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 health care 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 health care 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 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 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