

interviewing and presentation.

713 Executive Practicum (3:9) (Prerequisites: APRN 501, 502, 503)
This practicum course will expose learners to a leadership role and assist the learner to develop a healthcare capstone plan. Learners will work individually with a preceptor and faculty advisor and develop their own leadership plan that can be completed and presented.

GRADUATE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Director: James F. Hull Jr., MPAS, DFAAPA, PA-C

MISSION STATEMENT

The Francis Marion University Physician Assistant Program seeks to educate excellent primary care physician assistants to become compassionate, ethical, and clinically skillful graduates who are ready to provide healthcare services with personal and professional integrity.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Francis Marion University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Francis Marion University. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All applications to the program must be submitted to Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org.

To complete the application a student must:

- Complete a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with at least a 3.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale;
- Submit official transcript(s) of all undergraduate and graduate work from accredited institutions to CASPA only;
- Submit scores, to CASPA only, from the Graduate Record Examination taken within the last five years. Only the General Test is required. Combined scores above 290 with a minimum of 140 on each of the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections are recommended. GRE code for CASPA is 0553;
- Provide 3 letters of recommendation from former professors or professional associates/supervisors who can attest to the academic potential of the applicant. Letters from faculty members in academic settings are preferred;
- Applicants should have at least 250 hours of clinical work. The clinical experience can be voluntary work, shadowing experiences provided through employment, or a combination of these;
- Have at least an overall 3.0 GPA, on a 4.0 scale, in the prerequisites.

Prerequisite Courses to be completed before matriculation:

- Four credits of general biology with lab;
- Eight credits of anatomy and physiology with labs (this may be taken as two combined anatomy & physiology courses with labs, or one anatomy course with lab and one physiology course with lab);
- Four credits of microbiology with lab;
- Eight credits of general chemistry with lab;

- Four credits of organic chemistry with lab;
- Three credits of statistics or biostatistics;
- Six credits of psychology (at least 1 course preferably in abnormal or lifespan development at 200 or above level);
- One credit of healthcare terminology;
- The program does not grant advanced placement, accept transfer credit from a student previously enrolled in another PA program, nor does it accept experiential credit. All students accepted into the PA program must satisfy all requirements of the didactic and clinical years of study.

Additional Admission Criteria:

1. Provide a criminal background check before interview;
2. Fill out and return the Supplemental Application;
3. Provide a personal statement of 400-750 words explaining the student's reason for applying to the FMU PA Program and describing his/her clinical experience;
4. Pay the nonrefundable graduate application fee of \$37;
5. Provide proof of immunizations prior to matriculation;
6. Students are strongly discouraged from working while enrolled in the program.

Completed applications are reviewed for merit by the Physician Assistant Admissions Committee. Determination of merit is based upon consideration of all components of the application packet. In the admissions decision process, the committee considers both the merit of each application received and the number of places available in the program at the time of application. Offers for admission are given to those applicants who show the most promise of success in graduate studies. Top applicants will be invited for an interview before any final decision of acceptance is made.

Applications should be submitted by February 1 of each year for a start in the fall semester of that year. Application materials received after the application deadline may still be considered for admission contingent upon the availability of positions within the program. It is the applicant's responsibility to gather all materials to complete his/her application. Only completed applications (with all required materials) will be reviewed for possible interview.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

To receive a Master of Science Degree in Physician Assistant Studies from FMU, a student must fulfill the following requirements:

The program is designed in two stages. In the first stage, students will develop the required knowledge base during four semesters. The second stage involves three semesters of clinical rotations in different medical practices, so students will gain the practical application of knowledge and skills under supervision of qualified practitioners.

Preclinical courses

Semester I 16 hours

- PA 501 Anatomy and Physical Assessment Basics
- PA 508 Physiology and Pharmacology Basics
- PA 510 Fundamentals of Medicine and Role of the Physician Assistant
- PA 513 Interpersonal Communication and History Taking
- PA 506/APRN 506 Health Systems and Risk Management

Semester II 15 hours

- PA 521 Integrative Pathophysiology and Pharmacotherapeutics I
- PA 523 Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Application I
- PA 525 Clinical Interventions and Diagnostics I