

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES, MSPAS

Curriculum (114 Hours)

The Master's Degree Program for Physician Assistants is a 27-month medical model curricular plan (7 semesters) with 114 total credit hours. The 27-month curricular plan includes a strong basic science foundation in physiology, human gross anatomy and genetics with a systems-based instructional approach to clinical medicine which includes instruction in the pathophysiology of diseases, ordering and interpretation and of diagnostic studies, as well as pharmacological and nonpharmacological treatment options. The final 12 months of the program consists of clinical training under experienced preceptors. The required practicums are derived from those used for training medical students in these venues, with a strong focus on primary care training. There are also many elements associated with professional development for PAs and interprofessional interactions, as well as understanding population health, quality care, and using evidenced-based practices. Some of the foundational content will be taught with other health professional (graduate or medical) students to forge interprofessional team concepts. Many of the courses involve hands-on preparation for clinical practice, including clinical skills training and training in new technologies using the USC SOM Simulation Center and Ultrasound Institute.

PA Program Core Courses

Include the following:

Course	Title	Credits
PHPH 701	Physiology for Health Sciences	6
BMSC 740	Human Anatomy for Health Sciences	6
BMSC 742	Summative Experience for Physician Assistants	1
BMSC 743	Clinical Immersion for PAs	2
BMSC 744	Interprofessional Seminar for Health Professionals	1
BMSC 745	Medical Interviewing	2
BMSC 746	Physical Diagnosis	6
BMSC 747	Diagnostic Testing	2
BMSC 748	Surgery and Emergency Medicine	2
BMSC 749	Clinical Medicine-Across the Lifespan	2
BMSC 751	Behavioral Health	2
BMSC 752	Medical Law and Ethics	2
BMSC 753	Physician Assistant Professional Practice	1
BMSC 755	Medical Genetics and Laboratory Diagnostics	2
BMSC 756	Advancing Medical Practice through Research	3
BMSC 758	Internal Medicine	4
BMSC 759	Women's Health	4
BMSC 760	Pediatrics	4
BMSC 761	Behavioral Medicine	4
BMSC 762	General Surgery	4
BMSC 763	Emergency Medicine	4
BMSC 764	Orthopedics	4
BMSC 765	Practicum Elective (take twice for total of 8 credits)	8
BMSC 766	PA Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics I	7
BMSC 767	PA Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics II	6

BMSC 768	PA Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics III	6
BMSC 769	PA Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics IV	7
BMSC 770	Clinical Skills Lab	3
BMSC 781	Family Medicine PA Program Practicum	4
BMSC 782	Family Medicine PA Program Practicum 2	4
BMSC 783	Physician Assistant Capstone Portfolio	1

Total Credit Hours **114**