Mission

Our mission is to develop physician assistants in the Jesuit tradition who realize their full potential as excellent clinicians and national leaders. We pursue this for *ad majorem Dei gloriam*, the greater glory of God, and the benefit of the human community.

An ideal graduate of our program is well-rounded, clinically and intellectually competent, committed to professional growth, spiritually centered, compassionate and dedicated to doing justice in generous service to others. Our graduates will be leaders in promoting health, wellness and preventing disease in diverse healthcare settings and in their communities.

DEPARTMENT of Physician assistant STUDIES GOALS

Goal 1: The program supports students academically during their physician assistant training in order for them to achieve their academic and professional goals.

- Students are challenged with a rigorous medical curriculum while being supported by the faculty and administration through a low student to faculty ratio, academic advising and continued support.

Goal 2: The program recognizes students learn from a variety of teaching methods and employs these methods including: lectures, problem-based learning, small group experiences, standardized patient experiences, clinical rotations and self-reflection exercises. Starting with a thoughtful and fair admission process and continued support to the students throughout the program, we maintain a low attrition and deceleration rate.

Goal 3: Graduates of the program strive for a first-time passing rate of 100% on the PANCE exam.

Goal 4: Graduates of the program strive for a 100% employment rate by six months in each graduating class.

Goal 5: Prepare our graduates to promote the PA profession through their leadership, ethical practice, scholarship and service.

- Graduates are leaders of the profession at the local, state, and national level.
- Graduates provide compassionate, patient-centered care to a diverse population of patients.
- Graduates foster integrity through accountability to patients, society, and the PA Profession.
- Graduates meet all regulatory requirements for licensure and maintain their professional certification through completion of ongoing professional development.

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

MU PA Learning Outcome #1: General Physical Exam:

Students will perform a comprehensive physical examination on the geriatric patient; adult patient; and pediatric patients including toddlers and newborns. The physical examination system components include:

Vital signs, General appearance, Skin, Head/Eye/Ear/Nose/Throat, Neck, Cardiac, Pulmonary, Abdominal, Genitourinary including rectal examination, pelvic examination in women and prostate examination in men, Peripheral Vascular, Neurologic, Musculoskeletal and Psychiatric.

MU PA Learning Outcome #2: Complete History

Students will demonstrate the ability to obtain a complete medical history on pediatric, adult and geriatric patients including the following components: Complete History, Medications, Allergies with Reaction, Family History and Health Maintenance.

MU PA Learning Outcome #3: Documentation of Complete History and Physical Exam

Students will demonstrate the ability to properly document a complete medical history and physical exam on pediatric, adult and geriatric patients inclusive of the above components.

MU PA Learning Outcome #4: Differential Diagnosis:

Students will formulate an appropriate differential diagnosis based on information obtained through a focused history and physical examination.

MU PA Learning Outcome #5: Interpersonal Communication - Patient Education:

Students will verbally communicate patient educational information. They will do so with clarity and accuracy at a level appropriate for the patient's health literacy.
MU PA Learning Outcome #6: Interpersonal Communication - Health Care Team Member:
Students will communicate effectively and work collaboratively with other members of the health care team.

MU PA Learning Outcome #7: Professionalism:
Students will demonstrate professionalism in their clinical interactions with patients, faculty and mentors and colleagues.

MU PA Learning Outcome #8: Practice Based Learning:
Students will demonstrate oral and written proficiency in the presentation, critique and synthesis of evidence based medical and scientific data for the purpose of practice – based improvements.

MU PA Learning Outcome #9: Systems Based Practice:
Students will demonstrate proficiency in knowledge of patient safety and procedural safety while partnering with supervising physicians and other health care providers. They will promote a safe environment for patient care recognizing systems based factors that may negatively impact patient care.

MU PA Learning Outcome #10: Patient Care:
Students will demonstrate sound clinical decision making skills in their abilities to order and interpret diagnostic studies and to formulate patient management plans across the lifespan using current evidence based medicine.

Undergraduate Admission Requirements
Students can apply for admission into the Physician Assistant Studies program as early as the fall term of their sophomore year. They are required to complete the two-year, pre-PA phase of the Physician Assistant Studies program and must complete the appropriate prerequisite courses that makes them eligible for a degree in biomedical sciences within the PA program (see BISC/pre-PA curriculum (http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/collegeofhealthsciences/departmentofbiomedicalsciences/#majortext) in the Biomedical Sciences Department). Following acceptance into the PA program, students follow the curriculum as outlined for the three-year Physician Assistant Program.

Criteria to be considered an Internal PA Candidate (Effective for Fall 2017 Application Cycle):
Candidates must be on track for a Biomedical Sciences degree following the published pre-PA curriculum. Undergraduate applicants who transfer from another institution must have a minimum of 30 total credit hours (2 semesters), including at least 12 credits of science prerequisites for the PA program completed at Marquette and applied toward the undergraduate biomedical science major prior to submission of the PA application. All internal applicants must be current with their biomedical science undergraduate degree, as outlined by their undergraduate biomedical sciences adviser. Undergraduate transfer students interested in applying must contact the assistant dean at the College of Health Sciences Dean’s Office (http://www.marquette.edu/health-sciences/staff.shtml) for course approvals and advising.

The intensity of the program and the skills necessary for practice as a physician assistant require the program to seek applicants with an excellent academic background, along with strong interpersonal skills and maturity. Prior health care experience is also an indicator of a career commitment to clinical practice. The program’s admission process considers each applicant’s strengths and select for competitive candidates best qualified to meet the program’s mission.

Selection factors considered in the admission process include the following:

1. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.000 or greater, science GPA, and Science Quality Points (an assessment of quantity and performance in science course work), as calculated by the centralized application system (CASPA).
2. Motivation, maturity, ability to work with people and suitability for clinical practice.
3. Minimum of two hundred patient contact hours or other health related experience. All hours must be submitted and documented on the CASPA application. Additional hours after submission are not counted toward the total. (Note: healthcare shadowing does not count toward this requirement).
4. Knowledge of the PA profession and the profession’s role in the health care system.
5. Graduate Record Exam scores for applicants who would enter the PA program with a completed bachelor’s degree; SAT or ACT scores for applicants who would enter the program with a completed bachelor’s degree.
6. Three letters of recommendation.
7. Personal interviews.

Graduate Admission Requirements

1. Minimum cumulative total GPA of 3.0 as calculated by CASPA. (https://portal.caspaonline.org/caspaHelpPages/about-caspaoverview)
2. GRE scores (Designated Institution code 5872) - It is recommended that applicants complete the GRE by August 1. Official scores must be received by the program by September 1.
3. Completion of the following prerequisite coursework at time of application: *
   • 2 semesters of biological sciences (biology)
1-2 semesters (minimum of 4 credits total) of inorganic (General) chemistry with lab

1 semester of biochemistry
  - Must be at least 3 credits. Marquette University's College of Health Sciences offers BISC 3213 Biochemistry (4 credits). If not taking the biochemistry course at Marquette, the course should contain similar content as BISC 3213 Biochemistry.
  - Note: The Biochemistry course must be completed at a regionally accredited institution.

4. Additional prerequisite coursework that may be in progress at time of application:
   - 1 semester of social science (psychology recommended, AP credit accepted)
   - 1 semester of statistics (AP credit accepted)
   - 1 course in medical terminology

It is highly recommended that the prerequisite coursework is completed within the last 5 years and taken at a 4-year regionally accredited institution. All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C or above. C- or below are not satisfactory grades.

1. Minimum of 200 hours of patient contact and other health care experience.
   - The hours can be either volunteer or paid direct patient care. The minimum 200 hours must be completed at the time your application is submitted with a contact number of a supervisor or volunteer office for verification. (Note: Healthcare shadowing hours do not count towards this requirement).

2. 3 letters of recommendation are required (submitted via CASPA).

3. Personal interviews.

### Academic Regulations

#### Academic Progress

To achieve satisfactory academic progress leading to promotion in the Physician Assistant Program, the student must achieve a GPA of 2.800 in each term (summer, fall, spring). In addition, the student may receive no single final grade of less than a C (2.00) for courses required for the MPAS degree. The PA program considers a grade below C (2.00) to represent unsatisfactory academic progress, including C-. Unsatisfactory academic progress may result in conditional promotion, student-initiated withdrawal from the program, or dismissal from the program. Students who earn grades of C-, D+, D or below, or unsatisfactory grades (U, UNC, ADW, WA, or WF) in any course in the PA program may be dismissed. This may also lead to withdrawal of financial aid.

In the clinical portion of the program (third year) the term GPA is compiled from an aggregate of clinical rotation grades completed in that term (summer, fall, spring).

Students may not participate in Physician Assistant clinical rotations until they have successfully completed all the required courses in the didactic curriculum.

In addition, at intervals during each term and at its conclusion, the Progress and Promotion Committee reviews the progress of each student. The committee determines whether the student shall be promoted, conditionally promoted, (as described below); or be subject to other action as described earlier in this section. See the PA Program Didactic and Clinical Student Handbooks for the PA Program's Policies and Procedures.

If remediation is required, students must satisfy all requirements of any remediation protocols in the defined time frame. These protocols are defined in the PA Program Didactic and Clinical Student Handbooks. If a student does not meet the remediation requirements, they may be subject to dismissal with College Academic Alert (CAA). All policies in the Student Handbooks supersede those outlined in the university general bulletins.

#### Counseling

Directing a student to seek appropriate counseling is within the purview of the Progress and Promotion Committee (P&P Committee). In such cases, referrals are made to the PA Program's Academic Counseling Subcommittee. While it is advisable for students to seek assistance from instructors and faculty as a course proceeds, there may be circumstances where support is needed to understand certain concepts and to make up work lost for extraordinary reasons such as illness. The Academic Counseling Subcommittee can recommend the student establish a collaborative plan with the faculty to complete selected course objectives and incomplete work. Students are notified of this recommendation by letter from the program director or the Academic Counseling Subcommittee. This letter remains a part of the student's permanent file.

In specific situations involving financial or personal elements, the Progress and Promotion Committee may recommend outside resources be utilized to satisfy this category of promotion. When medical or psychiatric consultation is required or recommended, the P&P Committee respects patient/provider confidentiality. However, documentation of enrollment and/or completion may be required by the committee.

#### Warning Letter

A warning is a written letter to a student for non-acceptable academic progress during the term (usually at mid-term). A warning may come from the course instructor or the program director on behalf of the course instructor. The purpose of the warning letter is to make the student aware of impending
academic jeopardy. Warnings are reported to the Progress and Promotion Committee and program director for informational purposes. Students may also be placed on College Academic Alert (CAA) upon receipt of the warning letter.

**Academic Censure (Dismissal/Probation/Academic Alert)**

**Overview**

There are certain categories of student performance problems that can lead to some form of censure. These problems may be identified at any point during the academic year, though a systematic review of all students' course grades is also conducted at the end of each academic term. The review of other, non-course grade problems is typically conducted on an individual basis as issues arise. A finding of significant problems in any of these areas can result in probation, suspension or dismissal, depending on the nature and severity of the problems identified. All of these statuses are maintained permanently on the student's academic record; only dismissal, however, appears permanently on Marquette University's official transcript. If a student is reinstated following a dismissal, that notation also permanently appears on the student's official transcript. The statuses that appear permanently on a student's official transcript include those listed (in bold type) below:

- **Required to Withdraw for Academic Reasons (RWAR):** dismissal for deficient academic performance as described below.
- **Reinstated on Probation:** following successful appeal of academic dismissal.
- **Required to Withdraw for Professional Integrity Reasons (RWPI):** dismissal for violation of Professional Integrity standards as described below.
- **Required to Withdraw for Academic Misconduct (RWAM):** dismissal for violation of the academic honesty policy as outlined in the Academic Regulation section of this bulletin.

**Academic Dismissal – Required to Withdraw for Academic Reasons (RWAR)**

Health Science Professional Students (HESP) in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program must achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.800 by the end of the second term in the program, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.800 each term thereafter. In addition, students are RWAR'd for any course required for the MPAS degree with a final grade below a C (C-, D+, D, F) or an unsatisfactory grade (U, UNC, ADW, WA or WF). The Office of the Registrar (OTR) and the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) monitor the program academic requirements at the end of each term (fall, spring and summer). A student who does not meet these academic requirements is academically dismissed by the college (coded as RWAR by OTR) and their record coded as failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) (http://www.marquette.edu/mucentral/financialaid/resources_elig_standards.shtml) by the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA).

The college office communicates the RWAR and OSFA communicates the SAP via Marquette email. As per university email policy, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their email at all times. A RWAR/SAP student is dropped from any classes in which they are subsequently registered.

An undergraduate student in the Physician Assistant Studies Program must meet requirements listed above to continue in the Physician Assistant Studies Program. A student that is not allowed to continue in the Physician Assistant Studies Program, but remains in good standing at the university as an undergraduate student, may be allowed to continue with their undergraduate degree course of study.

Satisfactory Academic Progress: there are other SAP conditions for which the student is responsible and are applied to all students in this program, both professional and undergraduate. Refer to the complete SAP policy (http://www.marquette.edu/mucentral/financialaid/resources_elig_standards.shtml) on the OSFA website.

**RWAR/SAP Appeal Process**

Per the PA Student Handbook, all appeals to decisions made by the PA Progress and Promotion Committee for not meeting the Academic or Professional Standards of the program must be submitted in writing to the dean of the College of Health Sciences within three business days. This may be done by letter or be emailed to the dean. At this time, the dean, or appointed designee, or a panel, hears the appeal.

A RWAR/SAP student must appeal both RWAR/SAP by sending one form, which addresses both RWAR and SAP issues. The Academic Censure Appeal form is located on the Marquette Central academic forms website (http://www.marquette.edu/mucentral/register/policy_forms.shtml). The form includes all of the required information the student must submit in order to have their appeal reviewed.

- The form is submitted to the College of Health Science main office for initial review for completeness of forms. Completed appeal forms are then forwarded to the chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. The department chair, in consultation with the Progress and Promotion Committee, has the final decision on all RWAR/SAP appeals.
- If the appeal is approved by the Progress and Promotion Committee, the student may be decelerated or ‘Reinstated on Probation’ and the Progress and Promotion Committee establishes an academic probation plan for the student to regain their satisfactory academic and degree progress standing, and the student’s eligibility for financial aid is restored.
- The plan must be measurable and ensure that the student is able to meet Marquette's SAP standards by a specific point in time. Plans should include courses to be taken, expected grades and a time frame to complete the outlined objectives.
- The plan is monitored by the department (Progress and Promotion Committee).
• Should the student not fulfill all of their academic obligations as outlined in the academic probation plan, the student’s performance is evaluated by the committee and a determination is made as to whether the College Academic Alert (CAA) process is instituted; however, the student is again coded with SAP for that term.

**Probation and College Academic Alert (CAA)**

Academic performance is monitored carefully by the Progress and Promotion Committee of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies Program, and students either not maintaining steady progress or not demonstrating adequate academic progress at midterm as defined earlier in the bulletin will be barred from future registration in the program and placed on College Academic Alert (CAA).

Within a term where remediation is required, students who fail to comply with the remediation standards outlined in the PA Didactic and Clinical Student Handbooks are placed on College Academic Alert (CAA). All students where conditions of probation have been established are subject to Progress and Promotion Committee review and possible CAA action should they fail to fulfill the conditions. It is possible that a student is barred from registration for academic reasons even though the student’s cumulative GPA exceeds 2.800. Students concerned about their academic progress should consult the remediation protocol and academic progress section defined in the PA Student Handbook.

A student placed on College Academic Alert cannot register for subsequent courses in the Physician Assistant Studies Program and is removed from any such classes for future terms in which they are registered. Students are notified by CAA letter via email of the Progress and Promotion Committee’s decision and of the appeal process. Undergraduate students that are not allowed to continue in the Physician Assistant Studies Program, but remain in good standing at the university, may be allowed to continue in their undergraduate degree course of study.

**Academic Dismissal – Professional Integrity**

Students may be dismissed from the Physician Assistant Studies program for failure to maintain professional integrity standards, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. Failure to comply with the Physician Assistant Studies Program Honor Code and Professional Code of Conduct.

2. Failure to comply with learning objectives set forth in a professional behavior learning contract between the student and the program.

3. Professional misconduct, including, but not limited to:
   a. Conduct that constitutes harassment, threats or abuse of, or discrimination against peers, faculty, patients or others.
   b. Provision of services at any point in the Physician Assistant Studies program while under the influence of an illegal substance and/or alcohol.
   d. Failure, during a clinical experience, to comply with the policies and procedures of the clinical facility.
   e. Failure to comply with the Physician Assistant Studies program departmental Policies and Procedures outlined in the student handbook.
   f. Failure to comply with the Physician Assistant Ethical Guidelines to Professional Conduct (www.nccpa.net and www.aapa.org).

Violations of the professional integrity requirements result in a hearing with the Progress and Promotion Committee. Findings of misconduct to self, faculty, the program, the university clinical placements and/or patient may result in failure in the assignment, failure in the course or dismissal from the program. For instances of dismissal from the program, a notation of “Required to Withdraw for Professional Integrity Reasons” appears on the student’s permanent academic record and transcript.

**Academic Dismissal - Academic Misconduct**

Dismissal for academic misconduct (RWAM) is determined per the Academic Honesty policy found in the Academic Regulations section of this bulletin. Once this determination has been made, the student is dismissed from the university. This action results in ineligibility to register at Marquette. Reinstatement criteria for the student who is dismissed, if applicable, is outlined in the dismissal notice. If the student is allowed to return to the university, a permanent notation of ‘Reinstated to the University’ appears on the student’s academic record and Marquette’s official transcript.

**Temporary Withdrawal from Program**

Students who find it necessary to request a temporary withdrawal from the PA program must submit a written request to the program director.

The Progress and Promotion Committee may recommend, and must approve, the temporary withdrawal. The temporary withdrawal may be indicated under circumstances unique to specific problems of a given student, however, the temporary withdrawal shall extend no longer than a single calendar year.

Normally, a student is readmitted to the program at the end of their leave if the Progress and Promotion Committee believes the purpose of the temporary withdrawal has been successfully achieved. The committee may require the student to repeat course work before reentry after a prolonged absence.
The Physician Assistant program must be completed in no more than four years. Therefore, if a second temporary withdrawal is requested, the student may be dismissed from the program or required to reapply to the program.

**Re-entry Policy**

Students who find it necessary to withdraw from the Physician Assistant program may reenter at that level only with concurrence of the P&P Committee and the program director and on a space-available and case-by-case basis.

**Tuition/Financial Aid for Physician Assistant Studies program**

Students enrolled in the Physician Assistant Studies program upon completion of their baccalaureate degree are moved into the professional division of Health Sciences and are no longer be eligible for undergraduate financial aid.

**Other Academic Regulations**

For additional information on other College of Health Sciences regulations, see the College Academic Regulations (http://bulletin.marquette.edu/healthscienceprofessional/academicregulations) section of this bulletin.

**Physician Assistant Studies**

**Typical Three-Year Professional Phase - Master's of Physician Assistant Studies**

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Total credit hours: 129

A master's degree in physician assistant studies requires successful completion of minimum total credits of 129. This includes 32 credits of clinical clerkship experiences, in addition to a 3 credit master’s capstone project. Required clinical clerkship experiences include family practice, internal
medicine, emergency medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, women's health, behavioral medicine and electives. PHAS 7986 Internship in Physician Assistant Studies: may be offered for letter grade or S/U grading, as determined by the program.