Physician Assistant Program

Master of Clinical Medical Science (M.C.M.Sc.)

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Program Overview

A Physician Assistant (PA) is a highly qualified health care provider who has been prepared, through a demanding academic and clinical curriculum, to provide health care services under physician supervision. PAs gather and evaluate medical data and participate in the process of clinical decision-making, diagnosis, and therapeutic management.

All students who successfully complete the Barry University Physician Assistant Program (Program) will be awarded both the Master of Clinical Medical Science degree and the Physician Assistant Certificate.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Barry University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Barry University. Accreditation-Continued Is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be March 2026. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

Mission and Philosophy

Vision Statement

Our vision is that our graduates will be PA leaders in health care technology and clinical practice.

Mission Statement

The Barry University Physician Assistant Program educates students in the practice of collaborative medicine and encourages life-long learning and professional development. It fosters a technology rich environment and clinical training experiences among diverse patient populations. The Program enables students to develop competencies required to meet the health care needs of contemporary society.

Educational Philosophy

The vast amount of information in medicine can never be mastered by any one person. However, it is each practitioner's responsibility to learn as much as possible each day in order to develop the deepest fund of knowledge possible. The Program encourages its students to engage medicine as a life-long learning experience.

Course syllabi and lecture materials are meant to help the student obtain a broad overview of the identified topics. However, neither tests nor examinations for licensure, nor the patients whom a student may encounter in a clinical rotation, can exhaustively cover the content of any given area in medicine. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the student to study beyond the syllabus and course materials and to develop intellectually to every extent possible.

Program Goals

Upon graduation from the Barry University Physician Assistant Program, students will demonstrate proficiency in entry-level competencies listed below.

Program Objectives and Competencies of the PA Profession

Upon graduation from the Barry University Physician Assistant Program, students will demonstrate proficiency in entry-level competencies:

1. Medical Knowledge
2. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
3. Patient Care
4. Professionalism
5. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
6. Systems-Based Practice

Admission Requirements

The successful candidate for admission to the Physician Assistant Program will have:

- A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited or internationally recognized college or university; it is required that the undergraduate grade point average, especially in science, be 3.0 or higher;
- Completed 6 credits (two courses) in human anatomy and physiology with labs;
- Completed 3 credits (one course) in the biological sciences. (examples include: general biology or zoology, human genetics, cell and molecular biology);
- Completed at least 6 credits (two courses) in psychology, sociology, or human growth and development. Anthropology, humanities, and criminology courses are not accepted;
- Completed a minimum of 6 credits (two courses) in general chemistry and 3 credits (1 course) in either organic chemistry or biochemistry;
- Taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) will not be substituted for the GRE; applicants with GRE scores more than five years old from the year of matriculation must re-take the GRE and submit more recent scores; GRE scores must be sent to the university by ETS to institutional code 5053, departmental code 0634 before the application is submitted; and
- Submit a complete dossier of official college transcripts to CASPA for verification (prerequisite credits that are more than ten years old may not be considered);
- Submitted three letters of recommendation, (from clinical work supervisors or clinical coworkers, and academicians);
- Evidence of prior experience in health care is highly recommended; and
- Meet the Program Technical and Professional Standards.

Applicants should have all prerequisites completed at the time their application is submitted to CASPA. An Interview is required and is extended only at the Invitation of the Admissions Committee. Once offered a seat of provisional acceptance, ALL official (sealed) transcripts and admission documents must be mailed to Main Campus for processing: Barry University Physician Assistant Program, 11300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33161-6695 as the Program does not receive copies sent to CASPA.

In addition, though not a requirement for admission, students accepted into the Program must complete a course in medical terminology prior to matriculation. Accepted students must provide a grade for medical terminology on an official transcript or a certificate of completion.

Admission Process

All applicants to the Barry University Physician Assistant Program must apply through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applicants may begin the application process by visiting the CASPA web site at https://caspa.liaisoncas.com. Applicants must apply to only one campus (Miami or St. Petersburg). Applicants invited for interviews will be invited only to their first-choice site.

Selection will be made by committee and is based upon the above criteria. Candidates are evaluated in the context of the applicant pool for the year in which they seek to matriculate. Therefore, the admission process for the PA Program is highly competitive. Candidates are considered on the basis of their overall GRE, undergraduate and graduate GPA, their health care experience, commitment to service, letters of recommendation, writing ability, the interview, and their personal statement.

Individuals selected for admission must exhibit the necessary interpersonal skills, and the physical, psychological, and behavioral capacities to satisfactorily fulfill the rigorous requirements of the Program.

Foreign-Born Non-U.S. or Non-Canadian Citizens

- Applicants with foreign transcripts or non-grade transcripts must submit a degree equivalent evaluation with GPA provided (an original sealed report from a transcript evaluation service.) A list of transcript evaluation service providers may be found at www.naces.org;
- Must have attended a college or university in the United States for a minimum of one year prior to application; and
- Submit test scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), be able to express themselves clearly to others in spoken English, and have the ability to understand rapidly spoken colloquial English. Curriculum Descriptions

The curriculum leading to the Master of Clinical Medical Science degree, normally takes twenty-eight months to complete. Lecture content is delivered using interactive video conferencing between the two campuses. The first year involves didactic classroom courses (some with laboratories) in the basic and applied medical sciences. The next twelve months involve rotations in hospitals and other approved facilities. Students return to the campus for additional didactic courses and research for their final semester. Successful completion of the entire curriculum is required for graduation.

Course Sequence

First Year			credits
Fall			
PHA	585	Physiology	4
PHA	586	Neuroanatomy	2
PHA	580	Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases	3
PHA	590P	Gross Anatomy with Lab	6
PHA	605C	Physical Diagnosis I	3
PHA	621A	Clinical Pharmacology I	1
PHA	530A	The Physician Assistant Role in Modern Health Care	1
Spring			
PHA	510	Human Genetics	1
PHA	535	Human Behavior and Psychiatry	3
PHA	602	Medical Pathophysiology I	6
PHA	605D	Physical Diagnosis II	4
PHA	621B	Clinical Pharmacology II	2
PHA	640P	Surgical Principles	2
PHA	701	Women's Health/Pediatrics/Geriatrics	3
Summer			
PHA	603	Medical Pathophysiology II	3
PHA	649P	General Radiology	3
PHA	705B	Emergency Medicine	2
PHA	605E	Physical Diagnosis III	3
PHA	621C	Clinical Pharmacology III	2
PHA	573	Research in Community Health	4

Second Year

There will be eight six-week rotations, including Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Behavioral Health, Surgery, and an Elective rotation.

Following each rotation there will be End of Rotation exercises at Barry University.

Fall, Spring, & Summer*			credits
PHA	552	Medical Spanish	3
PHA	727	Clinical Orientation (PA)	1
PHA	740	PA Rotation 1	6
PHA	741	PA Rotation 2	6
PHA	742	PA Rotation 3	6
PHA	743	PA Rotation 4	6
PHA	744	PA Rotation 5	6
PHA	745	PA Rotation 6	6
PHA	746	PA Rotation 7	6
PHA	747	PA Rotation 8	6

Third Year*			credits
Fall			
PHA	553P	Biomedical Ethics/Health Care Delivery	2
PHA	806P	Library Research	7
PHA	638	Thanatology	1
PHA	530B	Transition to PA Clinical Practice	1
PHA	690	Clinical Therapeutics	2
PHA	695	Primary Care Review Course	3

Total Credits	**126**

*An elective may be taken in the advanced didactic semester.

Progressions Requirements

The Program is continuous (no semester breaks) and sequential spanning twenty-eight months. Each semester's successful completion is required to progress.

Extension of studies beyond the prescribed twenty-eight months is not possible. The exception is when a student requests a leave of absence for pressing personal, military, or family reasons, or must repeat a clinical rotation. The student may have the opportunity to return at a later date to complete the curriculum and, depending upon the length of the leave, may be required to complete remediation activities prior to continuing. These situations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and are at the discretion of the program director and based upon faculty recommendations.

Academic Standing (calculated using a 0.00 to 4.00 scale)

A student must maintain a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above to be considered in good academic standing.

Probation Status Didactic
A student will be placed on academic probation if:

- Achieves a semester GPA below 2.70

Probation Status Clinical
A student will be placed on academic probation with an F grade on a clinical rotation or has a semester GPA below 2.70.

Dismissal Status Didactic
A student will be dismissed if:

- Achieves a GPA less than 2.50 In any didactic semester or
- Qualifies for academic probation for two consecutive semesters or
- Earns an F in any didactic semester regardless of GPA.

Dismissal Status Clinical
A student will be dismissed if:

- Qualifies for academic or professional probation in two consecutive semesters,
- Or achieves a cumulative GPA below 2.50,
- Or a second F in any clinical rotation, consecutive or not consecutive, regardless of GPA.

Graduation Requirements
All candidates for the degree of Master of Clinical Medical Science in the Physician Assistant Program shall have:

1. Satisfactorily complete all courses, rotations, and clinical requirements.
2. Maintained acceptable professional standards (see Professional Conduct Code).
3. Fulfilled all responsibilities and financial obligations to the Program and the University.
4. Completed a summative evaluation, written and practical during their final term. Each student must successfully complete a proctored examination of a standardized patient which includes assessment of their ability to provide care, demonstrate their clinical skills and medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, and professionalism..
5. Achieve a grade of C or higher on the Primary Care Review course examination.

Recommendation for the Master of Clinical Medical Science degree is a discretionary right residing with the faculty and administration of the Program, but shall not be withheld arbitrarily. There is no contract, stated or implied, between the Program and the students, guaranteeing that a degree or certificate will be conferred at any stated time, or at all. Accreditation guidelines mandate that the Program evaluate each graduation candidate to determine the appropriateness of their graduation. If students are found lacking in appropriateness, remediation will be required in their final didactic semester. Such remediation could delay their graduation.

Students who have satisfactorily completed all program requirements are eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).

Grading Policy
The grading policy for students in the Physician Assistant Program will be as follows:

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
F	Less than 70%

Advanced Standing and Transfer Policy

Due to considerable variation in physician assistant programs throughout the United States, students of other PA programs will not be accepted for transfer into the Program. In addition, applicants to the Program may not receive "advanced standing" based upon previous education or credits taken. Foreign medical graduates must complete the Program in its entirety.

Course Descriptions Prefix: PHA

510 Human Genetics (1)

An overview of basic genetic science, of common problems in clinical genetics, and of issues in genetic counseling. The course is intended to furnish PA students with a useful overview of human genetics sufficient to enable them to manage issues in genetics that may arise in primary care medical practice.

530A The Physician Assistant Role in Modern Health Care (1)

Introduction to the role of the Physician Assistant (PA) in health care delivery. Examines the historical development of PAs as associates to family physicians and internists, as well as evolving PA roles as medical generalists, primary care health providers, and PA specialty and subspecialty practice. Distinguishes the shared and distinct roles of physicians, nurses, and other members of the health care team. Various aspects of PA professional life, including legal, legislative, regulatory, PA Professional organizations, PA program accreditation, PA certification, and recertification.

530B Transition to PA Clinical Practice (1)

This course examines the competencies and select skills that students need to demonstrate upon completion of the program. Addresses multiple PA practice issues including the competencies required for licensing and clinical practice, including professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement, and systems based practice.

535 Human Behavior and Psychiatry (3)

This course will focus on the signs, symptoms, and therapies of the major mental disorders, emphasizing those most commonly seen and managed in primary care medical practice. Thus, the anxiety disorders, depression, alcohol and drug abuse, and the organic brain syndromes will be considered in detail. Throughout, behavioral science concepts will be introduced as needed to explain both the characteristics of the disorders and of their treatments. Discussion will include how to generate a differential diagnosis and develop and implement an appropriate plan of treatment for the major disorders, as well as appropriate referral of patients.

552 Medical Spanish (3)

This course is intended to enable students to complete a history and physical and conduct a physical examination in Spanish. No prerequisite knowledge of Spanish is required. Focus is upon diversity and cultural issues.

553P Biomedical Ethics/Health Care Delivery (2)

This course focuses on selected topics in bioethics relevant to Physician Assistant practice: valid consent, the definition of death, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, advance directive, neonatology, and an intensive examination of the PA code of ethics. Discussion will include the attributes of respect for self and others, professional responsibility, and a commitment to the patient and their welfare. Further discussion will include the concepts of privilege, confidentiality, and informed patient consent.

573 Research in Community Health (4)

An introduction to public health issues, epidemiology, and research methods related to the Physician Assistant practice. This course will provide the PA student with an overview of research designs and analytical statistics, incidence, and patterns of disease states in populations and the practical application of this information to the public health issues in the clinical setting. The PA student will be able to review and critique medical literature and studies for their validity and clinical significance.

580 Clinical Microbiology (3)

Introduction to human immunity and medical bacteriology, mycology, virology, and parasitology, followed by topics in infections disease using a systemic approach: infections of skin and wounds; bones and joints; eye, ear, nose, and throat; dental and periodontal tissues; respiratory tract; gastrointestinal system; urinary tract; nervous system; cardiovascular system; sexually transmitted disease; diseases of the fetus and newborn; AIDS and opportunistic infections.

585 Physiology (4)

Introduction to physiology. Normal physiological processes will be discussed including basic principles, physiology of nerve and muscle, essentials of neuro-anatomy, functions of nerve tissues, endocrinology and metabolism, gastrointestinal function, cardiovascular physiology, respiration, and excretion. Biochemical and nutritional issues will also be addressed.

Physiology lecture incorporates concepts from Anatomy, Histology, Biochemistry, Physics, and Molecular Biology and applies them toward the understanding of the normal function of the major organ-systems of the human body. The major organ systems covered are: (i) cardiovascular, (ii) digestive, (iii) endocrine, (iv) muscular, (v) neural, (vi) renal, (vii) reproductive, and (viii) respiratory.

586 Neuroanatomy (2)

This course provides the student with a basic understanding of the structural organization of the central nervous system in sufficient depth to form the basis for clinical application. This course will cover the structure and function of the spinal cord, brain stem, cerebellum, and cerebrum. The primary emphasis will be on the major motor and sensory pathways, spinal and cranial nerves, and integrative mechanisms of the central nervous system.

590P Gross Anatomy with Lab (6)

Study designed to expose the student to the macroscopic aspects of human morphology and correlate them with clinical information. The whole body will be covered. Software and models are used. Lecture and lab.

602 Medical Pathophysiology I (6)

Introduction to pathological processes in human physiology. This course will introduce the PA student with the common cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal/genitourinary, and hematologic/oncologic diseases seen in a primary care practice today. It will emphasize their epidemiology, pathophysiologic basis, presentation, physical and laboratory exam findings, natural history, differential diagnosis, diagnostic workup, and treatment. Content will correspond to those topics listed in the PA National Certification Exam (PANCE) blueprint.

603 Medical Pathophysiology II (3)

This course will introduce the Physician Assistant student with the common gastrointestinal, hepatic, endocrinology, neurological, and infectious diseases encountered in a primary care practice today. Similar to PHA 602, it will emphasize their epidemiology, pathophysiologic basis, presentation, physical and laboratory exam findings, natural history differential diagnosis, diagnostic workup, and treatment. Content will correspond to those topics listed in the PANCE blueprint.

605C, 605D, 605E Physical Diagnosis I, II, III (3) (4) (3)

Introduction to and development of techniques in the common and basic components of physical and laboratory examinations, techniques of interviewing and history taking, and the care of the patient in all fields of medicine. In addition to the vital communication skills required to meet patient's needs, PHA 605 C emphasizes the organization and integration of the collected information ("clinical data") into the written medical record. The course also introduces the student to the process of clinical reasoning and the skill of differential diagnosis. Also includes EKG and laboratory medicine. Lecture and lab.

621A, 621B, 621C Clinical Pharmacology I, II, III (1) (2) (2)

Students develop basic knowledge and practical skills in clinical pharmacology. The first course introduces fundamental concepts of pharmacology, including pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and therapeutic principles. In the subsequent course, students lean applied concepts of law, pharmacology, and therapeutics, integrating therapeutic principles and patient outcomes with previously established basic concepts. Real-life cases illustrate clinical applications of pharamcotherapeutic principles. Prerequisites/Co-requisites: satisfactory completion of the first course is a prerequisite for the second and the second for the third.

638 Thanatology (1)

Seminar course in end-of-life issues including resuscitation, living wills, DNRS, and hospice. This course was developed as a direct result of awareness that current medical training lacks fundamental learning about the dying patient. Students that partake in this discussion course will be able to deal with emotionally charged end-of-life issues and will become more comfortable emotionally to deal with these topics. Includes a practicum experience in the care of patients in long term care settings.

640P Surgical Principles (2)

Introduces the student to the evaluation and management of selected acute, chronic and emergent surgical conditions likely to be encountered in primary care. Emphasis is placed on the integration of anatomy and physiology, history and physical skills, pathophysiology diagnostic studies, and surgical interventions. Pre- and post-operative management, including appropriate referral practices, are included.

649P General Radiology (3)

Radiation physics, image production, and safety are covered. Evaluation of radiographic changes as they relate to systemic and local pathology.

690 Clinical Therapeutics (2)

In this course, students concentrate on the integration of didactic and clinical experiences through critical thinking to determine patient management decisions. In addition to review present conical therapeutics and medical interventions, previous concepts taught in pathophysiology and physical diagnosis are reviewed. Through a combination of lectures, case studies, practice questions and reading assignments, students explore a wide range of medical and surgical topics in preparation for both their clinical careers and the PANCE.

695 Primary Care Review Course (3)

This course was designed specifically to assist PA students and PAs in their preparation for the PANCE certification and recertification exams. The design of the course closely follows the NCCPA content blueprint in the selection of topics and overall organization to provide focus for an organized review of the subject matter contained on the certification and recertification exams. The first part of the course consists of a question and answer format using a student response system. Students are required to review and study the assigned reading and PANCE blueprint topics prior to each class session. During the class session, students answer multiple choice questions about the assigned organ system topic by using the student response system. The second part of the course consists of forty hours of lectures given over a five-day period, open to a national audience. The course content closely follows the NCCPA content blueprint in the selection of topics.

701 Women's Health/Pediatrics/Geriatrics (3)

This course is intended to provide the student with a background in family health care as it pertains to specific issues in obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, and geriatrics.

The obstetrics/gynecology component of the course gives students an understanding of the etiology, pathology, and treatment of commonly occurring conditions of the female reproductive system. The course will also provide students with the knowledge required to monitor and treat patients through uncomplicated and complicated pregnancies.

In the pediatrics portion of the course, the student will learn the evaluation and management of the normal/sick newborn, understand basic growth patterns and child development, correlate signs and symptoms to major pediatric disease entities, and develop an awareness of multicultural process; biculturalism, multiculturalism, and begin to tailor interactions with patients based on this cultural awareness.

The geriatrics portion of the course introduces the basic and specific concepts of geriatric patient care. The focus is on those contemporary and common issues faced in general and family practice medicine when dealing with the aging patient. With this foundational knowledge, the concepts of care of the elderly, which often differ from core adult, adolescent, or pediatric care will become more apparent. The student will be able to describe the process of aging in human health and disease, understand the demography and epidemiology of aging, explain medical entities of the elderly (including, where specified, anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment), explain the loss of homeostatic control mechanisms that occur with the aging process, articulate a

greater appreciation for the health care needs of the aging patient with specific reference to highlighted issues, explain the purpose and procedures for a comprehensive geriatric examination, and use the results to determine prescriptions for care.

705B Emergency Medicine (2)

Discussion will include how to competently handle the diverse critical and cultural problems encountered in an Emergency Department. In an effort to foster critical medical decision making and problem solving, topics include, but are not limited to, the following: providing a differential diagnosis for headaches and the approach to evaluating headache; management of hemorrhagic strokes; NIHSS utilization; initial management of a patient with Altered Mental Status (AMS); history and exam of a patient with abdominal pain; history, presentation, and management of ectopic pregnancy; delineation of the types of etiologies for chest pain; how Evidence Based Medicine plays a role in risk stratification and practice recommendations; "red flags" in evaluating patients with neck and back pain; the role of EMS providers in the delivery of emergency care; discussion of how to triage in disaster situations and colors/priorities of patients to be managed; issues related to obtaining parental consent when treating a minor in the ED; management of a pediatric patient and how they differ from adults; the pregnant trauma patient; the Glasgow coma scale; physical exam of a patient with respiratory distress; toxicology; environmental emergencies. Contemporary medicine mandates rapid recognition of strokes and the NIHSS designation.

727 Clinical Orientation (PA) (1)

Students are oriented to numerous aspects of clinical care, patient interactions, and hospital, clinic, and operating room protocols. Lecture, discussion, demonstration, lab, and workshop presentations are used to deliver the course content. Participants also complete ACLS and PALS certification courses, as well as Domestic Violence, OSHA/Infection Control, Prevention of Medical Errors, HIV, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).

740–747 PA Rotations 1–8 (6 weeks each) (6)

Students attend and participate in clinical practices under the supervision of adjunct clinical faculty. Each clinical rotation will represent a block of six weeks duration. Each rotation is followed by End of Rotation activities designed to assess the students' progress in cognitive, behavioral and professional areas of clinical practice. Required rotations are designated in emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, women's health, pediatrics, behavioral health, surgery, and one elective.

806P Library Research (7)

Successful completion of this research paper is required for physician assistant students and serves to develop skills in literature review and objective interpretation of the same, thereby enabling the student to draw valid conclusions.

Notice of Right to Amend

The Barry University Physician Assistant Program reserves the right to withdraw, amend, or add at any time to these policies with or without prior notice and to make such changes applicable to current students, as well as new students. These policies are not intended to and do not create a contract or other binding obligation and may unilaterally be withdrawn, amended, or modified at any time with or without prior notice.