Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program
Welcome to the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program (MPAS). This program-specific MPAS Student Handbook is published as an addendum to the RMC Catalog to aid students who are applying, preparing to begin Physician Assistant (PA) training at RMC, or actively engaged in two challenging years of career pursuit. The handbook must be used in conjunction with the following:

- Current edition of the Rocky Mountain College online catalog, which may be accessed at: www.rocky.edu (click on ACADEMICS and then COURSE CATALOG)
- Internet posting of RMC policies found at: https://www.rocky.edu/academics/course-catalog
- PA Program Clinical Practice Preceptor Handbook
- Program Web Site: https://www.rocky.edu/pa

Each applicant and student needs to clearly understand both the College and Program-specific policies. Please read these sources carefully and contact the PA Program with any questions or concerns you may have with respect to these important documents and how they apply to you.

Occasionally, updates, corrections, additions, or other changes to this handbook become necessary. The PA Program reserves the right to alter the contents of this handbook as needed and at any time. Any changes apply to all current and prospective students. The faculty reserves the right to alter the curriculum, schedule of required courses, exams, and other regulations affecting admission and graduation requirements. Every effort will be made to keep students well informed with respect to any changes.

Validation of college registration implies the student’s acceptance of the published academic rules and regulations found in this and any other official program or college publication.
Welcome to the Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program. We are dedicated to the education and training of Physician Assistants who will provide health care that is safe, current, evidence-based, and specifically targeted to primary care in rural areas.

Our faculty is committed to providing you with high-quality education with patient safety as our top priority. We will be your mentors, advisors, and colleagues in fostering a culture of transparency, integrity, professionalism, and teamwork.

We wish you every success in your pursuit of a wonderful profession. We are grateful to be a part of your training.

Adam Mattingly, MPAS, PA-C
Program Director
Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program
TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION
   The Role of a Physician Assistant.................................5
   Physician Assistant Professional Oath............................6

OUR PROGRAM..............................................................7
   Rocky Mountain College Mission Statement........................7
   Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program.................7
   Our History.................................................................7
   Accreditation..............................................................9
   Faculty and Staff.........................................................9
   Application...............................................................12
   Admissions...............................................................13
   Costs/Financial Aid......................................................17
   Required Supplies......................................................18
   Health Screening........................................................19
   Immunizations...........................................................20
   Academic Advisement..................................................21
   Program Overview.......................................................21
   National PA Certification (PANCE) Results.........................22
   Didactic Curriculum.....................................................22
   Clinical Practice Curriculum..........................................30
   2016-2018 Program Academic Calendar............................34

PROGRAM STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE..........................35
   Academic Standards.....................................................35
   Competencies Mastery..................................................37
   Technical Standards....................................................45
   Professional Standards – Code of Ethics..........................48
   Completion/Graduation Requirements..............................50
   Retention Standards/Changes in Student Status....................51

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.............................................54
   Academic Policies and Procedures.................................54
   General Policies and Procedures.....................................60

RESOURCES.................................................................63
   Facilities.................................................................63
   Internet Addresses......................................................65
   Professional Organizations.............................................65

Appendices.................................................................66
   Appendix 1: Technical Standards Statement.......................67
   Appendix 2: Participation as Human Subjects.....................68
   Appendix 3: Health History Questionnaire..........................69
The Role of a Physician Assistant

The physician assistant is a health care professional licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of a physician. The role of the physician assistant is to perform medical duties from basic primary care to technically advanced procedures in emergency medicine or within medical specialties. The typical duties of a physician assistant include taking a patient medical history; performing complete physical examinations; ordering and interpreting laboratory tests; diagnosing and treating medical illnesses; assisting physicians in surgery; performing routine medical procedures, such as suturing and wound care; and prescribing medications. This is a team approach to medicine and health care, augmenting the needs and growing shortages within the current American health care delivery system.

Physician assistant education is based on the medical model to emphasize the collaboration of the PA-physician team. It is primary care oriented and prepares the physician assistant to be professionally competent and able to identify with physicians in terms of thought, patterns of action, and dedication to ethical and legal values and concerns.

The physician assistant’s work setting varies from practice at a rural clinic, an office-based practice, within inpatient or long-term care facilities, or in industrial settings. They also work in education, health care administration, and research.

**Physician Assistant Professional Oath**

(Source: Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, May 30, 2007)
“I pledge to perform the following duties with honesty and dedication:

• I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all human beings.
• I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice.
• I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.
• I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.
• I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.
• I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.
• I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.
• I will work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.
• I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.
• I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.
• I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.

These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.”

Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants
950 North Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1552
Phone: 703/636-2272  Fax: 703/684-1924  E-mail: students@aapa.org
©1998-2007 All rights reserved

OUR PROGRAM

Rocky Mountain College Mission Statement

Rocky Mountain College educates future leaders through liberal arts and professional programs that cultivate critical thinking, creative expression, ethical decision-making, informed citizenship, and professional excellence.

Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program

Vision

Our vision is to excel as a center of health care education dedicated to providing medical services to the underserved and rural populations of this intermountain region.
Mission
The mission of the Rocky Mountain College Master of Physician
Assistant Studies program (MPAS) is to educate primary care providers
who embody a combination of academic talents of evidence-based
medicine, clinical skills and professionalism while providing
compassionate health care services, particularly to those in rural and
underserved areas of this region. Our graduates distinguish themselves
through an emphasis on patient safety and quality improvement.

Goals
The MPAS Program aims to provide a high-quality medical
education experience which will challenge you to:

• Develop core medical knowledge
• Practice safe medicine
• Develop valuable observational skills, as well as technical
  abilities
• Attain fluency in the language of medicine
• Master electronic information literacy and technology
• Become analytic thinkers dedicated to life-long learning

Our History
Rocky Mountain College took its first steps toward creating a
Physician Assistant Program in early 1993. Billings is the most populous
city in Montana and the site of two major medical complexes: The
Billings Clinic and St. Vincent’s Hospital and Health Center. The largest
medical center in an 800-mile radius, Billings is also the hub for
educational interactive video technology, distance medical conferencing,
and referrals from rural hospitals and clinics throughout the intermountain
region.

Montana is a frontier state with 76% of its residents living in rural
communities. Even though it is geographically the fourth largest state in
the nation, encompassing 145,552 square miles, the population is just
over 1 million, which is the sixth least populous state in the country.
There are many designated health professional shortage areas.
Transportation is a major hurdle, and public transportation is spotty and
non-existent in most of the rural communities. Therefore, many
Montanans seeking primary and emergency health care face enormous
access barriers.

It remains challenging to recruit and retain non-physician, primary
health care providers to serve in Montana’s extremely rural and medically
underserved areas. Numerous health care entities need physician
assistants: Certified Rural Health Clinics, Indian Health Service Units,
Medical Assistance Facilities, Migrant Health Clinics, as well as
physicians and clinics in rural areas.
In 1993, after establishing the need for physician assistants in Montana’s sparsely populated rural areas, Rocky Mountain College faculty, trustees, and members of the local medical community began discussing the feasibility for a Physician Assistant Program in Montana.

A program located in Montana would provide access for Montana natives who are more likely to remain in the state to practice, and it would help meet the great need that exists in Montana’s health care delivery system for primary health care providers. Rocky Mountain College was and remains a comprehensive four-year liberal arts college with an enrollment of approximately 1000. The College’s strong core sciences program helped place increasing numbers of students in graduate medical programs around the country. Expanding its science curriculum to include the Physician Assistant Program was a logical next step.

**Accreditation**

Rocky Mountain College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Full accreditation of the Physician Assistant Program was first awarded by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in October 1998.

The Program currently holds active accreditation from the ARC-PA (Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant). Only graduates from ARC-PA accredited PA programs are eligible to sit for the PANCE (Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination). The PANCE is an entry-level requirement for individual state licensure.

In 2002, NWCCU gave approval to Rocky Mountain College to begin awarding the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree (MPAS). In March 2003, ARC-PA acknowledged the change in degree
status. The matriculation of the MPAS charter class in July 2003 launched RMC’s first graduate degree program.

**Faculty and Staff**

The full-time program faculty coordinate, direct, and oversee the curriculum, as well as monitor and evaluate students’ academic and professional progress. You will work closely with each of these individuals throughout the 26-month curriculum. Program leadership, faculty, and staff maintain an open-door policy to enhance accessibility, communication, and professional exchange.

**Core Program Faculty**

Adam Mattingly, MPAS, PA-C  
*Program Director/Assistant Professor*  
B.S., MPAS Rocky Mountain College  
Office: Fortin Education Center, Room 118  
Phone: 406.657.1193  
E-mail: adam.mattingly@rocky.edu

David Shenton  
*Medical Director/Associate Professor*  
B.S. University of Kentucky  
M.D. University of Louisville Medical School  
Phone: 406.657.1199  
Office: Fortin Education Center 116  
Email: david.shenton@rocky.edu
Carrie Hall, MPAS, PA-C  
*Director of Clinical Education/Assistant Professor*  
B.S., MPAS Rocky Mountain College  
Office: Fortin Education Center, Room 114  
Phone: 406.657.1149  
Email: carrie.hall@rocky.edu

Jennifer Beverly, DMSc, PA-C  
*Academic Coordinator/Assistant Professor/Associate Director*  
B.S., PA Rocky Mountain College  
M.S. Arizona School of Health Sciences  
Office: Fortin Education Center, Room 112  
Phone: 406.657.1181  
Email: jennifer.beverly@rocky.edu

Heather Heggem, MS, DMSc., PA-C  
*Assistant Professor*  
Office: Fortin Education Center, Room 115  
Phone: 406.657.1192  
Email: heather.heggem@rocky.edu

Dwight Harley, MS, PA-C  
*Assistant Professor*  
B.S., M.S. Georgia College  
B.S. Physician Assistant Medical College of Georgia  
Office: Fortin Education Center Rm. 111  
Phone: 406.657.1183  
Email: dwight.harley@rocky.edu

Patti States, MD  
*Assistant Professor*  
M.D. University of Washington  
B.A. Biology, Carroll College  
Office: Fortin Education Center, Room 116  
Phone: 406.657.1148  
E-mail: patti.states@rocky.edu

Brady Ruff, MPAS, PA-C  
B.A., MPAS Rocky Mountain College  
Office: Fortin Education Center Rm. 116  
Phone: 406.657.1148  
Email: brady.ruff@rocky.edu
RMC Faculty

Mark Osterlund, PhD
Associate Professor, Biology
M. Phil., M.S., PhD., Yale University
B.S. Clemson University
Office: Bair Science Center, Room 101C
Phone: 406.238.7382
E-mail: mark.osterlund@rocky.edu

Ulrich Hoensch, PhD
Associate Professor, Mathematics
PhD. Mathematics, Michigan State University
M.S. Mathematics, Technical University Darmstadt
Office: Morledge-Kimball Hall, Room 118
Phone: 406.657.1126
E-mail: hoenschu@rocky.edu

Holly Basta, PhD
Assistant Professor of Biology
Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.S. Montana State University-Bozeman
Office: Bair Science Center 101B
Phone: 406.657.1089
Email: holly.basta@rocky.edu

Rebecca Polich, PhD
Assistant Professor of Biology
B.S. University of California, Davis
Ph.D. Iowa State University
Office: Bair Science Center 101-D
Phone: 406.657.1196
Email: rebecca.polich@rocky.edu

Program Staff

Cody Halverson
Coordinator of Admissions for Health Professions
B.S. Rocky Mountain College
Office: Fortin Education Center, Room 118
Phone: 406.657.1198
E-mail: halversonc@rocky.edu
Application

CASPA

The Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program participates in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA). Students who wish to apply to the Rocky Mountain College MPAS Program must follow the application instructions available online at the CASPA website www.caspaonline.org.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to:

1. Keep the Coordinator of Admissions for Health Professions informed of any changes in contact information. This must be done in writing (e-mail is acceptable).

2. Ensure program’s receipt of all required application materials including official GRE score by the October 1st deadline.

3. If all pre-requisite requirements have not been met, the Coordinator of Admissions for Health Professions must be informed in writing of your plans to complete the missing course(s). Include school name, course name and number, and number of credit hours. Your application will not be analyzed until this information has been received. Courses must be completed before matriculation.

Admissions

Admission to the Physician Assistant Program is competitive and multi-faceted.

Admission Requirements https://www.rocky.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate/masterphysician-assistant-studies/admission-requirements

Required for admission:
- Bachelor’s degree required upon matriculation to MPAS
- Science GPA of 3.0 - no science prerequisite may be lower than a “C-“
- Cumulative GPA 3.0 minimum
- Prerequisite Biology and Chemistry coursework may not be taken by an online or correspondence format
- Biology coursework to include 15 credits:
  - Two semesters of Human Anatomy & Physiology w/lab (from a biology, physiology, zoology department, or an allied health program) (8 credits)
  - One semester of Microbiology w/lab (3 credits)
  - One semester of Genetics (3 credits)
- Chemistry coursework to include 8 credits:
  - Organic Chemistry – 2 semesters (1 year sequence) OR Organic Chemistry AND Biochemistry - 1 semester of each (1 year sequence) OR General, Organic, and Biochemistry – (1 year sequence including ALL these topics such as found in a nursing program)
- Medical Terminology (online course acceptable) (1 credit)
- Minimum combined score (verbal + quantitative) of 291 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Mathematics coursework to include 6 credits:
  - Pre-calculus (functions, trigonometry, exponents, and logarithmic functions) or higher AND Statistics/Probability course
- Psychology - 1 semester (developmental or abnormal highly recommended) (3 credits)
- Social Science – 1 semester (other than Psychology) (3 credits)
- Examples: Sociology, Geography, Anthropology, Political Science, or Economics

- English Composition -1 semester (3 credits)

- 1500 hours of paid direct hands-on patient care before you submit your CASPA application. The higher the quality of patient care experience, the more competitive the applicant will be judged. For example, a certified nurse assistant, medical assistant, or phlebotomist will be less competitive than an emergency room technician, licensed practical nurse, or a paramedic. A registered nurse or a master’s trained dietician is more competitive than the former professions. However, all applicants with direct patient care and high quality patient interactions are encouraged to apply.

- Students must use CASPA to submit an application to Rocky Mountain College.

- One of the three reference letters submitted to CASPA must be from a Health Care Provider (preferably from a Physician Assistant). Note: Letters from family members will not be accepted.

- TOEFL score must meet standard requirements of Rocky Mountain College for all applicants if English is not the first language. (Visit our website at https://www.rocky.edu/pa).

We highly encourage 1 year of undergraduate physics or additional quantitative courses and/or laboratory experiences. We also highly recommend additional writing classes.

Graduates of Rocky Mountain College who have met all the requirements for admission, and have earned a Bachelor’s degree with a minimum of 60 credits earned at RMC, will be granted an automatic interview. Please note, this interview DOES NOT guarantee acceptance into the program—students will compete with all other interviewing students for matriculating status.

Failure to complete the program prerequisite courses with a grade of “C-” or higher prior to the matriculation date of the class for which application is being made will result in withdrawal of conditional offer.

**Official Transcripts**

In accordance with Rocky Mountain College admissions policies and procedures, those students selected for admission to the PA program are required to submit official transcripts from all colleges/universities previously attended. These transcripts must be received directly from the college/university. Student-submitted copies are not acceptable. Copies submitted to CASPA do **NOT** fulfill this requirement. Transcripts should be mailed directly to:
Transcripts must be received prior to the scheduled class matriculation date or class standing will be revoked.

**Failure to submit the mandatory transcripts or fulfill any other requirements specified in a conditional offer of admission to the program prior to the scheduled class matriculation will result in withdrawal of conditional offer.**

**Advanced Placement**

No advanced placement or transfer credit may be applied toward fulfilling the MPAS curriculum.

**Selection Process & Preferences**

All completed applications undergo a preliminary selection screening process, which evaluates and awards admission points based upon the following program preferences:

- **Past Academic Performance** (60%). This includes a thorough review and scoring for:
  - Cumulative and science GPAs. A minimum cumulative college GPA of 3.0 is required. A minimum science GPA of 3.0 is required. Documented completion of all program-specific prerequisite courses before the scheduled class matriculation date. Students who have previously earned a Bachelor’s degree are required to provide evidence of the awarded degree and completion of the program-specific prerequisite courses.
  - Grade improvement in repeated courses.
  - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score. A minimum combined verbal and quantitative GRE of at least 291 is required for applicant consideration.

- **Geographic Regionality** (10%). In accordance with the stated mission of this Program to prepare health care providers to meet the needs of this very rural region, applicants are awarded admissions locality preference points based upon the following:
  - Permanent address within the Program’s stated region: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North or South
• **Clinical Work Experience** (20%). The quantity and quality (direct patient care) of past clinical work experience as well as any formal health career training (EMT, CNA, LPN, RN, RT, MT, etc) are assessed as part of each applicant’s screening evaluation. Candidates with clinical experience are clearly more competitive.

• **Personal Statements** (5%). Applicants are evaluated for their ability to express themselves in written communication as evidenced by the required personal statements.

• **Letters of Recommendation** (5%). The letter writer’s assessment of the applicant’s ability to be a future physician assistant is the basis for this evaluation.

Applications are ranked according to the number of points awarded during the selection screening process. Those with the admission minimum-required score for a rolling admissions interview are considered to be invited to complete the second phase of the selection process: a campus visit and personal interview with the Admissions Committee. Not all qualified candidates will be invited to interview.

**Costs/Financial Aid**

**Deposit**

Upon notification of acceptance to the Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program, applicants are required to submit a $1000 non-refundable admissions deposit. This deposit, which must be received within seven days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) of being notified of acceptance, will be applied toward the first summer term tuition and fees.

**Tuition/Fees**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Summer Term:</td>
<td>$7,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester:</td>
<td>$15,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester:</td>
<td>$15,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Semesters:</td>
<td>$15,389</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Living Expenses/Travel/Transportation

Students are responsible for arranging their own housing accommodations, transportation, and any expenses associated with travel and relocations performed as a requirement of the Program.

During the first year of the Program, students will occasionally be commuting to clinics and hospitals throughout the Billings area.

During the second year, much longer distances of travel and extended periods of time away from Billings may be required (depending upon the location(s) of the individual clinical practice rotations). All Program participants can anticipate temporary relocation for at least one of their required clinical practice experiences during the final year of the Program.

Students who elect to perform clinical practice rotations outside the Program’s primary geographic area (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, and Utah) will also be financially responsible for any costs associated with site visits performed by Program faculty during a clinical rotation at these more distant locations.

---

### Financial Aid

For details on financial aid opportunities for Physician Assistant Students, refer to the following Rocky Mountain College Financial Aid web page: [https://www.rocky.edu/sites/default/files/special-lettermpas.pdf](https://www.rocky.edu/sites/default/files/special-lettermpas.pdf)

### Required Supplies

**✓ Textbooks and Information Resources**

Each student will be required to purchase textbooks (a list will be provided for all incoming students). The approximate cost for textbooks will be $300 per semester. A trainee subscription to *UpToDate* ($164.00 per year), an online evidence-based peer reviewed medical information resource, is also recommended.
✓ **Personal Computer**

Each student must have a laptop computer **no older than one year** for use through the entire 26-month curriculum. It must have current generation technology to include wireless (PC) capabilities and Microsoft Office (it must be able to run the full version of MS Office or MS Office for MAC). No iPads or tablets are allowed.

✓ **Medical Equipment**

The Program requires that each student obtain the following medical equipment prior to the beginning of the first Fall Semester following matriculation:

- Stethoscope: We strongly recommend you invest in a high quality stethoscope as this will have a profound effect on your technical ability to hear the subtle and significant physiologic sounds of the human body

- White lab coat, half-length ONLY (no full length coats are allowed)

Equipment costs vary widely, depending upon individual preferences. The total cost for quality equipment may range from $250 to $400.

**Health Insurance**

Students MUST carry and maintain health insurance throughout the Program. Proof of insurance must be submitted to the Coordinator of Admissions for Health Professions prior to matriculation.

**Students will not be allowed to participate without proof of health insurance**

**Worker’s Compensation Insurance**

An increasing number of clinical practice sites are requiring students to provide proof of compensation coverage in addition to personal health insurance coverage. If you elect to perform a clinical rotation at a facility that mandates this added insurance, the cost of purchasing the required policy must be borne by the student.

**Background Investigation**

A background check will be required during the admission process and again before the start of the clinical year. All clinical rotation sites require a background investigation as
part of their clearance procedures for both prospective students and employees. Many states have also added this requirement for licensure of health care providers. As a result, you will be required to complete a background check through Verified Credentials, an online provider. We employ the same panel of background checks as used by Montana State University School of Nursing including: HIPPA compliance, JCAHO compliance, immunization tracker, documentation of health insurance, CPR certification and proof of malpractice insurance. Information regarding how to obtain a background check will be sent to you during the acceptance process. The student is responsible for the fee associated with this.

Drug testing will be required prior to the start of clinical rotations and again for each site requiring it. It is impossible to anticipate this requirement, so all students should expect it.

In the event your Background Investigation reveals evidence/history of criminal activity that may disqualify you from full participation in the required training experiences of the Program or future licensure to practice medicine as a Physician Assistant, you may be dismissed from the Program (see Completion/Graduation Requirements).

Health Screening

Physical Examination

All students accepted for admission to the Physician Assistant program are required to submit a completed Health History Questionnaire.
form (see Appendix 3) prior to matriculation. In order to insure confidentiality, this documentation must be submitted directly to the Rocky Mountain College Student Health Services. DO NOT send any health screening information to the PA Program.

The Student Health Services physician is responsible for evaluating the health information provided to determine the applicant’s ability to complete the entire educational program without risk to her/himself or the patients. In order to maintain confidentiality of the information submitted, a Certificate of Health Compliance is the only documentation provided to the Program following completion of the health screening performed by the Student Health Services.

**Tuberculosis Screening**

Applicants must provide documentation of tuberculosis screening through PPD testing, unless contraindicated, within the 6 months preceding program matriculation. For individuals with a history of previous positive PPD test results, documentation regarding follow-up evaluation (including results of last chest x-ray) and any treatment taken must be provided. PPD testing is available through the Rocky Mountain College Student Health Services and repeat testing will be required prior to the beginning of clinical practice rotations. Some clinical sites have stricter tuberculosis screening requirements, including two-step testing or testing within a specific period of time of rotation onset. In these cases, additional PPD testing may be required.

**Immunizations**

Students must provide documentation demonstrating current immunization or laboratory evidence of immunity for those infectious conditions required by the State of Montana or prospective clinical practice rotation site-specific requirements and/or those recommended by the CDC for Health Care Workers. These immunizations include:

- Polio (3 dose series)
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella - 2 dose series)
- Varicella (Chickenpox Vaccine or Titer)
- DTap (primary series)
- Tdap (in last 10 years)
- Hepatitis B (3 step series)
- Influenza
- Tuberculin (TB skin test)
During the clinical practice rotations, the Clinical Coordinator receives sporadic requests for verification of a student’s immunization status in addition to the immunization tracker on the certified background report. Student applicants will also be required to sign a Health Information Release form (Appendix 4). The Program will maintain this information in a secure individual student file until completion of all clinical practice rotations.

**Academic Advisement**

Students will be assigned an academic (faculty) advisor at matriculation. All faculty advisors are members of the program’s core faculty. Students should maintain regular communication with their advisor, especially if academic, technical, or professional difficulties are identified.

One of the academic advisor’s specific responsibilities is to work with each student on developing professionalism. Professionalism is just as crucial to your ability to succeed, as is your acquisition of the basic medical, clinical, and social sciences knowledge base.

Students are responsible for meeting with their advisor at least twice each semester, at midterm and during finals week. Advisors will provide feedback about current academic standing (especially at midterm), and will review the faculty evaluations of the students at the end of fall and spring semesters.

Responsibilities of the faculty advisors include but are not limited to:

- Closely monitoring the students’ academic progress. If concerns arise, the faculty advisor will schedule individual conferences to address specific performance problems and develop a plan for remediation/correction.
- Addressing concerns about individual professionalism or academic issues that are raised by other faculty, staff, or students.

**Program Overview**

The pace across the 26-month program is fast, and the volume of material to be learned is high. Students need to learn to think analytically, critically, and logically while demonstrating a demeanor of compassion and empathy.

The Program *STRONGLY* encourages a spirit of cooperation between students, and places a heavy emphasis on teamwork in and out of the classroom. You are encouraged to establish study groups and learn to work in a collaborative fashion, utilizing the broad range of knowledge and clinical skills brought by your student colleagues. By working
together as teams, each person contributes strengths and expertise to the learning process. Your ability to interact and work cooperatively with your student colleagues for the benefit of each other is a critical determinant of your future success as a Physician Assistant. The Physician-PA team concept is at the very foundation of this profession.

As part of the professional development component of the program, students are encouraged to actively participate in the program’s Physician Assistant Student Society as an official branch of the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA). This is a great opportunity to get involved in your new profession and to become acquainted with your future colleagues.

National PA Certification (PANCE) Results

Only graduates from ARC-PA accredited PA programs are eligible to sit for the PANCE (Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination) and become licensed to practice. The PANCE is the entry-level exam that PA’s must pass to become nationally certified. Pass rates for program graduates can be found at MPAS page: https://www.rocky.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate/masterphysician-assistant-studies/policies-forms/national-pa

Didactic Curriculum

The first 14 months of the program includes the fundamental behavioral, basic biomedical, and clinical sciences required for the professional course of study, as well as courses designed to better prepare the students for expanded health care roles that meet the developing needs of today’s society. A total of 61 semester hours of credit are presented using a combination of lecture, demonstration, discussion, and laboratory formats. Students must successfully complete all components of the didactic phase prior to advancing to the clinical instruction phase.

Upon graduation from the program students will have completed 103 semester credits - 61 during the Didactic year and 42 during the Clinical year.

The program posts and maintains a detailed day-to-day schedule of educational activities electronically. Students are responsible for checking the class schedule frequently as the schedule is subject to change at any time.

Course Schedule

First summer term (7 semester hours)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHA 508</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 538</td>
<td>Clinical Human Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 575</td>
<td>Genetics &amp; Molecular Basis of Health &amp; Disease</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fall semester (18 semester hours)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHA 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 505</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 509</td>
<td>Professional and Medical Practice Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 518</td>
<td>Allergy and Immunology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 520</td>
<td>Physical Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 522</td>
<td>Hematology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 533</td>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 543</td>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 547</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHA 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 523</td>
<td>Pulmonology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 524</td>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 527</td>
<td>Nephrology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 531</td>
<td>Behavioral Dynamics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 535</td>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 539</td>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 546</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 549</td>
<td>Oncology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 550</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 557</td>
<td>Otorhinolarynology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester (18 semester hours)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHA 509</td>
<td>Professional and Medical Practice Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 523</td>
<td>Pulmonology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 524</td>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 527</td>
<td>Nephrology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 531</td>
<td>Behavioral Dynamics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 535</td>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 539</td>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 546</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 549</td>
<td>Oncology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 550</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 557</td>
<td>Otorhinolarynology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summer semester (18 semester hours)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHA 509</td>
<td>Professional and Medical Practice Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 551</td>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 556</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain College 2018-2021</td>
<td>Physician Assistant Program Master of Physician Assistant Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 561 Obstetrics and Gynecology</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 562 Orthopedics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 572 Dermatology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 574 Rheumatology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 610 Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 621 Problem Based Clinical Correlation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 641 Geriatrics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Descriptions

PHA 538: Clinical Human Anatomy and Physiology (4 semester hours)
This course is designed to teach students the essentials of gross anatomy and physiology pertaining to clinical practice. Cadavers and cadaveric specimens will play a fundamental role as we relate lecture/discussions to laboratory study. Students will learn to relate anatomical structures in the human body, skeletons, and models to imaging studies. The surface anatomy component introduces the student to the clinical setting and describes the visible and palpable anatomy that forms the basis of physical examination. Through laboratory workshops, students will learn to visualize how their interaction with the body’s surface interplays with internal anatomy. Additionally, a thorough review of concepts of physiology as they pertain to health and disease will be provided with a focus placed on each major organ system. Both portions of this course are designed as a focused review and an approach to ensure physician assistant students entering the clinical medicine courses have a firm grasp of anatomical and physiological concepts and begin to apply physiological reasoning to clinical situations.

PHA 508: Biostatistics (1 semester hour)
This course is designed to acquaint the student with the basics of biostatistics and emphasizes how an understanding of these areas is important in clinical medicine. An understanding of biostatistics is important not only for analyzing the results of research, but also for understanding and reducing errors. This course centers on basic techniques of investigating the association of variables and significance of results in a clinical and epidemiological setting.

PHA 575: Genetic & Molecular Basis of Health & Disease (2 semester hours)
The focus of this course is to gain an understanding of the biochemical, molecular, and genetic basis for health and disease with an emphasis on clinical applications. The purpose of this course is to provide students with a knowledge base that can be applied throughout their study of medicine.

PHA 501: Introduction to Clinical Medicine (1 semester hour)
This course will introduce the student to the study of clinical and laboratory medicine, and pharmacology. Through this course students will begin to build the foundation to foster critical thinking skills used in the practice of medicine.

PHA 518: Allergy and Immunology (2 semester hours)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Allergy and Immunology.
PHA 522: Hematology (2 semester hours)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Hematology.

PHA 533: Infectious Disease (2 semester hours)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Infectious Disease.

PHA 543: Endocrinology (2 semester hours)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Endocrinology.

PHA 547: Ophthalmology (2 semester hours)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Ophthalmology.

PHA 505: Evidence-Based Medicine: Research, Communications and Applications (3 semester hours)
This class integrates concepts of epidemiology, health information literacy, patient education, search and appraisal of scientific literature, and evidence based medical practice including National Patient Safety measures and protocols.

PHA 520: Physical Assessment (3 semester hours)
This course prepares students to master the art of taking medical histories and performing physical examinations. The focus is on recognition of “normal” and the significance of “abnormal” findings. A systems approach is used and the material is taught using a lecture, demonstration, and lab practicum format. A laboratory session is scheduled weekly to incorporate/practice skills presented in the lectures.

PHA 509: Professional Issues I, III, III
The Professional Issues course series extends over three semesters and is designed to prepare the student for professional medical practice. This course covers a wide range of topics to build a solid foundation of ethical,
professional, and communication principles necessary for successful practice as a Physician Assistant.

**PHA 523: Pulmonology (2 semester hours)**
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Pulmonology.

**PHA 557: Otorhinolaryngology (1 semester hour)**
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Otorhinolaryngology.

**PHA 524: Cardiology (2 semester hours)**
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Cardiology.

**PHA 527: Nephrology (2 semester hours)**
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Nephrology.

**PHA 535: Gastroenterology (1 semester hour)**
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Gastroenterology.

**PHA 539: Neurology (2 semester hour)**
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Neurology.

**PHA 549: Oncology (1 semester hour)**
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Oncology.

**PHA 531: Behavioral Dynamics (2 semester hours)**
This course will introduce the student to the complexities of the practice of Psychiatry including neurobiology, epidemiology, diagnosis and management of a variety of behavioral health and substance use disorders.
Additionally, there is an introduction to the concepts of death, dying and bereavement.

**PHA 546: Pediatrics (2 semester hours)**
The course will examine infant and child health and development, focusing on major common pediatric illnesses and their signs, symptoms, and management relative to the primary health care provider. This course introduces the student to the evaluation and care of a child from birth through adolescence from the perspective of the primary care provider. The main focus of this course is on the management of healthy children as well as the recognition and management of illnesses, disorders, and conditions that are unique to childhood. Students will learn to perform and demonstrate a neonatal history & infant exam. Specific strategies for physical examination of the pediatric patient will be learned and practiced on live patients in a skills lab.

**PHA 550: Introduction to Clinical Practice (2 semester hours)**
This course introduces the student to the practice of medicine through simulated patient care experiences using standardized patients in a mock clinical examination room. This course builds on the student’s physical exam, history taking and communication skills developed in the Physical Assessment course. Proper medical documentation will be emphasized. Critical thinking skills are strengthened as students encounter a variety of case scenarios and must determine the medical management of acute and chronic medical problems for patients across the life span.

**PHA 610: Emergency Medicine (3 semester hours)**
This course introduces the student to the practice of Emergency Medicine. Instruction is focused on the identification and management of acute illnesses and injuries that necessitate emergency care in patients across the life span. Techniques and procedures to support the care of patients with life threatening illnesses or injuries is an integral part of this course. Stabilization and disposition of emergent patients is also emphasized.

**PHA 621: Problem-Based Clinical Correlation (2 semester hours)** This course is designed to assist students in becoming critical thinkers who can apply the concepts of medical decision-making and problem solving. The course utilizes a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) approach to teach students to critically evaluate and apply the clinical information they derive through medical history, physical examination, diagnostic testing, and pertinent medical literature to the real-life resolution and management of health care problems.
PHA 641: Geriatrics (2 semester hours)
This course provides an introduction to gerontology, with an emphasis on the normal biological, sociological, behavioral, and environmental changes that occur with age. Consequences of aging from the perspective of primary health care providers will be presented. Principles and methods of multidimensional assessment relative to the recognition and management of medical disease and mental illness with an emphasis on maximizing functional independence is discussed. The skills of history taking and physical assessment in the geriatric population with hands on experience in nursing homes will be taught. Students will understand the end-of-life issues and ethics in palliative care, with review of the model of advanced care planning. Hospice care and advanced directives will be presented.

PHA 551: Urology (2 semester hours)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Urology.

PHA 556: Surgery (2 semester hours) This course introduces the student to the practice of General Surgery and will cover all aspects of the evaluation and care of surgical patients in addition to wound physiology, burn care, and anesthesia techniques. The basic practical skills expected of a physician assistant in surgical practice will be practiced in the simulation skills labs. This module is designed to prepare the first year PA student to be successful in their clinical year surgical rotations by giving them a surgical foundation in which to build upon.

PHA 561: Obstetrics/Gynecology (2 semester hours)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Obstetrics/Gynecology.

PHA 572: Dermatology (1 semester hour) This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Dermatology.
PHA 562: Orthopedics (2 semester hours)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Orthopedics.
PHA 574: Rheumatology (1 semester hour)
This course introduces the student to the pathophysiology, pathology, clinical medicine, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and preventive medicine aspects in the practice of Rheumatology.

Clinical Practice Curriculum
The final 12 months of the program constitute an extended period of clinical practice experience under the supervision of a physician or physician assistant, and, in rare instances, a nurse practitioner (under the supervision of a physician). The emphasis during this year is primary care in which the year is divided into 8 rotations. Our clinical training sites are located throughout a vast geographic area, most of which are rural. Students must be able to travel to accomplish their clinical practice rotations.

Students must be able to travel to accomplish their clinical practice rotations.

All arrangements for and expenses associated with travel and living accommodations during the clinical phase of the program are the responsibility of the student.

Students are NOT allowed to establish their own clinical practice rotations. Students who wish to recommend a possible new preceptor must do so in writing using the Preceptor Recommendation form. The Program will evaluate the suitability of all prospective clinical preceptors to insure adequate and comparable clinical experiences are provided by all preceptors utilized by the program.

All clinical experience preceptorships MUST be scheduled by the Director of Clinical Education (DCE) or other official Program representative.

Under no circumstances will students personally contact prospective or established program preceptors, nor take any actions toward establishing their own clinical practice rotations without written permission. Doing so will be considered a violation of program policy that may lead to dismissal from the program as evidence of unacceptable unprofessional behavior.

Once a rotation is confirmed, no student requests for changes to the scheduled rotation will be accepted. The program reserves the right to change an established student’s clinical rotation schedule at any time and without notice. These types of changes do not occur frequently, but are sometimes necessitated when the program receives last-minute notification from a scheduled preceptor of a change in his/her availability. Any attempt by a student to change a confirmed clinical rotation will be considered a violation of program policy that may lead to dismissal from the program based upon unacceptable unprofessional behavior.
Students on clinical rotations must be prepared to work any and all hours designated by their preceptor and must be available a minimum of 40 hours per week. Preceptors determine the student’s schedule and clinical activities (inpatient rounds, outpatient clinic, surgical cases, etc.) throughout the assigned clinical rotation, which may include weekends, evenings, nights and/or being on-call. Any student who fails to fully comply with the designated schedule or fails to complete the program’s minimum requirements established for a specific clinical rotation (as outlined in the course syllabi) will receive a failing grade (F) for the rotation and will be subject to dismissal in accordance with the Program Retention Standards.

Prior to any clinical exposure, all students must successfully complete the program-provided Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Blood Borne Pathogens (BBP) training. The Program will maintain copies of your certificate of training. Specific site orientation is also required by some clinical affiliates. Student participation in clinical practice orientation programs is mandatory. Failure to comply will result in dismissal from the Program.

### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PHA 651</td>
<td>Clinical Rotations I</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PHA 652</td>
<td>Clinical Rotations II</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>PHA 653</td>
<td>Clinical Rotations III</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>PHA 636</td>
<td>Patient Safety – Unifying Themes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>PHA 638</td>
<td>Case Study &amp; Community Education Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course Descriptions

**PHA 651, 652, and 653: Clinical Rotations I, II, and III**

Students complete clinical rotations as assigned by the physician assistant program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Rotation</th>
<th># Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Practice</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Internal Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics/Gynecology (Women’s Health)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Pediatrics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One rotation must be performed in a rural area.
**Family Practice Rotation:** This core rotation of 6 weeks is structured to provide an understanding of various medical disorders and their complications experienced by patients of all age groups. Within this setting, the emphasis is on the accurate collection, assessment, and presentation of patient data for physician review, indications for laboratory and imaging diagnostics, and the education of patients regarding health risk behaviors and therapeutic regimens.

**Emergency Medicine Rotation:** This core rotation of 6 weeks is designed to provide an in-depth exposure to the illnesses and injuries sustained by children and adults that necessitate emergency care. The educational experiences emphasize the focusing of interview and examination skills and the performance of techniques and procedures essential to the proper management of life-threatening illnesses and injury. Ventilatory assistance, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, fluid and electrolyte replacement, and acid-base balance are stressed.

**General Internal Medicine Rotation:** This core rotation of 6 weeks is designed to provide clinical practice experience with the various acute and chronic medical disorders/complications that necessitate hospitalization and further evaluation for patients of adult patients, with special emphasis on geriatric patients and the care provided in both acute and long-term care facilities.

**General Pediatrics Rotation:** This required core rotation of 6 weeks is structured to provide the student with an in-depth exposure to the assessment and management of children and adolescents. Included will be a focus on the newborn physical,
well-child care, and those acute processes unique to the pediatric patient.

**Obstetrics/Gynecology (Women’s Health) Rotation:** This core rotation of 6 weeks provides exposure to the spectrum of problems and issues associated with women’s health care, as well as routine prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum obstetrical care. Learning experiences will also include family planning and birth control, recognition and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, cancer detection, and evaluation of common gynecological problems.

**General Surgery Rotation:** This core rotation of 6 weeks provides an orientation to patients of various ages with surgically manageable diseases. The emphasis of the learning experiences are on the preoperative evaluation and preparation of patients for surgery, assistance during the intraoperative period to develop an understanding of team member roles and operative procedures, and post-operative patient management and care of surgical wounds and complications.

**Psychiatry Rotation:** This core rotation of 6 weeks is designed to provide an understanding of the behavioral components of health, disease, and disability. Exposure to patients with a variety of emotional illnesses and disabilities are used to develop informed history taking and mental status examination skills, the ability to recognize and categorize psychiatric disturbances, and techniques for early intervention and psychiatric referral.

**Elective Rotation:** This rotation of 6 weeks is designed to give students an opportunity to explore professional options as Physician Assistants and may include additional clinical practice in any of the core rotations, any medical or surgical subspecialty, or experiential learning in academic medicine.

Syllabi have been developed for common elective rotations. A student who desires to complete an elective rotation that is not included among those previously developed needs to have prior approval by the program director. An appropriate syllabus will be developed and must be approved by the Program Curriculum Committee before the rotation begins.

**Course Descriptions**

**PHA 636: Patient Safety – Unifying Themes (3 semester hours)** Students will employ the Institute of Healthcare Improvement Open School modules on leadership, patient safety, and quality improvement. Building upon concepts and discussions begun during the didactic year regarding evidence-based medicine, ethics, and professionalism the student will leave the
program with a focus on enhancing patient safety through communication, data gathering, and quality improvement techniques.

PHA 638: Case Study & Community Education Project (3 semester hours)
Students will apply skills learned from Evidence-Based Medicine: Research, Communications and Applications and Professional and Medical Practice Issues to choose a case study developed and researched during the clinical year. The course will conclude with an oral presentation to the faculty of a literature supported case study and a written 3-5 page paper. Case study development will be mentored by the Director of Clinical Education and supported by the core faculty. Presentations will be delivered the week of graduation.

Program Academic Calendar
For a tentative academic calendar based on Financial Aid distribution, please visit https://www.rocky.edu/academics/academicprograms/graduate/master-physician-assistant-studies/additional-programinfo/mpas.
A more detailed academic calendar will be available at orientation.

Clinical Experience Rotations
For the schedule of clinical experience rotations, please visit https://www.rocky.edu/academics/academicprograms/graduate/masterphysician-assistant-studies/curriculum/clinical-phase-0.

PROGRAM STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE
Academic Standards

Academic Integrity

Students in the Physician Assistant Program must comply with the RMC Academic Integrity Policy. Dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in our Program. In addition to the ethical issue of honesty, as a professional program, we hold all our students to the AAPA Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession. These guidelines can be found at the following website: https://www.aapa.org/

Honesty and scholarship require that a person exercise care to make proper acknowledgement when using another's intellectual work. Disregard of this standard of morality and scholarship lays a person open to charges of plagiarism or cheating. Refer to the RMC Catalog for details on standards for academic integrity.

Scholastic Achievement

Grades: Course grades are calculated on a percentage basis as outlined in the respective course syllabi. All final course grade percentages are rounded to the nearest integer as follows:

- XX.45% or higher is rounded up to the next higher integer
- XX.44% or less is rounded down

Final course grades are assigned according to the following academic standards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Didactic &amp; Research Courses</th>
<th>Clinical Rotations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Grade</td>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 70</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades are considered a reflection of how well a student has done in comparison to the expectations.

- A – indicates that a student has exceeded the program’s expectations
- B - indicates that a student has met the program’s expectations
- C - indicates that a student has not met the program’s expectations
An “I” may be temporarily awarded to individuals who fail to complete course requirements within the defined time period of the course. Students must submit a written request for an “I” to the program director for approval BEFORE the end of the semester in which the “I” designation is being requested. If an “I” is not requested or not approved by the program director, the course grade will be calculated based upon that portion of the course that has been completed.

According to campus policy, all required course work MUST be completed within one year (12 months) of the date on which the incomplete grade is posted. After one year any “I” grades will be permanently changed to an “F.” A final grade of “F” in any PA course is a non-passing grade and results in automatic and immediate dismissal from the PA Program.

Assessments
Student assessments of learning and academic/scholastic achievement take several forms during the Physician Assistant Program. These include:

- **Examinations:** Frequent written evaluations are conducted throughout the program to assess each individual’s acquisition of the required knowledge base to practice medicine as a Physician Assistant. These examinations occur on a frequent basis during the didactic phase and at the end of each clinical practice rotation during the clinical phase.

- **Clinical Skills Assessments (CSA):** Students must demonstrate acquisition of the diagnostic, clinical, and interpretive skills needed to fulfill the Technical Standards of Performance.

- **Objective Standardized Clinical Evaluations (OSCE):** These practical assessments are designed to evaluate each student’s skills and abilities to obtain a patient’s medical history, appropriately perform physical examinations, critically analyze the diagnostic dataset to establish a problem list/differential diagnosis, formulate a treatment plan, and provide appropriate patient education.

- **Faculty/Preceptor Evaluations of Student Performance:** These are prepared at the end of each semester during the didactic year and at the end of each clinical practice rotation during the clinical year. The assessments are primarily used to evaluate professionalism, participation, communication skills, and overall performance.

- **A Comprehensive Summative Evaluation:** This evaluation is conducted at the end of both the didactic and clinical components of the program. Each of these evaluations contains multiple clinical skills assessments and one or more OSCE(s) using trained patient models. The comprehensive summative evaluation conducted at the end of the didactic phase is used to provide each student with a detailed assessment of their mastery of the professional competencies (listed below). Grades obtained on the didactic phase comprehensive evaluations are not used to calculate any course grades. **However, students must pass the CSA and OSCE components of the summative**
evaluations at the end of the didactic component to move on to the clinical phase. Students who fail any component of the summative evaluation will require remediation and retesting of the failed component prior to graduation. A second failure will result in the student being given a grade of “Incomplete” (I) for their final clinical rotations course/semester. They will be immediately placed on academic probation and a plan for remediation will be developed which may include (but is not necessarily limited to) additional assigned clinical practice experience.

Academic Progress

Students are required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 and achieve a course letter grade of “C” or better in all didactic and research courses. A clinical rotation letter grade of “B” or better is required in all clinical practice rotations to remain in good academic standing and to progress within the program. Failing any end-of-rotation examination must be satisfactorily remediated. Any student failing two end-of-rotation exams will be placed on academic probation and the third failure of end-of-rotation exams will result in program dismissal.

The program core faculty will review academic progress at the end of each semester. Any individual who does not meet the specified end-of-semester cumulative GPA requirements will be placed on academic probation for one semester. The cumulative GPA must be raised to the minimum requirement during the probationary semester. Failure to meet the minimum GPA at the end of the probationary semester will result in immediate dismissal from the program. Students are also required to achieve a semester GPA of 3.0, regardless of their cumulative GPA. Any student who does not achieve a semester GPA of 3.0 will also be placed on academic probation regardless of their cumulative GPA. Any student who has two subsequent semester GPAs of less than 3.0 may be dismissed from the program, regardless of their cumulative GPA.

Competencies Mastery

The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), in conjunction with the AAPA, PAEA and ARC-PA, has developed a document entitled Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession (originally adopted in 2005; revised and updated in 2012), available at https://www.nccpa.net/Uploads/docs/PACOMPETENCIES.PDF. This document serves as a foundation by which physician assistants can chart their individual course toward attaining the fundamental competencies of the PA profession.

The Rocky Mountain College PA Program has adopted this manuscript as a resource for defining the basic knowledge, clinical skills, and professional attitudes and behaviors individuals enrolled in this program should strive to attain and demonstrate throughout their course of
study. Students in the RMC PA Program must demonstrate competence in the following six categories:

1. **Medical knowledge**, which includes an understanding of pathophysiology, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, health promotion and disease prevention
2. **Interpersonal and communication skills**, which encompasses verbal, nonverbal, and written exchange of information
3. **Patient care**, including age-appropriate assessment, evaluation, and management
4. **Professionalism** manifested through:
   a. The expression of positive values and ideals as care is delivered
   b. Prioritizing the interests of those being served above one’s own
   c. Knowing one’s professional and personal limitations
   d. Practicing without impairment from substance abuse, cognitive deficiency, or mental illness
   e. Demonstrating a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, and sensitivity to patient diversity and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements
5. **Practice-based learning and improvement** by engaging in critical analysis of one’s own practice experience, the medical literature and other information resources for the purpose of self-improvement in order to assess, evaluate, and improve personal patient care practices
6. **Systems-based practice** demonstrates a provider’s awareness of, responsiveness toward, and work to improve the larger system of health care, encompassing the societal, organizational, and economic environments in which health care is delivered, to provide patient care that is of optimal value

Additionally, the NCCPA has created a blueprint for entry-level physician assistant certification in which the examination content is divided into two critical dimensions:

1. Knowledge of clinical skills physician assistants should exhibit when confronted with diseases and disorders
2. Knowledge of organ systems and the diseases, disorders, and medical assessments physician assistants encounter within those systems

The following tables have been extracted from the NCCPA website at http://www.nccpa.net/ to illustrate the breadth of competency expected of those who are seeking entry into the PA profession.

**Knowledge of Clinical Skills**

<p>| History Taking &amp; Performing Physical Examinations |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge of:</th>
<th>Cognitive skills in:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Pertinent historical information associated with selected medical conditions</td>
<td>• Conducting comprehensive and focused interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Risk factors for development of selected medical conditions</td>
<td>• Identifying pertinent historical information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Signs and symptoms of selected medical conditions</td>
<td>• Performing comprehensive and focused physical examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Physical examination techniques</td>
<td>• Associating current complaint with presented history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Physical examination findings associated with selected medical conditions</td>
<td>• Identifying pertinent physical examination information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Appropriate physical examination directed to selected medical conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Differential diagnosis associated with presenting symptoms or physical findings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Using Laboratory &amp; Diagnostic Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Indications for initial and subsequent diagnostic or laboratory studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cost effectiveness of diagnostic studies or procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relevance of common screening tests for selected medical conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Normal and abnormal diagnostic ranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Risks associated with diagnostic studies or procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Appropriate patient education related to laboratory or diagnostic studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive skills in:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Using diagnostic equipment safely and appropriately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Selecting appropriate diagnostic or laboratory studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Collecting diagnostic or laboratory specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interpreting diagnostic or laboratory studies results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Significance of history as it relates to differential diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Significance of physical findings as they relate to diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Significance of diagnostic and laboratory studies as they relate to diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive skills in:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Correlating normal and abnormal diagnostic data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Formulating differential diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Selecting the most likely diagnosis in light of presented data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health Maintenance

Knowledge of:

- Epidemiology of selected medical conditions
- Early detection and prevention of selected medical conditions
- Relative value of common screening tests
- Appropriate patient education regarding preventable conditions or lifestyle modifications
  - Healthy lifestyles
- Prevention of communicable diseases
- Immunization schedules and recommendations for infants, children, adults and foreign travelers
- Risks and benefits of immunization
- Human growth and development
- Human sexuality
- Occupational and environmental exposure
- Impact of stress on health
- Psychological manifestations of illness and injury
- Effects of aging and changing family roles on health maintenance and disease prevention
- Signs of abuse and neglect
- Barriers to care

Cognitive Skills in:

- Using counseling and patient education techniques
- Communicating effectively with patients to enhance health maintenance
- Adapting health maintenance to the patient’s context
- Using informational databases
Knowledge of:

- Management and treatment of selected medical conditions
- Indications, contraindications, complications, risks, benefits and techniques for selected procedures
- Standard precautions and special isolation conditions
- Sterile technique
- Follow-up and monitoring of therapeutic regimens
- Conditions that constitute medical emergencies
- Indications for admission to or discharge from hospitals or other facilities
- Discharge planning
- Available community resources
- Appropriate community resources
- Appropriate patient education
- Roles of other health professionals
- End-of-life issues
- Risks and benefits of alternative medicine

Cognitive skills in:

- Formulating and implementing treatment plans
- Recognizing and initiating treatment for life-threatening emergencies
- Demonstrating technical expertise related to performing specific procedures
- Communicating effectively
- Using counseling techniques
- Facilitating patient adherence and active participation in treatment
- Interacting effectively in multidisciplinary teams

Pharmaceutical Therapeutics

Knowledge of:

- Mechanism of action
- Indications for use
- Contraindications
- Side effects
- Adverse reactions
- Follow-up and monitoring of pharmacologic regimens
- Risks for drug interactions
- Clinical presentation of drug interactions
- Treatment of drug interactions
- Drug toxicity
- Methods to reduce medication errors
- Cross reactivity of similar medications
- Recognition and treatment of allergic reactions

Cognitive skills in:

- Selecting appropriate pharmacologic therapy for selected medical conditions
- Monitoring pharmacologic regimens and adjusting as appropriate
- Evaluating and reporting adverse drug reactions

Applying Basic Science Concepts

Knowledge of:

- Human anatomy and physiology
- Underlying pathophysiology
- Microbiology and biochemistry

Cognitive skills in:

- Recognizing normal and abnormal anatomy and physiology
- Relating pathophysiologic principles to specific disease processes
- Correlating abnormal physical examination findings to a given disease process
- Correlating abnormal results of diagnostic tests to a given disease process
Knowledge of Organ Systems

**Cardiovascular System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardiomyopathy</th>
<th>Heart Failure/Hypertension</th>
<th>Venous thrombosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dilated</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertrophic</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictive</td>
<td>Hypertensive emergencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conduction Disorders</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hypotension</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrial fibrillation/flutter</td>
<td>Cardiogenic shock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrioventricular block</td>
<td>Orthostatic hypotension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundle branch block</td>
<td><strong>Coronary Heart Disease</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia Premature beats</td>
<td>Acute myocardial infarction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sick sinus syndrome</td>
<td>• Non-ST-segment elevation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventricular tachycardia</td>
<td>• ST-segment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventricular fibrillation</td>
<td>Angina pectoris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torsades de pointes</td>
<td>• Stable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Congenital Heart Disease</strong></td>
<td>• Unstable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrial septal defect</td>
<td>• Prinzmetal variant <strong>Vascular Disease</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarctation of aorta</td>
<td>Aortic aneurysm/dissection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent ductus arteriosus</td>
<td>Arterial embolism/thrombosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetralogy of Fallot</td>
<td>Giant cell arteritis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventricular septal defect</td>
<td>Peripheral artery disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phlebitis/thrombophlebitis s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Varicose veins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venous insufficiency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pulmonary System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infectious Disorders</th>
<th>Neoplastic Disease</th>
<th>Pulmonary Circulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute bronchitis</td>
<td>Carcinoid tumors</td>
<td>Cor pulmonale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute bronchiolitis</td>
<td>Lung cancer</td>
<td>Pulmonary embolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute epiglottitis</td>
<td>Pulmonary nodules</td>
<td>Pulmonary hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td><strong>Obstructive Pulmonary Disease</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis</td>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonias</td>
<td>Bronchiectasis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bacterial</td>
<td>Chronic bronchitis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Viral</td>
<td>Cystic fibrosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fungal</td>
<td>Emphysema</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HIV-related</td>
<td><strong>Pleural Diseases</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory syncytial virus infection</td>
<td>Pleural effusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Pneumothorax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Forms of Heart Disease

| Acute and subacute bacterial endocarditis | Acute pericarditis | Cardiac tamponade | Pericardial effusion |

Valvular Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aortic stenosis</th>
<th>Aortic regurgitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mitral stenosis</td>
<td>Mitral regurgitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricuspid stenosis</td>
<td>Tricuspid regurgitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary stenosis</td>
<td>Pulmonary regurgitation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Pulmonary Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acute respiratory distress syndrome</th>
<th>Hyaline membrane disease</th>
<th>Sarcoïdosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Endocrine System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diseases of the Thyroid Gland</th>
<th>Diseases of the Adrenal Glands</th>
<th>Diseases of the Pituitary Gland</th>
<th>Diabetes Mellitus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hyperparathyroidism</td>
<td>Corticoadrenal insufficiency</td>
<td>Acromegaly/gigantism</td>
<td>Type 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypoparathyroidism</td>
<td>Cushing syndrome</td>
<td>Diabetes insipidus</td>
<td>Type 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperthyroidism</td>
<td>Neoplastic disease</td>
<td>Dwarfism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothyroidism</td>
<td>Neoplastic disease</td>
<td>Neoplastic disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoplastic disease</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pituitary adenoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroiditis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EENT (Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eye Disorders</th>
<th>Ear Disorders</th>
<th>Nose/Sinus Disorders</th>
<th>Mouth/Throat Disorders</th>
<th>Neoplasms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blepharitis</td>
<td>Acute/chronic otitis media</td>
<td>Acute/chronic sinusitis</td>
<td>Acute pharyngitis</td>
<td>Benign and malignant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blowout fracture</td>
<td>Acoustic neuroma</td>
<td>Allergic rhinitis</td>
<td>Aphthous ulcers</td>
<td>Parotitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataract</td>
<td>Barotrauma</td>
<td>Epistaxis</td>
<td>Diseases of the teeth/gums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chalazion</td>
<td>Cholesteatoma</td>
<td>Foreign body</td>
<td>Epiglottitis</td>
<td>Sialadenitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunctivitis</td>
<td>Dysfunction of eustachian tube</td>
<td>Foreign body</td>
<td>Oral herpes simplex</td>
<td>Neoplasms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corneal abrasion</td>
<td>Foreign body</td>
<td>Nasal polyps</td>
<td>Oral candidiasis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corneal ulcer</td>
<td>Hearing impairment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oral leukoplakia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dacryoadenitis</td>
<td>Hematoma of external ear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ectropion</td>
<td>Labyrinthitis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entropion</td>
<td>Mastoiditis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign body</td>
<td>Meniere disease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
<td>Otitis externa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hordeolum</td>
<td>Tinnitus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyphema</td>
<td>Tympanic membrane perforation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macular degeneration</td>
<td>Vertigo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nystagmus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optic neuritis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orbital cellulitis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papilledema</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pterygium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retinal detachment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retinal vascular occlusion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retinopathy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strabismus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

This table summarizes common disorders associated with the endocrine system, including diseases of the thyroid gland, adrenal glands, and pituitary gland. It also lists conditions related to the eyes, ears, nose, and throat (EENT) as well as disorders affecting the sinus, mouth, and throat. Neoplasms are included as a category of diseases.
## Gastrointestinal System/Nutrition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GU Tract Conditions</th>
<th>Infectious/Inflammatory Conditions</th>
<th>Renal Diseases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cryptorchidism</td>
<td>Orchitis</td>
<td>Glomerulonephritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erectile dysfunction</td>
<td>Prostatitis</td>
<td>Hydrenephrosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocele/varicocele</td>
<td>Pyelonephritis</td>
<td>Nephrotic syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incontinence</td>
<td>Urethritis</td>
<td>Polycystic kidney disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephro/uroliithias</td>
<td>Neoplastic Diseases</td>
<td>Renal vascular disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraphimosis/phimosis</td>
<td>Bladder cancer</td>
<td>Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testicular torsion</td>
<td>Prostate cancer</td>
<td>Hypervolemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renal cell carcinoma</td>
<td>Hypervolemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Testicular cancer</td>
<td>Acid/Base Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wilms tumor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Genitourinary System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benign Conditions of the GU Tract</th>
<th>Infectious/Inflammatory Conditions</th>
<th>Renal Diseases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benign prostatic hyperplasia</td>
<td>Cystitis</td>
<td>Acute/chronic renal failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptorchidism</td>
<td>Epididymitis</td>
<td>Glomerulonephritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erectile dysfunction</td>
<td>Orchitis Prostatitis</td>
<td>Nephrotic syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocele/varicocele</td>
<td>Pyelonephritis</td>
<td>Polycystic kidney disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incontinence</td>
<td>Urethritis</td>
<td>Electroyte and Acid/Base Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephro/uroliithias</td>
<td>Neoplastic Diseases</td>
<td>Hypo/hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraphimosis/phimosis</td>
<td>Bladder carcinoma</td>
<td>Hypo/hyperkalemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testicular torsion</td>
<td>Prostate cancer</td>
<td>Hypo/hypercalcemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renal cell carcinoma</td>
<td>Hypomagnesemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Testicular cancer</td>
<td>Metabolic alkalosis/acidosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wilms' tumor</td>
<td>Respiratory alkalosis/acidosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Volume depletion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Volume excess</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Reproductive System

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cryptorchidism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erectile dysfunction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocele/varicocele</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incontinence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephro/uroliithias</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraphimosis/phimosis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testicular torsion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Uterus
Dysfunctional uterine bleeding
Endometrial cancer
Endometriosis Leiomyoma
Prolapse
Ovary
Cysts
Neoplasms
Cervix
Cancer
Cervicitis
Dysplasia
Incompetent
Vagina/Vulva
Cystocele Neoplasm
Prolapse
Rectocele
Vaginitis

Menstrual Disorders
Amenorrhea
Dysmenorrhea
Premenstrual syndrome

Menopause
Breast
Abscess
Cancer
Fibroadenoma
Fibrocystic disease
Gynecomastia
Galactorrhea Mastitis

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

Contraceptive Methods
Infertility

Uncomplicated Pregnancy
Normal labor/delivery

Prenatal diagnosis/care

Complicated Pregnancy
Abortion
Abruptio placenta
Cesarean section
Dystocia
Ectopic pregnancy
Fetal distress
Gestational diabetes
Gestational trophoblastic disease
Hypertension disorders in pregnancy
Multiple gestation
Placenta previa
Postpartum hemorrhage
Premature rupture of membranes
Rh incompatibility

Musculoskeletal System

Disorders of the Shoulder
Fractures/dislocations
Soft tissue injuries

Disorders of the Forearm/Wrist/Hand
Fractures/dislocations
Soft tissue injuries

Disorders of the Back/Spine
Ankylosing spondylitis
Back strain/sprain Cauda equina

Soft tissue injuries
Infectious Diseases
Acute/chronic osteomyelitis
Septic arthritis
Neoplastic Disease
Bone cysts/tumors
Ganglion

Disorders of the Hip
Avascular necrosis
Development dysplasia
Fractures/dislocations
Slipped capital femoral epiphysis

Disorders of the Knee
Fractures/dislocations
Osgood-Schlatter disease
Soft tissue injuries

Disorders of the Ankle/Foot
Fractures/dislocations

Osteoarthritis
Osteoporosis
Compartment Syndrome
Rheumatologic Conditions
Fibromyalgia
Gout/pseudogout
Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
Polyarteritis nodosa Polymyositis
Polymyalgia rheumatica
Reactive arthritis (Reiter)

Neurologic System
### Diseases of Peripheral Nerves
- Complex regional pain syndrome
- Peripheral neuropathies

### Headaches
- Cluster headache
- Migraine
- Tension headache

### Infectious Disorders
- Encephalitis
- Meningitis

### Movement Disorders
- Essential tremor
- Huntington disease
- Parkinson disease

### Vascular Disorders
- Cerebral aneurysm
- Intracranial hemorrhage
- Stroke
- Transient ischemic attack

### Other Neurologic Disorders
- Altered level of consciousness
- Cerebral palsy
- Concussion
- Neurocognitive disorders (Dementia)
- Delirium
- Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Multiple sclerosis
- Myasthenia gravis
- Postconcussion syndrome
- Seizure disorders
- Status epilepticus
- Syncope
- Tourette disorder

### Psychiatry/Behavioral Science

#### Anxiety Disorders / Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Panic disorder
- Phobias
- Adjustment disorder
- Post-traumatic stress disorder

#### Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

#### Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autistic Disorder)

#### Feeding and Eating Disorders (Eating Disorders)
- Anorexia nervosa
- Bulimia nervosa
- Obesity

#### Depressive Disorders/Bipolar and Related Disorders (Mood Disorders)
- Bipolar disorders
- Major depressive disorder
- Persistent depressive disorder (Dysthymic disorder)

#### Personality Disorders

#### Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Delusional disorder

### Other Somatic and Related Disorders (Somatoform Disorders)

### Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders
- Use Dependence
- Withdrawal

### Other Behavior/Emotional Disorders
- Acute reaction to stress
- Child/elder abuse
- Conduct disorder
- Domestic violence
- Grief reaction
- Suicide

### Dermatologic System

#### Eczematous Eruptions
- Dermatitis
- Dyshidrosis
- Lichen simplex chronicus

#### Papulosquamous Diseases
- Drug eruptions
- Lichen planus
- Pityriasis rosea
- Psoriasis

#### Desquamation
- Erythema multiforme
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome
- Toxic epidermal necrolysis

#### Vesicular Bullae
- Bullous pemphigoid

#### Acneiform Lesions
- Acne vulgaris

#### Rosacea

#### Verrucous Lesions
- Actinic keratosis
- Seborrheic keratosis

#### Insects/Parasites
- Lice
- Scabies
- Spider bites

#### Neoplasms
- Basal cell carcinoma
- Kaposi sarcoma
- Melanoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma

#### Hair and Nails
- Alopecia
- Onychomycosis
- Paronychia

#### Viral Diseases
- Condyloma acuminatum
- Exanths
- Herpes simplex
- Molluscum contagiosum
- Varicella-zoster virus infections
- Verrucae

### Other Dermatologic System

### Bacterial Infections
- Cellulitis
- Erysipelas
- Impetigo

### Fungal Infections
- Candidiasis
- Dermatophyte infections

### Other
- Acanthosis nigricans
- Burns
- Hidradenitis suppurativa
- Lipomas/epithelial inclusion cysts
- Melasma
- Pilonidal disease
- Pressure ulcers
- Urticaria

### Hematologic System

### Vitiligo
Anemias
Anemia of chronic disease
Aplastic anemia
Folate deficiency G6PD deficiency
Hemolytic anemia
Iron deficiency
Sickle cell anemia
Thalassemia
Vitamin B12 deficiency

Coagulation Disorders
Clotting factor disorders
Hypercoagulable states
Thrombocytopenia
• Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
• Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura

Malignancies
Acute/chronic lymphocytic leukemia
Acute/chronic myelogenous leukemia
Lymphoma
Multiple myeloma

Infectious Diseases

Fungal Disease
Candidiasis
Cryptococcosis
Histoplasmosis
Pneumocystis

Mycobacterial Disease
Atypical mycobacterial disease
Tuberculosis

Parasitic Disease
Helminth infestations
Malaria
Pinworms Toxoplasmosis

Spirochetal Disease
Lyme disease
Rocky Mountain spotted fever
Syphilis

Viral Disease
Cytomegalovirus infections
Epstein-Barr virus infections
Erythema infectiosum
Herpes simplex
HIV infection
Human papillomavirus infections
Influenza
Measles
Mumps
Rabies
Roseola
Rubella
Varicella-zoster virus infections

Technical Standards

Technical standards refer to those physical, cognitive and behavioral abilities required of all Physician Assistant candidates. Students admitted to the Physician Assistant Program must meet certain basic/essential requirements (technical standards) that are necessary to perform as a Physician Assistant. Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities will be considered on an individual basis; but, an applicant must possess the intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to independently undertake and complete the full program curriculum and achieve the required level of competence in the time period allotted by program design/policy.

Candidates for the physician assistant profession must have use of all somatic sensations and the functional use of vision and hearing. Diagnostic skills will be lessened without the use of the senses of equilibrium, smell, and taste. Additionally, they must have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain, and temperature), proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibration), and motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. Candidates must be able to integrate all information received by whatever sense(s) employed, consistently, quickly, and accurately, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain areas, but such a candidate should be able to perform in an independent manner. Students with disabilities are responsible for requesting
accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act through the procedures outlined in the Rocky Mountain College catalog. (See Accommodations/Disabilities in the General Policies and Procedures section of this handbook.)

Applicants will be required to sign a verification statement that they meet the Technical Standards as part of the Program-specific application Supplemental Materials (Appendix 1). Students in the Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program will subsequently be evaluated each semester by faculty or clinical preceptors as to their ability to perform these Technical Standards throughout their educational experience. Individuals who do not satisfactorily demonstrate the required skills and abilities outlined in the Technical Standards will be placed on Academic Probation, provided remediation and academic counseling, and reassessed at the end of the subsequent semesters and/or clinical rotations for evidence of improvement. Failure to demonstrate satisfactory progress in future assessments will result in dismissal from the program.

The granting of an entry level master’s degree signifies that the holder has developed the basic clinical skills requisite to perform their professional role, under the ‘supervision’ of a Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy, in accordance with the laws of medical practice. The services they provide must, for the safety and welfare of the patient, be of the same professional quality that would be rendered by their supervising physician. The PA Program has the responsibility to assure its graduates are fully competent and capable of complying with the Hippocratic Oath “to benefit and do no harm” to the public they will serve.

See Appendix 1.

A candidate for the physician assistant profession must possess the skills and abilities defined in the following five categories:

1. **Observation Skills**
   The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision, hearing, olfaction, and somatic sensation.

2. **Communication Skills**
   A candidate should be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team and
patients.

3. **Motor Skills**
Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to do basic laboratory tests, carry out diagnostic procedures, and read EKGs and X-ray films. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment of patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physician assistants are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

4. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities**
These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physician assistants, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes**
A candidate must possess the emotional health and stability required for full utilization of her/his intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admission and educational processes.

Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain areas, but such a candidate should be able to perform in an independent manner. Students with disabilities are responsible for requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act through the procedures outlined in the Rocky Mountain College catalog. (See Accommodations/Disabilities in the General Policies and Procedures section of this handbook.)
Professional Standards - Code of Ethics

Students are required to demonstrate professional behavior throughout the duration of their enrollment at Rocky Mountain College – both in the didactic setting, as well as in clinical practice rotations.

Professional behavior means having and demonstrating respect for everyone, holding oneself to ethical and moral standards of behaviors, and developing the knowledge and skills that enable one to provide competent and compassionate care for their patients. At a minimum, Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant students are required to abide to the professions Code of Ethics.

Code of Ethics

The Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program recognizes its responsibility to prepare its graduates to maintain the highest standards in the provision of quality health care services. To that end, this program teaches, endorses, and strives to adhere to the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) code of ethics. See AAPA website to view code of ethics.
1. Physician assistants shall be committed to providing competent medical care, assuming as their primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all humans.
2. Physician assistants shall extend to each patient the full measure of their ability as dedicated empathetic health care providers, and shall assume responsibility for the skillful and proficient transaction of their professional duties.
3. Physician assistants shall deliver needed health care services to health consumers without regard to sex, race, age, creed, socio- economic, and political status.
4. Physician Assistants shall adhere to all state and federal laws governing informed
consent concerning the patient's health.
5. Physician Assistants shall seek consultation with their supervising physician, other health providers, or qualified professionals having special skills, knowledge, or experience whenever the welfare of the patient will be safeguarded or advanced by such consultation.
6. Physician Assistants shall take personal responsibility for being familiar with and adhering to all federal/state laws applicable to the practice of their profession.
7. Physician Assistants shall provide only those services for which they are qualified via education and/or experience and by pertinent legal regulatory process.
8. Physician Assistants shall not misrepresent in any manner, either directly or indirectly, their skills, training, professional credentials, identity, or services.
9. Physician Assistants shall uphold the doctrine of confidentiality regarding privileged patient information, unless required to release such information by law or such information becomes necessary to protect the welfare of the patient or the community.
10. Physician Assistants shall strive to maintain and increase the quality of individual health care services through individual study and continuing education.
11. Physician Assistants shall have the duty to respect the law, to uphold the dignity of the Physician Assistant profession and to accept its ethical principles. The Physician Assistant shall not participate in or conceal any activity that will bring discredit or dishonor to the Physician Assistant profession, and shall expose without fear or favor any illegal or unethical conduct in the medical profession.
12. Physician Assistants, ever cognizant of the needs of the community, shall use the knowledge and experience acquired as professionals to contribute to an improved community.
13. Physician Assistants shall place service before material gain and must guard against conflicts of professional interest.
14. Physician Assistants will strive to maintain a spirit of co-operation with their professional organization and the general public.
Specific Program Standards of Conduct

- Students will be required to conduct themselves in a manner that emulates the professional code of ethics defined by the AAPA.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that indicates respect toward other students, faculty, and patients.
- Students must refrain from any behavior that would bring harm or abuse to any person or property.
- Any behavior that significantly disrupts teaching, research, administrative, or student functions is considered unprofessional.
- Any student whose behavior at a clinical site jeopardizes or leads to the loss of that site for future student clinical experiences will receive a failing grade for the rotation.

Failure to demonstrate any of the qualities defined in the AAPA Professional Code of Ethics or the Specific Standards of Conduct listed above will serve as grounds for dismissal.

Evaluation of Professional Behavior

Formal evaluation of professional behavior will be performed by the program’s faculty and/or clinical practice preceptors at the following points in the Physician Assistant curriculum:

- At the end of fall and spring (program faculty evaluation)
- Near the end of each clinical practice rotation (clinical preceptor evaluation)

The first time a student receives an unsatisfactory rating on any professionalism evaluation, he/she will be placed on Academic Probation that will continue until the next regularly scheduled evaluation. Any subsequent unsatisfactory professionalism evaluation will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Completion/Graduation Requirements

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree will be granted to all students who have completed the requirements for graduation as specified in this Student Handbook and the corresponding Rocky Mountain College Catalog, and are recommended for graduation by the program’s core faculty. Successful candidates for graduation must have completed the following:
**Didactic Year** (Must be completed as a condition of eligibility to begin the clinical practice year)

- Successfully complete, with a minimum grade of a C in each course, the entire program didactic curriculum and achieve the required minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. Additionally, students must successfully complete the Objective Standardized Clinical Evaluation (OSCE) and Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA) components of the comprehensive summative evaluation conducted at the end of the didactic year.

**Clinical Year**

- Successfully complete all the clinical practice experiences with a minimum grade of B in each rotation.
- Pass (with a minimum score of 70%) all end-of-rotation examinations. Failing any end-of-rotation examination must be satisfactorily remediated. Any student failing two end-of-rotation exams will be placed on academic probation, and the third failure of end-of-rotation exams will result in program dismissal.
- Maintain the required minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Demonstrate professionalism and competency to practice medicine as a physician assistant as evidenced by the preceptor evaluations of student performance.
- Pass all components of the summative evaluation (including the clinical skills assessments and objective standardized clinical evaluations) administered near the end of the clinical practice year.
- Complete clinical skills competency checklist signed off by preceptors.
- Complete, to the satisfaction of the program faculty, a Case Study and Community Education Project and the Healthcare Improvement Open School modules.

**Completion Timeframe**

All program requirements must be finished within 12 months of the student’s scheduled program completion date (calculated on the basis of the original program matriculation date).

**Retention Standards/Changes in Student Status**

Earning an MPAS Degree is predicated on the faculty’s determination that a student is **suitable** for the practice of medicine in terms of his/her personal professionalism, personal conduct, and academic achievement. **Grades alone are not sufficient to warrant promotion to the next semester, clinical phase, or graduation.** The faculty reserves the right to dismiss any student when the student’s documented behavior is not in keeping with the standards of the medical profession, or when the student’s presence in the PA Program is considered detrimental to the student in question, the other students in the college, or to society in general.
**Leave of Absence:** A leave of absence for medical or personal reasons from the PA Program may be granted by the program director. Requests for leaves of absence must be made in writing to the program director. Such students will be permitted to resume course work upon receipt of documentation that satisfactory resolution of the problem necessitating the leave of absence has occurred. Repetition of course work previously and satisfactorily completed prior to the leave of absence will not be required provided resumption in training occurs within one academic year from the date the leave of absence begins.

**Withdrawal:** Students may voluntarily withdraw from the program in accordance with college policies and procedures. (Consult the current Rocky Mountain College Catalog for details.) Written notice of intent to withdraw must be provided to the program director prior to initiating the formal college withdrawal process.

**Probation:** Being placed on probation is a warning to the student that his/her performance is below the minimum requirements of the program. During probation, a student must raise his/her grade point average or correct other identified problems to the required minimum standard or risk dismissal from the program.

- This change in program status is imposed by the program director in accordance with the Standards of Performance policies and procedures outlined in this Student Handbook.
- The minimum length of probation is one semester.
- A student on probation will be subject to dismissal for failure to resolve the deficiency OR the occurrence of any other violation which mandates program dismissal.

**Suspension:** Any student may be suspended from continued participation in the program to allow sufficient time to investigate allegations of unprofessional behavior, violations of academic integrity, or other claims of personal misconduct. Suspension will be imposed by the program director.

**Dismissal:** Dismissal is a permanent separation from the program. The following is a list of conditions under which students will be dismissed from the Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program:

- Violation of any college or program rules, regulations, policies, or procedures with regards to academic integrity.
- Failure to achieve the required minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 after having been on Academic Probation for one semester.
- Failure of more than 2 modules/courses in any single academic semester of the didactic year regardless of overall GPA.
Refusal or failure to satisfactorily complete a remediation plan for any course, module, or clinical rotation.

Judged to be professionally unfit for the practice of medicine (as determined by the formal end-of-semester or end-of-clinical rotation Faculty/Preceptor Evaluation of Students) by at least two different faculty and/or clinical rotation preceptors.

Students on probation or on an extended curriculum (i.e., their projected program completion date is extended beyond the originally scheduled program completion date for their class based upon their date of matriculation) are subject to immediate dismissal upon receipt of a failing rotation/course grade or violation of any of the terms of their probation.

Receipt of a failing grade in two clinical rotations.

Failure of a third clinical practice end-of-rotation written examination.

Dismissal from the Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program for any of the above conditions will be final, subject only to the Program’s Academic Appeal Policies and Procedures.

Refunds

When a student withdraws before 60% of the semester elapses, the College must return to the Department of Education any unearned federal financial aid funds up to the unearned percentage of institutional charges for the portion of the period the student did not complete. Federal dollars that need to be returned will be applied in the following order: unsubsidized federal Stafford loan, subsidized federal Stafford loan, federal Perkins loan, federal PLUS loan, federal Pell grant, federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, and Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership program. The calculation of the return of these funds may result in the student owing a balance to either the College and/or the federal government.

If the student owes a balance to the College, the amount is due at the time of withdrawal. Arrangements for monthly payments may be set up if the student cannot pay the total amount. The student will not be able to validate his or her enrollment, attend future classes, or obtain transcripts or diplomas, until the balance is either paid in full or satisfactory payment arrangements have been made. If the student owes an overpayment to the Department of Education, the College will report the amount owed to the Department of Education through the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). The student will not be eligible for future federal financial aid funds until payment arrangements have been set up with the Department of Education or until the overpayment has been paid in full.

The withdrawal calculation for those students receiving institutional assistance or those receiving no assistance, who withdraw
from the College before they have completed 60% of the term, will be evaluated in the same manner as a student receiving federal financial aid.

**Readmission**

Any individual who has been previously offered admission into the program but failed to matriculate in the designated class will be required to initiate a new application for admission.

---

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Academic Policies and Procedures**

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled lectures, laboratories, clinical rounds, problem-based learning/case study activities, etc. Tardiness, early departure, and absence from classes are not conducive to optimal learning. It is the responsibility of students to arrive on time, to be prepared for class, and to remain for the entire class period. Any unprofessional conduct may lead to dismissal from the program.

Absences from any scheduled program activity are excused only at the discretion of the course/module director and/or the program director. Any foreseeable or planned program absence should be made known to the course/module director and/or program director at the earliest possible time, in writing (e-mail is acceptable).

Students can be assigned a failing course grade for not completing all scheduled course activities or for unexcused absences.

An extended illness (more than three days) at any time during the program must be “cleared” through the program and will require notification of any clinical preceptor(s) that may be involved as well. Any such absences may require specific make-up work as designated by the program and/or the clinical preceptors.

For any extended illness, a leave of absence from the program may be considered. Reasonable efforts will be made by the administration and faculty to provide a means for remediating deficiencies incurred during periods of excused absence without penalty to the student.

Following any absence (excused or unexcused) from the program, a health care provider’s documentation of the reason for absence and/or fitness to return to full program activity may be required by the program director. Failure to do so or information provided by a health care provider suggesting the absence was not necessary and/or appropriate will be considered evidence of unprofessional
behavior and will be grounds for evaluation of the individual’s fitness to continue in the program.

**Liability Insurance**

The program maintains group liability insurance coverage for enrolled students in the amount of $1,000,000 per claim/$3,000,000 aggregate. An individual student policy is not required.

**Participation of Students as Human Subjects**

We require the participation of students as living subjects, as well as examiners (in an interchangeable fashion), during selected courses of the preclinical phase. We expect students in this program to willingly participate in all aspects of physical exam training in a professional and cooperative manner. At various times, students will be asked to wear clothing that will easily allow physical examination by another student. Females will be asked to wear a modestly appropriate sports bra and shorts, and males will be asked to wear shorts.

Generally, students learn these examination techniques and skills in teams of two or three with the guidance of an experienced instructor. *ALL* students are required to participate in these critical educational activities by submitting to physical examination (including inspection, auscultation, palpation, and percussion) by their classmates.

An important part of any physical examination technique is learning appropriate draping of patients during the examination procedure to maintain patient dignity, preserve patient modesty, and limit embarrassment. This will be taught, performed, and stressed throughout these student laboratory experiences. When playing the role of a patient, students will be provided gowns to wear and appropriate draping will be emphasized. Consequently, students should plan ahead for scheduled physical exam activities, and wear clothing that will be easy to get in and out of to facilitate the exchange of roles during the training experiences.

Unprofessional behavior (including but not limited to inappropriate physical contact or unsuitable verbal comments) will not be tolerated during physical examination experiences.

Such behavior may result in a failing grade for the course.

**Evaluation/Progress Reviews**

Each member of the program’s faculty (including clinical preceptors) participates in systematic evaluation of student progress throughout the program with regards to academic, technical, and
professional performance. When deficiencies are observed, individual student counseling is performed and a plan for remedial training is developed.

Evaluation of student performance and progress is an ongoing process. Student evaluations are completed at the end of each semester and clinical rotation. Successful completion of each training segment is a requirement for continuation within the program.

**Testing Policies**

**Examinations:** Frequent evaluations are performed throughout the 26-month program to evaluate each student’s progress and acquisition of the knowledge and clinical skills needed to become a Physician Assistant. The format of these evaluations may include written examinations, clinical skills assessments, essays, written reports, and oral examinations. Most of the written examinations will be computer-administered.

**Computerized testing:** Whenever technology is involved in a given process, technologic failures are inevitable. Computerized testing is no exception. Fortunately, these occurrences are rare, but when they occur the program makes every effort to be equitable in making decisions about how to adjust for these technical difficulties. Students are required to adhere to program decisions if these events occur.

**Test Policies**

No personal materials, notes, books, headphones, food or drinks, calculators, phones, etc., may be present during testing without permission from the course/module director. You may bring a pen/pencil. Clean scratch paper will be provided and must be returned to the test proctor before you leave the testing area.

- The wearing of baseball caps, visors, or other eye-shading headwear is not permitted during the examination.
- All computer programs must be closed before logging in to the test site. Do not attempt to access any other software programs during testing.
- Tests are **TIMED.**
- No questions may be asked of the testing proctor while the test is being administered.
- Once you complete your test, you must leave the testing area until all students have completed their individual examinations.
- Your test score will be determined by the course director, and will be posted within 24 hours after completion of the test.

**Test Absences**

Students are expected to take examinations at the designated time. In the event of an illness, the student must contact the course/module director and/or the program director **BEFORE** the test to inform her/him
of the anticipated absence. A student who has missed an examination due to excused illness or personal crisis will have **NO MORE** than 48 hours in which to complete that examination or the first day back in classes, whichever occurs first. Students with a prolonged illness or personal crisis will be reviewed individually by the program director and arrangements made accordingly.

Student absences from scheduled examinations and laboratory sessions will be excused only under extraordinary circumstances. Examinations will not be administered prior to the scheduled examination time without the approval of the program director.

**Post-test Reviews**

We believe tests are a learning experience, and therefore tests need to be reviewed so that students understand important concepts and principles. Post-test reviews are conducted following examinations. As in all areas of your professional training, the faculty member makes the final decision on the validity of any test question or answer.

**Remediation**

Remediation is the program’s “process for addressing deficiencies in a student’s knowledge and skills, such that the correction of the deficiencies is measurable and can be documented” (*ARC-PA Standards, 4th edition: DEFINITIONS*).

Remediation is required whenever a faculty member or clinical preceptor identifies and documents any deficiency in a student’s knowledge, skills, abilities, or professionalism on the required Student Evaluations. These may be identified during classroom activities, campus-based clinical skills training, clinical practice rotations, academic advising, remedial instruction, or other formal program instructional and/or student assessment activity.

Remediation will be required whenever a failing grade is earned on any formal examination or clinical skills assessment.

When the need for remediation is identified, the student will meet with the corresponding course/module director **within two (2) school days** of written notification. (The posting of a failing grade on a written examination on Moodle will be considered written notification of the student.)

The course/module director will be responsible for developing a formal documented remediation plan, which may include any or all of the following learning activities or any other actions that will assist the student in overcoming the identified deficiencies. Examples of remedial activities include:
a. Examination review/analysis  
b. Individual or group tutorial instruction  
c. Assigned topic(s) literature search and written abstraction, or summation of the information learned  
d. Assigned case studies with written responses to study questions  
e. Oral re-assessment  
f. Other learning activities (videos, CME programs, etc.)  

The student must also meet with their assigned faculty advisor within two days of the notification of need for remediation. The purpose of the meeting is to assess the student’s overall program status and discuss/identify any external influences that may have contributed to their unsatisfactory progress. If a specific need for assistance is identified, the advisor will assist the student in locating/scheduling the needed assistance.

A deadline for completion of the remediation activities will be established by the course/module director. Failure to successfully complete the required remediation will result in the assignment of a failing grade (F) for the course in which the remediation was required.

The completed documentation of remediation and academic advising activities performed will be filed in the student’s program record. Remediation does not ensure that the student will successfully attain the required level of performance, but it serves to support the student in their attempt at skill mastery.

**Grade Assignment**

All grades are assigned by the program core faculty. Clinical preceptors **DO NOT** assign grades to students during their clinical practice experiences/rotations. Preceptors **EVALUATE** student performance (academically, clinically, and professionally) and provide the program with a written evaluation that is used by the program faculty to determine a final grade. Students are encouraged to discuss the preceptor’s evaluation of their performance during the mid-rotation and end-of-rotation weeks (at a minimum).

Once the evaluation has been submitted to the program faculty for review/grading, **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** is the student to approach a preceptor for further explanation of their evaluation. If a student approaches a past preceptor for any review of the evaluation after the grade has been assigned to it by the program faculty, the student will be placed on probation or dismissed from the program (if already in a probationary status).

Students wishing to appeal a grade and pursue a grade change (including any clinical rotation grade) must follow the Grade Grievances procedure outlined below.
Grade Grievances

When a grade concern arises, it is the student’s responsibility to resolve the issue with the faculty module/course director who was responsible for assigning the grade. If the matter cannot be resolved to the student’s satisfaction with the instructor, the student should contact his/her advisor for assistance. If still unresolved, a written appeal to the program director may be made within 5 days of the grade assignment. The program director will independently evaluate the situation and render a decision. The decision of the program director is final.

Academic Appeals

The Physician Assistant Program recognizes due process and the rights of a student to appeal program decisions/actions affecting student progress within the program. Student’s appeals must be based upon the program’s failure to follow established policies or procedures. Students must present evidence that supports their appeal of a program decision/action according to the appeal process as defined herein:

1. All appeals must be submitted to the program director, in writing, within 5 working days of the occurrence that is the subject of the grievance.

2. Appeals will be reviewed during a meeting of the program core faculty, and a decision will be rendered to the student within 10 working days of receipt of the appeal. Students will be invited to attend the faculty meeting at which the appeal is considered to present their case and respond to any questions the faculty may have. As this meeting is a purely an academic proceeding, no legal counsel will be allowed to attend or participate. The appellant student may, however, request participation by other students or non-program faculty with approval of the program director. Proceedings may not be recorded in any manner (audio, video, digital, etc.)

3. Students who wish to challenge the program’s appeal decision may initiate a subsequent appeal to the Office of the Provost/Academic Vice President. This appeal must be initiated within 10 working days of the program’s appeal decision and must be submitted in writing.

4. All academic appeal decisions rendered by the Provost/Academic Vice President are final.

Personal Attire

It is the responsibility of the student to dress appropriately, remaining clean and well-groomed at all times. Students are required to wear their Rocky Mountain College nametag and a white lab coat at all
times in patient care areas. Patient care areas are defined as any setting in which patients are examined, evaluated, or provided care by any means including inpatient, outpatient, and campus settings.

The following are not appropriate in the clinic setting:

- Sandals, open-toed shoes, or tennis/running shoes
- Shorts and above-the-knee skirts
- Revealing clothing or clothing deemed unprofessional by the faculty

Identification

Each student will receive a campus photo identification card during orientation. Prior to participation in any clinical site, each student will be given a special program identification badge which must be prominently displayed at all times during clinical rotations or clinic shadowing experiences. Each student is responsible for this badge and, if lost, is responsible for the cost of a replacement badge.

Clinical Experience Logging

Students are required to keep accurate records of their participation in clinical rotations. Minimum requirements (in terms of patient encounter hours, numbers of patients seen, patient age groups, clinical settings, etc.) are established for each specific rotation. Failure to meet the minimum requirements, as specified in the rotation syllabus, will result in a failing (F) grade for that rotation.

To facilitate recording, data collection, and program review of each student’s clinical experiences, an online software system called TYPHON is used. Students are encouraged to record each patient encounter as soon after it occurs as possible, but no later than 48 hours. All patient encounters must be recorded within 72 hours of the last day of each clinical rotation. All TYPHON recorded reports and data available at the 72-hour time limit will be used to establish whether the student has met the minimum requirements of the rotation.

General Policies & Procedures

Accommodations/Disabilities

Rocky Mountain College and the Physician Assistant Program are committed to providing courses, programs, services, and facilities that are accessible to students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are responsible for identifying themselves, providing appropriate documentation, and requesting reasonable accommodations. In order to ensure provision of needed accommodations/support services from the onset of participation in the Physician Assistant Program, students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Rocky Mountain College graduate student Section 501/ADA Coordinator immediately after
accepting a position in the program to provide/initiate the necessary documentation to establish an accommodations plan. Refer to the most recent edition of the Rocky Mountain College Catalog for further information.

Name and Contact Information Changes
It is every student’s responsibility to keep the program administrative assistant informed of current contact information throughout their program application and enrollment. Changes must be reported within seven days of occurrence and updated by the end of the first week of each new clinical practice rotation. The contact information that must be kept current includes:

- Name changes
- Mailing address
- Telephone number(s)
- E-mail address

The program will not be held responsible for consequences incurred as a result of our inability to contact students in a timely manner due to contact information changes that were not reported to the program, or for e-mail or other correspondence that goes unread.

Enrolled students are responsible for checking the e-mail account, Moodle correspondence, and phone voice messages at least daily.

Drugs and Alcohol
Physician Assistant students must follow the RMC policies on drug and alcohol abuse. These policies are found in the RMC Catalog. The MPAS Program is concerned about drug and alcohol abuse by any enrolled student and, upon reasonable evidence, may require that a student undergo evaluation and treatment by a licensed substance abuse counselor in order to remain in the program. Other appropriate measures including, but not limited to, random spot testing for drugs and alcohol may be necessitated upon individual circumstances.

Employment During the MPAS Program
Students are strongly discouraged from seeking or maintaining employment while enrolled in the program. If a student does work and encounters academic and/or disciplinary problems, the student may be counseled to cease employment. Under no circumstances will employment be considered as a reason for excused absence from the student’s didactic or clinical education commitments, nor will student employment considerations mitigate evaluation of outcomes.

Matriculated PA students will not be employed by the Physician Assistant Program under any circumstances. Students will not be allowed to perform clerical or administrative work for the program.
During clinical rotations, students will not be used to substitute for regular clinical and/or administrative staff. If a student is asked to substitute for regular staff on a rotation, he/she should inform the clinical coordinator or program director immediately.

**Grievance Procedures**

Students are encouraged to pursue informal resolutions to conflicts in a professional manner. Grievances of a non-academic nature, if formally pursued, must follow the policies and procedures described in the Rocky Mountain College Catalog (available online).

**Nondiscrimination/Harassment**

The following are specific policy statements of Rocky Mountain College:

1. **EOE/AA Policy** -- It is the policy of Rocky Mountain College to afford equal opportunity in employment and admissions to all individuals. No person, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, or handicap shall be excluded or denied benefits or otherwise discriminated against in employment or admission or participation in education programs or activities. Discrimination shall not be tolerated in any service or operation including, but not limited to, recruiting, testing, counseling, awarding financial aid, research, etching, assignment of work-study and assistantships, granting of degrees, or participation in RMC sponsored student recreation or organizational activities.

2. **Sexual Harassment Policy** -- It is the policy of the College to provide a working, learning, and teaching environment free from unlawful harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment of any student, on or off campus, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against a person who reports or complains about harassment, or who participates in the investigation of a harassment complaint, is also prohibited.

Each member of the College community is responsible for adhering to and implementing these policies. Employees and students will be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these policies.

Printed copies may be obtained through the RMC personnel office.

**Program Evaluations**

Students are required to complete all module, course, rotation, program, and instructor/faculty/preceptor evaluations. Student input is a
vital and integral component of the program’s ongoing self-assessment and improvement process, and is an absolute requirement for program accreditation. All mandatory evaluations provided by students are completed in a confidential manner. Many of the evaluations have been computerized (Moodle) providing for easy statistical analysis of the survey results and tracking, while maintaining student anonymity. A student’s history of completing course evaluations is a component of professional evaluation.

Security and Safety

Rocky Mountain College and the MPAS Program strive to assure the security and safety of students in all locations in which instruction occurs throughout the curriculum. Student safety is also considered in the development and approval of clinical sites. Students should assume responsibility for notifying the program and/or college when security or safety concerns arise.

RESOURCES

Facilities

Classroom

The program has a dedicated classroom used exclusively by the Physician Assistant students. Each student is provided with an individual desk and a comfortable executive chair. Audiovisual support is available for presentations. Faculty and students have access to the classroom computer, and the room is equipped with a secure wireless Internet connection for personal laptop computer use. An assortment of printed medical sources (textbooks and PA journals) is maintained for easy reference. Access to the classroom (and other program dedicated resources described below) is provided to students on a 24/7 basis throughout the length of the program.

Physical Assessment Labs

Six individual physical assessment rooms are equipped like typical outpatient clinic examination rooms to provide skills in patient interviewing and physical examination techniques. There is also a room that simulates an Emergency Department in which to practice emergency and inpatient skills. Students practice physical assessment on trained patient models during the two semesters of the didactic program.
Clinical Skill Equipment, Simulators, and Mannequins

The program has and continues to acquire an assortment of clinical skills equipment, patient simulators, and anatomic mannequins that assist students in learning and practicing important physical assessment, diagnostic, life-saving interventional, and therapeutic skills. These resources must NOT be removed from the classroom. Students have access to all of these training materials on a 24/7 basis. (Among the resources available are simulators used to provide practice performing lumbar puncture (LP) procedures, chest tube insertions, cricothyroidotomy, pericardiocentesis, intrasoosseous infusions, nasogastric intubations, and endotracheal intubation.)

Cadaver and Anatomy Laboratory

The Rocky Mountain College Biology Program maintains a cadaver laboratory, which is utilized by the PA students throughout their didactic course work. The laboratory also maintains a collection of anatomic models and preserved human organs that demonstrate a myriad of normal and pathologic conditions.

Conference Rooms

Multiple conference rooms are available on campus for student and program use, including two in the Fortin Education Center.

Computer Laboratories

Several computer laboratories are located on campus. The one closest to the classroom is found in the Educational Resource Center (ERC). This library-based computer lab has 36 desktop computers with printer access. Students are provided a Rocky Mountain College user profile during orientation to utilize any of the campus provided computer terminals and printers.

Libraries

In addition to the Educational Resource Center (ERC), students have access to more resources through the Billings Area Health Science Information Consortium, a group of public and private libraries dedicated to meeting the needs of students and professionals. These librarians are specifically trained in the needs of PA students and, thus, are excellent sources of information on how to access medical literature.

Student Health Services

The campus Student Health Services, located in the southeast corner of the Fortin Education Center, provides examinations, diagnosis, and treatment of minor illnesses, and primary treatment of injuries at no charge to students. Vaccinations are available for a nominal fee. The student is financially responsible for any costs associated with
prescriptions, referred laboratory work, x-ray film, and/or referrals to other physicians.

All student health records, including those submitted as a requirement of the Physician Assistant Program, are confidential and maintained by the college Health Services staff. Faculty and staff do not review or have access to this information, except for immunization and tuberculosis screening results. Records are retained for five years at which time they are destroyed.

Physician Assistant Program faculty do not participate in provision of Health Services to students enrolled in the Program. **Internet Addresses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rocky Mountain College:</th>
<th><a href="http://www.rocky.edu">http://www.rocky.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus Mail:</td>
<td><a href="http://mail.rocky.edu/openwebmail">http://mail.rocky.edu/openwebmail</a> Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moodle:</td>
<td><a href="http://basalt2.rocky.edu">http://basalt2.rocky.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://pa.rocky.edu">pa.rocky.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional Organizations**

American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)  
[http://www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)

Student Academy of the AAPA (SAAAPA)  
[http://www.aapa.org/your_pa_career/pa_students.aspx](http://www.aapa.org/your_pa_career/pa_students.aspx)

Montana Academy of Physician Assistants (MTAPA)  
[http://www.mtapa.com](http://www.mtapa.com)

Wyoming Association of Physician Assistants (WAPA)  
[http://www.wapa.net](http://www.wapa.net)

Accreditation Review Commission on Physician Assistant Education (ARC-PA)  
[http://www.arc-pa.org](http://www.arc-pa.org)

National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)  
[http://www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)  
[http://www.paeaoonline.org](http://www.paeaoonline.org)

**APPENDICES**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Technical Standards Statement</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Participation as Human Subjects</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Health History Questionnaire</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Immunization Information Release Form</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Declaration of Understanding</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Authorization to Use Photographs</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 1: Technical Standards Statement

I understand that individuals applying to the Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program must meet certain basic/essential requirements (referred to as the Technical Standards) that are necessary for obtaining employment and performing as a Physician Assistant. The Technical Standards each student must master include cognitive, physical and behavioral characteristics. Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities will be considered on an individual basis; but, a candidate must be able to perform in an independent manner. All students must possess the intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the program core faculty. The following skills are required of each Physician Assistant student, with or without accommodation:

1. **Observation Skills**
   The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

2. **Communication Skills**
   A candidate should be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

3. **Motor Skills**
   Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to do basic laboratory tests, carry out diagnostic procedures, and read EKGs and X-rays. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment of patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physician assistants are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
4. **Intellectual---Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities**
   
   These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physician assistants, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes**

   A candidate must possess the emotional health and stability required for full utilization of her/his intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admission and education processes.

   I declare that I am able to meet the program’s Technical Standards as described above.

   ______________________________________  ______________________
   Signature             Date

Signed

---

**Appendix 2: Participation as Human Subjects**

**PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS AS HUMAN SUBJECTS**

Functional anatomy and physical diagnosis are best learned through the study of living subjects.

We require the participation of students as living subjects, as well as examiners (in an interchangeable fashion), during selected courses of the preclinical phase. We expect students in this Program to willingly participate in all aspects of physical exam training in a professional and cooperative manner. At various times, students will be asked to wear clothing that will easily allow physical examination by another student. Females will be asked to wear a modestly appropriate sports bra and shorts, and males will be asked to wear shorts.

By signing below, I am hereby signifying that I understand this policy and agree to abide by it.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Appendix 3: Health History Questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Today’s Date</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
<th>Separated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All previous occupations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education: Years in high school</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Years in college</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td></td>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** This is a confidential record of your medical history and will be kept in the RMC Health Suite Office. Information contained here will not be released to any person except when you have authorized us to do so. Please call (406) 657-1068 if you have any questions.

## Family History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Father

- **Age:**
- **Health:**
- **Cause:**
- **Relationship:**

#### Allergies

- **Family History:**
- **Spouse:**

### Mother

- **Age:**
- **Health:**
- **Cause:**
- **Relationship:**

#### Asthma

### (Circle) Brother/Sister

1. **Age:**
2. **Age:**
3. **Age:**

#### Cancer

### (Circle) Son/Daughter

1. **Age:**

#### Substance Abuse

### Spouse

- **Age:**
- **Health:**
- **Cause:**
- **Relationship:**

#### Depression/Emotional Prob.
2. Son/Daughter | Suicide
---|---
3. Son/Daughter | Kidney Trouble
4. Son/Daughter | Sickle Cell Anemia

PERSONAL HISTORY: Please complete blanks in sections below

Date of last physical examination: ____________________________

Provider: ____________________________________________________

HOSPITALIZATIONS: List all for illness or surgery, beginning with the most recent:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Health Care Provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

CURRENT MEDICATIONS: Circle those you use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laxatives</th>
<th>Aspirin</th>
<th>Vitamins</th>
<th>Tranquilizers</th>
<th>Hormones</th>
<th>Antacids</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL MEDICATIONS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Pills</td>
<td>Decongestants</td>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>Sprays</td>
<td>Cortisone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEIGHT:</td>
<td>Now</td>
<td>1 yr. ago</td>
<td>Desired</td>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>packs/day</td>
<td>Cigars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

- Pipe
- Age started smoking
- Age stopped smoking

DATE OF LAST:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pap Smear</th>
<th>Stool test</th>
<th>Sigmoidoscopy</th>
<th>Mammogram</th>
<th>Cholesterol</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>_________</td>
<td>_____________</td>
<td>_________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HAVE YOU HAD X-RAYS OF:

- Chest
- _______

EXERCISE? Type:

- _______
- Frequency, distance or amount:

ANY SPECIAL DIET? Type:

- _______

RECREATIONAL DRUGS:

- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Other

Ever treated for drug addiction: _______
Stomach (Upper GI) _______ Dependency? ____________  
Colon/Barium Enema  

NAME:  
(Please Print)  

PERSONAL HISTORY --- Circle any of the items listed below that apply to you (past or present):  

MEN ONLY:  
Have you ever had swellings of or lumps on testicles? Yes No  
Do you do regular testicular self-exam? Yes No  

WOMEN ONLY:  
Do you do regular breast self-exam? Yes No  

Menstrual History  
Age at onset ____________________  
Date of last period ____________________  
Cycle (from start to start) days ____________________  
Usual duration of flow ________ days ____________________  
Usual duration of flow ________ days Flow is ________  
Medium ________ Light ________  
Pain or cramps ________  
Period irregular ________  
Have had vaginal infections or frequent discharge ________  
Have taken birth control pills or used an IUD ________  

Pregnancies  
Total Number ____________________  
How many children born alive ____________________  
How many stillbirths ____________________  
How many premature ____________________  
How many Cesarean sections ____________________  
How many miscarriages ____________________  
How many abortions ____________________  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Common Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>(10 day) German Measles (3 day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Pox</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whooping Cough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet fever/Scarlatina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleurisy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any eye disease, injury, impaired sight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any ear disease, injury, impaired hearing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any troubles with nose, sinuses, mouth, throat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems with your teeth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatic fever</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any bone or joint disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuritis or neuralgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursitis, sciatica or lumbago</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiff, swollen or painful joints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio or meningitis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bladder or kidney infection or stones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea, syphilis, or herpes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia, Venereal warts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow jaundice or hepatitis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mononucleosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypoglycemia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low blood pressure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, chemical or drug poisoning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received transusions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken or cracked bones injury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concussion or head injury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of consciousness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislocations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe lacerations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent sprains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent infections or boils</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay fever or asthma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eczema</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fainting spells</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convulsions or seizures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent headaches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety/tension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty remembering or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concentrating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult sleeping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent crying spells</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work or family problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoughts about committing suicide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous breakdown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paralysis or numbness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlarged thyroid or goiter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlarged glands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent change in appetite eating habits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest pain or angina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spitting up of blood plasma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night sweats of breath</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palpitations or fluttering heart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart murmur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swelling of hands, feet or ankles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme tiredness or weakness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicose veins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albumin, sugar, blood or pus in urine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty urinating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get up at night to urinate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal thirst</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach trouble or ulcer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colitis or other bowel disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver or gall bladder disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemorrhoids</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectal bleeding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constipation or diarrhea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black bowel movements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in bowel or bladder habits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigestion or difficulty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swallowing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in a wart or mole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoarseness or cough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non---healing sores</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumps in breasts or elsewhere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unusual bleeding or discharge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubal infections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have had abnormal PAP __________
Date of last PAP __________

2018-2021 Student Handbook
EXPOSURES:

Have you been exposed to:

- Lead ___________________________________
- DES ___________________________________
- Asbestos ________________________________
- Others (Chemicals, Noise, etc.)_____________

ALLERGIES:

Are you allergic to:

- Penicillin, sulfa, other antibiotics
- Aspirin, codeine or morphine
- Any other medicines?
- Insect bites or stings
- Any foods?

Health Care Provider's Signature

Date

Name: __________________________________________ Birthdate: ___________________________ Today's date: __________

(Please Print)

LABORATORY EXAMINATION DATA (within the past year):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hemoglobin or Hematocrit</th>
<th>Urine:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WBC</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Protein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Microscopic:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

Temperature __________
### Appendix 4: Immunization Information Release Form

**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Please complete the following from original physician records.

Montana State law requires all applicants, born after January 1, 1957, to provide documentation of two (2) measles & rubella vaccinations. Proof must be from a physician, school, or other official records. If no record is available, immunizations may be performed by your doctor, before registration. If no record is available, immunizations may be performed by your doctor, before registration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunization</th>
<th>Date of Last Vaccine (DD/MM/YY)</th>
<th>Serologic Immunity (DD/MM/YY)</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polio Vaccination #1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio Vaccination #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio Vaccination #3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria---Tetanus---Pertussis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella (Chickenpox vaccine OR titer)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) #1 vaccination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) #2 vaccination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B vaccination #1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B vaccination #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B vaccination #3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must attach copy of official documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculin Skin Test (PPD within the last six months)</td>
<td>Date:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Result:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Provider’s Signature: ______________________________</td>
<td>______________________________</td>
<td>Phone: ____________________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Care Provider’s Phone: ______________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Care Provider’s Date: ______________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print Name: ______________________________</th>
<th>Address: ______________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Please mail the completed form to: Rocky Mountain College, Student Health Services, 1511 Poly Drive, Billings, MT 59102.
Appendix 5: Declaration of Understanding

Declaration of Understanding

I have read and understand the document entitled “Rocky Mountain College (RMC) Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) Student Handbook” for the class of 2017--18 which is a program specific addendum to the RMC Catalog containing requirements, rules and regulations, policies and procedures, and expectations of students enrolled in the RMC Master of Physician Assistant (MPAS) program. I further understand that all policies and procedures described therein will be applied to all phases of my education and evaluation and I agree to uphold and comply with said policies and procedures for the duration of my enrollment in the RMC --- MPAS program.

I understand that the Physician Assistant (PA) program reserves the right to alter the contents of said handbook at anytime without notice and that I will be provided written notification of any such changes.

I understand that my failure to meet any requirements set forth in this MPAS Student Handbook addendum may result in my dismissal from the program at any time. I understand discovery of any confirmed misrepresentations or omissions in my PA program application will constitute grounds for immediate dismissal without appeal.

Responsibilities Regarding Health and Patient Care

I affirm that I understand the importance of recognizing personal medical conditions, which might potentially endanger the health of patients and others.

I understand that procedures and the need for complying with universal precautions when interacting with patients. I understand the importance and necessity of promptly seeking medical advice if, during my contact with patients or others, I suspect others.

I understand that I should restrict my interactions with patients and others, pending medical evaluation, or any potentially transmittable disease conditions that I might incur.

Acknowledgement

I hereby acknowledge receipt and attest that I have read and understand the policies and procedures described in the Master of
Physician Assistant Studies Student Handbook and agree to abide by them.

Student Name (please print):

_________________________________________________

Student Signature: _______________________________________________ Date: _______________________

_________________________________________________

be asked to wear clothing that will easily allow physical examination by another student. Females will be asked to wear a modestly appropriate sports bra and shorts, and males will be asked to wear shorts.

By signing below, I am hereby signifying that I understand this policy and agree to abide by it.

____________________________________         _______________________
Student Signature Date

Appendix 6: Authorization to Use Photographs

Authorization to Use Photograph

I, ______________________________________ (print name) hereby give my permission to Rocky Mountain College (RMC) and the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program to use individually, group and classroom photographs for its publications, for advertisements, promotions, the RMC website, biographical profile, or whatever purposes they deem necessary.

__________________________________________
Signature

Date Signed
Appendix 7: Professional Dress Guidelines

Advanced notice will be given when these guidelines are in effect:

- Heels no taller than 2 inches
- No flip flop style shoes - nothing between the toes
- No gym or athletic shoes for men
- No white socks with dress pants/shoes
- Top button of shirt buttoned with tie
- Shirt must be pressed
- Face must be shaved. Mustache/beard acceptable if kept trimmed
- No jeans or “carhart material” for pants
- No cargo pants
- No skirts above the knee
- Tights or nylons are preferred with skirts vs. bare legs
- Dresses should not be excessively form-fitting
- Leggings tolerated with appropriate top (if you are concerned don’t wear it) - top should cover thighs
- No open neckline shirts for women
- No open back/ see-through back/ or lace back shirts No see through shirts with camisole underneath
- No halter tops/no bra straps showing
- No bare midriff shirts or shirts shorter than hip length
- No bare shoulders
- Interview style jewelry - no large bulky costume jewelry. Wrist jewelry must not interfere with hand hygiene
- No facial piercings including nose, lip, eyebrow, or tongue
- Limit to 2 piercings per ear. No gauges or discs in ear
- Hair color should be in the realm of shades of natural human hair color
- Hair styles should adhere to what is professionally acceptable for gender and age
- Make-up should be modestly applied
- Every effort should be made to conceal tattoos when in a professional atmosphere
- No artificial finger nails of any kind and no nail polish
Appendix 8: Policy for Needle Stick Injuries

Policy for the management of needle stick injuries and blood borne pathogen exposures

First Aid / Blood borne Pathogen Adequate first aid material must be stocked, readily available, and easily accessible in any areas where hazardous material and chemicals are stored, handled, or prepared for disposal. Assessment of these areas to determine type and quantity of first aid materials must be accomplished prior to each semester, along with replenishing any used or outdated materials. Reserve replacement first aid items must either be in stock or immediately accessible in the event an accident occurs. First aid minimum requirements, summarized below:

- One absorbent compress, 32 sq. in. (206 sq. cm.) with no side smaller than 4 in. (10cm)
- 16 adhesive bandages, 1 in. x 3 in. (2.5cm x 7.5cm)
- One roll adhesive tape, 3/8 in. x 5 yd. (457.2cm) minimum
- 10 antiseptic, 0.14 fl. Oz. (0.5g)
- Burn treatment, 1/32 oz. (0.9g)
- Two pair medical exam gloves
- Four sterile pads, 3 in. x 3 in. (7.5cm x 7.5cm)
- One triangular bandage, 40 in. x 40 in. x 56 in. (101cm x 101cm x 142cm)

Additional first aid materials should be included where deemed necessary. An inventory of materials should also be included with each first aid kit, to facilitate replenishment.

While risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens due to normal activity at RMC is limited, exposure can be greatly increased when handling hazardous materials and chemicals. Contact with these substances can cause immediate bodily harm with associated exposure to blood borne pathogens and body fluid. Please consult Rocky Mountain College’s comprehensive Blood borne Pathogen Policy found at http://rocky.edu/academics/faculty_web/PoliciesProcedures.php

Students are required to fill out the Needle stick/ Blood Borne Pathogen incident report. This can be accessed in the office of Student Health. Students are then referred to Riverstone Health for follow-up. Students are
financially responsible for all costs incurred with the evaluation and treatment of needle stick injury and/or exposure to blood borne pathogens.

By signing below I state I have read and understand the above policy.

Name:____________________________________  Date:________________________