Physician Assistant Studies Degree Requirements
Graduate Council Approval: July 30, 2012

The Nursing Science and Health-care Leadership Graduate Group will offer a program in Physician Assistant Studies (PAS). The PAS program requirements meet the criteria for the Master of Health Services (MHS) degree, which is awarded to students who successfully complete the program requirements.

1) Admission Requirements:
   - A bachelor’s degree in a health related field.
   - A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
   - A minimum 2.7 GPA in all prerequisite science coursework.
   - A minimum of 1,000 hours of experience in a clinical environment with direct exposure to patients. Examples include experience as a medical assistant, emergency medical technician, nursing assistant, respiratory therapy, or other health care professions. Potential applicants should contact the program if they are unclear about their clinical background.
   - Completed Office of Graduate Studies application.
   - Meet the UC Davis requirements for Graduate Admissions.
   - Three letters of recommendation.
   - A statement of purpose and personal history statement describing the applicant’s background and experiences, rationale for seeking the degree and intentions for applying the newly-obtained knowledge and skill.
   - Students applying for the Physician Assistant Studies must fill out a Centralized Application System for Physician Assistants (CASPA) application. The final CASPA application submission deadline is November 1st.
   - The final UC Davis application submission deadline for this track is January 10th.

Physician Assistant Studies: All prerequisites are required at the college level from an accredited school and must be completed by the time of the application review (Fall Quarter of the year prior to admission):

   - Human Anatomy with lab (minimum of 3 units) within 5 years of application deadline desirable*
   - Human Physiology with lab (minimum of 3 units) within 5 years of application deadline desirable*
   - General Chemistry with lab (minimum of 3 units)
   - Microbiology or bacteriology with lab (minimum of 5 units)
   - Algebra, Calculus or Statistics (minimum of 3 units each course)
   - English Composition (minimum of 3 units)
   - Two courses in Social Sciences (e.g. Psychology, Sociology or Cultural Anthropology) (minimum of 3 units each course)

* Practicing clinicians with more than five years direct patient care experience may meet the A&P requirement by taking a combined human anatomy & physiology (AP I & II with labs) refresher as long as it is completed in consecutive sessions over one year at the same college.

Deficiencies: Applications with deficiencies will not be accepted.
2) Degree and Plan: The Physician Assistant Studies offers the Master of Health Services degree (MHS) using Plan I which requires a minimum of 30 units of graduate and upper division coursework and a thesis. Twelve of the 30 units must be graduate coursework in the major field. Not more than 4 units of research (299 or equivalent) may be used to satisfy the 12-unit requirement. (The Physician Assistant program requires more than the minimum; see requirements below.)

3) Course Requirements: Core and Electives

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES Courses and units: The Physician Assistant Program requires a minimum of 144 units of which at least 65 units must be graduate courses in the major field. Not more than 4 units of research (299 or equivalent) may be used to satisfy the 65-unit requirement. Core course work will total at least 72 academic and didactic units plus 420 clinical training hours and 1740 supervised clinical practice hours. As part of the transition of the PA program to degree granting status the course designations will be changed so that they are properly identified with the new major. The core courses are:

Academic Core (20 academic units)
- NRS 201: Health Status and Care Systems (4 quarter units)
- NRS 204: Quantitative Skills for Change (4 quarter units)
- MHI TBD: Graduate level health informatics (4 quarter units)
- FAP372A: Professional Development (2 quarter units in Summer Year 1)
- FAP 372B: Professional Development (2 quarter unit in Summer and Spring Year 2)
- NRS 299: Thesis/Research (4 quarter units over 2 quarters Year 2)

Clinical Didactic (52 didactic units)
- FAP 331A/B: Scientific Basis of Disease (7 quarter units)
- FAP 354A: Foundations of Primary Health Care (8 quarter units)
- FAP 354B: Foundations of Primary Health Care (8 quarter units)
- FAP 354C: Foundations of Primary Health Care (8 quarter units)
- FAP 355A: Advanced Principles of Family Health Care (6 quarter units)
- FAP 358A-C: Pharmacology (7 quarter units over 4 quarters in Year 1)
- FAP 370A, B, C: Clinical Case Studies (6 quarter units over 3 quarters in Year 2)
- FAP 368: Behavioral Science (2 quarter units in Year 1)

Clinical Practice (72 clinical units)
- FAP 300: Health Assessment (6 quarter units over 2 quarters Year 1)
- FAP 340A, B, C: Clinical Preceptorship (24 quarter units Year 1)
- FAP 341 A, B, C, D: Advanced Clinical Preceptorship (9-16 quarter units each quarter Year 2 over 5 quarter units of enrollment, may be repeated)
- FAP 344: Inpatient Surgical (4-16 units)
- FAP 347: Inpatient Medical (4-16 units)

b) Elective Courses – Elective courses may be selected (only with the Graduate Adviser approval) so as to form an individualized Plan of Study that supports the student’s topic area.

c) Research Units - In addition to the Research Course (4 units), a thesis must be completed. Students will enroll in FAP 299 for a total of 4 units over 2 quarters in the 2nd year. The thesis
will be determined by the Faculty Graduate Advisor and Major Professor, in consultation with the student.

d) Summary Course Schedule

Students are required to complete designated core coursework. There are no waivers or substitutions for core courses. Elective coursework is optional only with the approval of the Graduate Adviser. For Plan I a thesis must be completed. A maximum course load is 12 units of graduate level courses each academic quarter and a total of 16 units inclusive of upper division courses.

MHS Degree with Physician Assistant Studies Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Summer, 1st Quarter</th>
<th>Fall, 2nd Quarter</th>
<th>Winter, 3rd Quarter</th>
<th>Spring, 4th Quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Core</td>
<td>FAP372A: Professional Development (2)</td>
<td>NRS 201: Health Status and Health Care Systems (4)</td>
<td>MHI TBD: Informatics (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didactic Core</td>
<td>FAP 331A/B: Scientific Bases of Disease (7) FAP 368: Behavioral Science (2) FAP 358A: Pharmacology (1)</td>
<td>FAP 354A: Fundamentals of Primary Health Care (8) FAP 358A: Pharmacology: (2)</td>
<td>FAP 354B: Fundamentals of Primary Health Care (8) FAP 358B: Pharmacology: (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>FAP 300: Health Assessment (4)</td>
<td>FAP 300: Health Assessment (2)</td>
<td>FAP 340A: Clinical Preceptorship (2)</td>
<td>FAP 340B: Clinical Preceptorship (3) FAP 340C: Clinical Preceptorship (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Summer, 5th Quarter</th>
<th>Fall, 6th Quarter</th>
<th>Winter, 7th Quarter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Core</td>
<td>FAP 372B: Professional Development (1)</td>
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<td>Didactic Core</td>
<td>FAP 355A: Adv Principles of Family Health Care (6)</td>
<td>FAP 370A: Clinical Case Seminars (2)</td>
<td>FAP 370B: Clinical Case Seminars (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advance to Candidacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16</td>
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4) **Special requirements:** None

5) **Committees -**
   a) **NSHL Executive Committee:**
   Duties of the Executive Committee include the following: Act as the Membership Committee; approve new members and review of continuing members for retention in the group. Upon recommendation from the Educational Policy and Curriculum Development Committee, the Executive Committee will submit curriculum changes to Graduate Council for review and approval; determine and implement policy for the good of the Program; and represent the interests of the Program generally to various University and other agencies, in addition to addressing other Group issues as needed.

   b) **NSHL Recruitment, Admissions and Fellowship Committee:**
   The Recruitment, Admissions and Fellowship Committee shall be responsible for: selecting students for admission; administering financial assistance within the program; recruiting graduate students (and enlisting the services of an ad hoc recruitment committee for this task).

   The Physician Assistant Studies program (PAS) has a prescreening committee for their applicants. NSHL Recruitment, Admissions and Fellowship Committee shall have one representative on the PAS pre-screening committee. PAS students will apply through the Centralized Application System for Physician Assistants (CASPA). This specialized system will allow the PAS faculty on the pre-screening committee to select potential PAS students based on the clinical requirements. These students will be interviewed and preselected and then will apply to the NSHL Physician Assistant Studies for potential admission to the master's degree.

   Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions and Fellowship Committee. The Admissions and Fellowship Committee consists of at least 3 graduate group faculty members including a chair. Based on a review of the entire application, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant’s request for admission. That recommendation is forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies.

   c) **NSHL Education Policy and Curriculum Development Committee:**
   Duties of the Education Policy and Curriculum Development Committee include the following: making recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the educational policy and
curriculum development of the group; monitoring and evaluating the quality of courses and curriculum offered under the auspices of the Graduate Group in Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership; supervising teaching assignments and teaching experiences of graduate students; overseeing the qualifying examination process; developing, coordinating, and facilitating the graduate program series of integrated workshops and seminars.

d) PAS Thesis Committees:
The student, in consultation with his/her Faculty Graduate Adviser, will nominate a minimum of three faculty to serve on the Thesis Committee. These nominations are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for formal appointment in accordance with Graduate Council policy (DDB 80, Graduate Council B.1). The Major Professor serves as chair of the committee and is included as one of the three required faculty members. The Thesis Committee is composed of three faculty members who direct the candidate in research and evaluate whether the thesis is of sufficiently high quality for the degree. All members of the committee must sign to pass the thesis. According to Graduate Council policy, thesis committee members are expected to read and comment on the thesis within four weeks from its submission. When a committee member fails to comply with this deadline, the Graduate Adviser may recommend reconstitution of the committee for the Dean’s approval. This time limit policy does not apply to summer periods for faculty holding nine-month appointments.

6) Advising Structure and Mentoring
The Major Professor is the faculty member who supervises the student’s research and thesis; this person may serve as the Chair of the Thesis Committee. The student’s Faculty Graduate Adviser, who is nominated by the Chair of the program and appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies, is a resource for information on academic requirements, policies and procedures and registration information until the course Thesis Committee is formed. Mentoring Guidelines can be found in the graduate student guide, available on the Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership and/or the PA Program web sites. PAS students will have a supplementary PAS advisor from the PAS program faculty for the purposes of advising on clinical didactic coursework and clinical training.

7) Advancement to Candidacy
Master’s degree students are expected to advance to candidacy by the end of Fall in year two. Every student must file an official application for Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Health Services (MHS) after completing one half of their core course requirements and at least one quarter before completing all degree requirements.

The Candidacy for the Degree of Master form can be found online at: http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/. A completed form includes a list of courses the student will take to complete degree requirements. If changes must be made to the student’s course plan after s/he has advanced to candidacy, the Graduate Adviser must recommend these changes to Graduate Studies. Students must have their Graduate Adviser and Thesis Committee Chair sign the candidacy form before it can be submitted to Graduate Studies. If the candidacy is approved, the Office of Graduate Studies will send a copy to: the Thesis Committee Chair, the appropriate graduate staff person, and the student. If the Office of Graduate Studies determines that a student is not eligible for advancement, the department and the student will be told the reasons for the application’s deferral. Some reasons for deferring an application include: grade point average below 3.0, outstanding “I” grades in required courses, or insufficient units.

8) Thesis Requirements (Plan I):
The thesis should be submitted to the Thesis Committee by the end of spring quarter of year 2 (8th quarter). At the discretion of the student and thesis committee, the exam may be formatted as an article to be submitted for publication.

9) Normative Time to Degree
The normative time to degree for the Physician Assistant Studies is nine quarters and starts in the summer.

10) Typical Time Line:

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<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Summer, 9th Quarter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>FAP 341(8): Advanced Clinical Preceptorship FAP 344 (4):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Units Academic</td>
<td>52 Units Didactic 72 Units Clinical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient Surgical FAP 377(4); Inpatient Medical</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11) **Sources of funding**  
Master’s degree students may receive funding to support UC Davis student fees/tuition.

12) **PELP and Filing Fee status**  
Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave) and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Handbook: [http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/1.html](http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/1.html)