program is seven semesters (27 months) in length; there are four didactic and three clinical semesters for a total of 100 credit hours. Delivered in on-campus laboratories as well as off-campus supervised clinical settings, the curriculum is coordinated with relevant practice to provide students an integrated learning experience. It is aligned with national norms articulated by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), in Section B of its Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education, 4th edition. Program length is consistent with regular practice. Data published by the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) show that more than half of PA programs in the US report a program length of 24 or 27 months, within a range of 18 to 36 months. The mean number of credit hours for all PA programs is 103.8, according to curricular data from PAEA.

The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is the organization responsible for creating, administering, and maintaining the culminating exam for all PA graduates. NCCPA administers the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) to new graduates and Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam (PANRE) for certified PAs in a 10 year cycle after the initial certification exam. NCCPA provides a “blueprint” of topics that comprises both examinations.

Therefore, the ARC-PA Standards and the NCCPA topic blueprint determine most of the MPAP curricular components.

The University of Dayton’s MPAP program consists of systems-based, population-based, and topic-based courses. The systems-based courses comprise the majority of the courses and are taught daily, six hours per day, in weekly intervals. The length of the course is determined by the significance and incidence of the topic on the PANCE. For example, dermatology topics comprise 5% of the PANCE; it is one week in length at UD. Cardiology topics are 16% of the PANCE; this course is 6 weeks in length at UD.

Carnegie unit calculation for the systems-based or population-based with a lab component is as follows:

Each week in a modular based curriculum consists (on the average):

1 three and one-half hours session 3.5

5 three-hour classroom sessions 15

4 three-hour lab sessions (3 clock hrs=1 credit hr) 4

Total: 22.5 clock hours.

One credit hour=15 hours instruction; therefore 22.5 hours =1.5 credit hours per week in modules with a lab component

All remaining didactic courses at UD are calculated using the Carnegie system. Two credit hour courses meet a total of 30 clock hours; one credit course meets 15 clock hours.

The clinical portion of this curriculum consists primarily of 8 mandatory experiential rotations and one elective rotation. There is no equivalent Carnegie method for calculating this type of course; there is no standard among PA programs either. The formula suggested for use at UD is 0.5 credit hours for each week of rotation. There will be 4 rotations lasting 5 weeks (2.5 credits) and 4 rotations lasting 4 weeks (2 credits); the elective is a 6-week rotation (3 credits).

## 2.2 MPAP Curriculum Approvals

The curriculum detailed in this document was approved by the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee of the School of Education and Allied Professions (SOEAP) on November 19, 2012, the SOEAP Congress on November 30, 2012, and the Graduate Leadership Council on December 14, 2012.

## 2.1 Admission Requirements and Program Prerequisites

The proposed MPAP curriculum consists of a 27-month, seven consecutive semester course of study beginning in late August and ending in early December two years later. The 27-month time period is designed to accommodate both University of Dayton and external applicants who will have completed a bachelor's degree and attained at least a 3.0 grade average in the prerequisite courses listed below. All students will be full-time and, due to the rigorous nature of the curriculum, outside employment will be strongly discouraged. Completed applications will be due by December 31 of the year prior to that of the August start date.

The prerequisites for the MPAP program, which are typical of other Physician Assistant Master's programs, are the following:

- Human anatomy with lab: 4 semester hours
- Human physiology with lab: 4 semester hours
- Microbiology with lab: 4 semester hours
- Organic chemistry with lab: 8 semester hours
- Biochemistry (lab preferred): 4 semester hours
- General psychology 3 semester hours
- Second psychology course: 3 semester hours, i.e.: life span development, abnormal psychology
- Medical terminology
- Statistics

## 2.2 Curriculum by Semester

		Credit Hours	Lab
	<b>Fall: Semester I</b>	<b>23</b>	
PAS 500	Foundations of Patient Care	6	X
PAS 503	Clinical Genetics	1	
PAS 505	Foundations of PA Practice I	1	
PAS 510	Essentials of Hematology	1.5	X
PAS 515	Essentials of Infectious Disease	1.5	X
PAS 520	Essentials of Otolaryngology	3	X
PAS 525	Essentials of Gastroenterology	6	X
PAS 530	Essentials of Nephrology/Urology	1.5	X
PAS 533	Applied Patient Assessment I	1.5	X
	<b>Spring: Semester II</b>	<b>19</b>	
PAS 535	Essentials of Endocrinology	3	X
PAS 540	Essentials of Cardiology	9	X
PAS 545	Essentials of Pulmonology	4.5	X
PAS 548	Applied Patient Assessment II	1.5	X
PAS 549	Seminar in Special Topics	1	
	<b>Summer: Semester III</b>	<b>13</b>	
PAS 550	Essentials of Orthopedics/Rheumatology	6	X
PAS 555	Essentials of Neurology	3	X
PAS 560	Essentials of Dermatology	1.5	X
PAS 565	Principles of Geriatrics	1	
PAS 568	Applied Patient Assessment III	1.5	X
	<b>Fall: Semester IV</b>	<b>21</b>	
PAS 570	Principles of Pediatrics	3	
PAS 575	Principles of Women's Health Issues	3	
PAS 580	Principles of Mental Health	3	
PAS 585	Principles of Emergency Medicine	6	X
PAS 590	Principles of Care for the Surgical Patient	1.5	X
PAS 593	Applied Patient Assessment IV	1.5	X
PAS 600	Research Design	3	
	<b>Spring: Semester V</b>	<b>8.5</b>	
PAS 603	Foundations of PA Practice II	1	
PAS 605	Clinical Experience Family Medicine	2.5	X
PAS 615	Clinical Experience Adult Medicine	2.5	X
PAS 625	Clinical Experience General Surgery	2.5	X
	<b>Summer: Semester VI</b>	<b>6.5</b>	
PAS 635	Clinical Experience Emergency Medicine	2.5	X
PAS 604	Clinical Experience Office Orthopedic Practice	2	X
PAS 614	Experiential Pediatric Practice	2	X
	<b>Fall: Semester VII</b>	<b>9</b>	
PAS 624	Experiential Women's Health	2	X
PAS 634	Clinical Experience Mental Health	2	X
PAS 646	Clinical Elective Experience	3	X
PAS 650	Capstone Project	2	
		<b>100</b>	

## **2.3 Recommendation of the Academic Policies Committee**

Medical ethics and diversity, in addition to a number of other topics, are explicitly addressed in the required course PAS 549: Seminar in Special Topics. This is a two week intensive (all-day) 1 credit hour course. The Academic Policies Committee of the Academic Senate recommends that faculty members in the MPAP program, with support from members of the University of Dayton academic community, work to further strengthen outcomes related to medical ethics and diversity in a Catholic and Marianist context by intentionally embedding these topics into courses spread throughout the curriculum. In addition, as the program and its curriculum evolve, faculty members in the MPAP program should consider the development of a course devoted wholly to medical ethics and diversity.

## **2.4 Course Descriptions**

**PAS 500 Foundations of Patient Care (6 credit hours)** Prepares students to begin patient care through developing skills in effective patient interviewing, basic pharmacotherapeutics, ordering and interpreting radiographs and diagnostic tests, performing injections, IV insertions, and vital signs.

### **PAS 503 Clinical Genetics (1 credit hour)**

Introduces the genetic basis of disease as applied in a clinical setting. Students will learn to obtain an accurate genetic pedigree and convey information to patients. Also included are effective approaches to health maintenance, disease prevention, disease diagnosis, and treatment based on patients' genetic predispositions.

### **PAS 505 Foundations of PA Practice I (1 credit hour)**

Taught in seminar fashion, explores the history of the PA profession, current trends in practice, significance of professional organizations pertinent to students, the impact of the US health care delivery system and public health policy and concepts of evidence based medicine. Students will develop communication skills, maximize their learning styles, and define professionalism as it applies to the health care field.

### **PAS 510 Essentials of Hematology/Oncology (1.5 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing physiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine, and surgical conditions involving the hematology system and common oncological conditions that is presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

### **PAS 515 Essentials of Infectious Disease (1.5 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing physiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic studies, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving infectious diseases presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

### **PAS 520 Essentials of Otolaryngology (3 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the HEENT system that is presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

### **PAS 525 Essentials of Gastroenterology (6 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing nutrition, anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the gastrointestinal system that is presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

### **PAS 530 Essentials of Nephrology & urology (1.5 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the renal and urological systems that is presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

**PAS 533 Applied Patient Assessment I (1.5 credit hours)**

Integrates information from previous modules. Using critical thinking, student groups will review, discuss patient cases then assimilate information to develop diagnosis and treatment plans. Module culminates with individual assessment using simulation.

**PAS 535 Essentials of Endocrinology (3 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the endocrine system that is presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

**PAS 540 Essentials of Cardiology (9 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the cardiovascular system presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

**PAS 545 Essentials of Pulmonology (4.5 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the respiratory system presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

**PAS 548 Applied Patient Assessment II (1.5 credit hours)**

Integrates information from previous modules. Using critical thinking, student groups will review, discuss patient cases then assimilate information to develop diagnosis and treatment plans. Module culminates with individual assessment using simulation.

**PAS 549 Seminar in Special Topics (1 credit hour)**

Two week seminar which addresses cultural diversity, medical ethics, preventive medicine, alternative medicine, and physical medicine/rehabilitation. Each topic will address most commonly encountered issues; lecture and group case studies refine the application of newly learned material.

**PAS 550 Essentials of Orthopedics/Rheumatology (6 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the musculoskeletal system, including rheumatological diseases. Material is presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

**PAS 555 Essentials of Neurology (3 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the neurological system presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

**PAS 560 Essentials of Dermatology (1.5 credit hours)**

Systems-based module addressing anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, history/physical examination skills, diagnostic studies, medical procedures, pharmacology, clinical medicine and surgical conditions involving the dermatological system presented in lecture and patient simulation format.

**PAS 565 Principles of Geriatrics (1 credit hour)**

Population-based course dealing with social and medical problems specific to the geriatric age group. Topics will focus on techniques of communication in this age group, medical treatments specific to the elderly and navigation through health care systems.

**PAS 568 Applied Patient Assessment III (1.5 credit hours)**

Integrates information from previous modules. Using critical thinking, student groups will review, discuss patient cases then assimilate information to develop diagnosis and treatment plans. Module culminates with individual assessment using simulation.

**PAS 570 Principles of Pediatrics (3 credit hours)**

Population-based module focusing on pediatric issues. The course addresses etiology, epidemiology, clinical signs and symptoms, physical exam findings, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis for significant issues in the pediatric population.

**PAS 575 Principles of Women's Health Issues (3 credit hours)**

Population-based module focusing on women's issues. The course addresses etiology, epidemiology, clinical signs and symptoms, physical exam findings, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis for significant issues in the female population.

**PAS 580 Principles of Mental Health (3 credit hours)**

Population-based module focusing on mental health issues. The course addresses etiology, epidemiology, clinical signs and symptoms, physical exam findings, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis for significant psychiatric and behavioral medicine issues.

**PAS 585 Principles of Emergency Medicine (6 credit hours)**

Taught in a case-based format, this population-based module emphasizes stabilizing patients with life-threatening trauma or illness and selecting appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic measures. Students learn treatment of trauma and medical disorders commonly presenting to the emergency department and become ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) certified.

**PAS 590 Principles of Care for the Surgical Patient (1.5 credit hours)**

Population-based course dealing with basics needed for the surgical patient. This course includes pre-operative evaluation, peri- and post-operative tenets of care for the surgical patient. Students will demonstrate suturing, gowning/gloving skills.

**PAS 593 Applied Patient Assessment IV (1.5 credit hours)**

Integrates information from previous modules. Using critical thinking, student groups will review, discuss patient cases then assimilate information to develop diagnosis and treatment plans. Module culminates with individual assessment using simulation.

**PAS 600 RESEARCH DESIGN (3 credit hours)**

***UD RESEARCH COURSE TO BE DEVELOPED***

*Instruction in research methods and application to the clinical setting. Basic concepts of epidemiology and statistics integrate into concepts related to medical practice. Students critically read published reports of clinical research then identify strengths and weaknesses in structure, data presentation and conclusions. This course provides skills necessary to practice evidence based medicine.*

**PAS 603 Foundations of PA Practice II (1 credit hour)**

Taught in seminar fashion, prepares the PA student for clinical practice post-graduation. Emphasizes topics of PA residency programs, PA professional organizations, coding/reimbursement/billing information, and malpractice liability. Prepares student for employment with resume construction, interview skills, contracts, and assistance in finding employment as a PA.

**PAS 604 Clinical Experience Office Orthopedic Practice (2 credit hours)**

Four week required rotation in an orthopedic office clinical setting. Students engage in all aspects of patient care, including history taking, physical examination, and treatment plan design and evaluation. Students' application of patient and family education to treatment and preventive measures is emphasized.

**PAS 605 Clinical Experience Family Medicine (2.5 credit hours)**

Five week required rotation in clinical setting of general primary care. Students engage in all aspects of patient care, including history taking, physical examination, and treatment plan design and evaluation. Students' application of patient and family education to treatment and preventive measures is emphasized.



**PAS 614 Experiential Pediatric Practice (2 credit hours)**

Four week required rotation in a pediatric clinical setting. Students engage in all aspects of patient care, including history taking, physical examination, and treatment plan design and evaluation. Students' application of patient and family education to treatment and preventive measures is emphasized.

**PAS 615 Clinical Experience Adult Medicine (2.5 credit hours)**

Five week required rotation in clinical setting of in adult/internal medicine in a hospital setting. Students engage in all aspects of patient care, including history taking, physical examination, and treatment plan design and evaluation. Students' application of patient and family education to treatment and preventive measures is emphasized.

**PAS 624 Experiential Women's Health (2 credit hours)**

Four week required rotation in an ob/gyn clinical setting. Students engage in all aspects of patient care, including history taking, physical examination, and treatment plan design and evaluation. Students' application of patient and family education to treatment and preventive measures is emphasized.

**PAS 625 Clinical Experience General Surgery (2.5 credit hours)**

Five week required rotation in clinical setting of general surgery. Students engage in all aspects of patient care, including history taking, physical examination, and treatment plan design and evaluation. Students' application of patient and family education to treatment and preventive measures is emphasized.

**PAS 634 Clinical Experience in Mental Health (2 credit hours)**

Four week required rotation in a mental health clinical setting. Students engage in all aspects of patient care, including history taking, physical examination, and treatment plan design and evaluation. Students' application of patient and family education to treatment and preventive measures is emphasized.

**PAS 635 Clinical Experience Emergency Medicine (2.5 credit hours)**

Five week required rotation in the emergency department clinical setting. Students engage in all aspects of patient care, including history taking, physical examination, and treatment plan design and evaluation. Students' application of patient and family education to treatment and preventive measures is emphasized.

**PAS 646 Clinical Elective Experience (3 credit hours)**

Elective rotation of student's choice (with PA faculty guidance and approval). A 6 week rotation that will provide the student with either a repeat rotation or new clinical experience. Students can choose either one 6 week rotation or a combination of experiences totaling 6 weeks.

**PAS 650 Capstone Project (2 credit hours)**

Designed to provide students with the opportunity to complete a scholarly project with faculty as mentors for this experience. The process includes choice of topic, literature review, data collection, and paper preparation; culminates in either a professional article or formal presentation.