

Master of Physician Assistant Physician Assistant (MPA)

The program upholds a distinct admissions process tailored specifically to its goals and standards. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to review the admissions criteria (https://www.evms.edu/education/masters_programs/physician_assistant/admissions_information/) thoroughly to ensure they are well-prepared for a successful future at VHS.

Admission

Admission to the PA profession has become increasingly competitive over the years. The PA program evaluates applicants through four lenses: cognitive/academic, personal/non-cognitive, healthcare experience and community service. Detailed information about admissions criteria for a competitive application can be found on our Admissions page (https://www.evms.edu/education/masters_programs/physician_assistant/admissions_information/).

The PA program is divided into two phases, spanning 28 consecutive months over seven semesters.

Phase I, the 16-month pre-clinical year, spans four consecutive semesters (65.5 credit hours) and incorporates traditional classroom interaction with clinical skills development and simulated patient interaction through the Sentara Center for Simulation and Immersive Learning.

In Phase II (34 credit hours), students complete nine clinical field experiences with supervised, direct patient care in various medical and surgical disciplines, which form the basis of the professional socialization process and adaptation to the role and functions of a physician assistant.

Most of the clinical sites are located throughout Hampton Roads. Opportunities exist for clinical placements outside the region and for students to initiate new rotation sites. However, international clinical placements are not an option.

Graduates are required to pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) and meet state-specific regulations in order to practice clinically.

Course Sequence

PA students are expected to complete the program curriculum in the order specified below. Each semester's coursework is to be considered prerequisite to the next semester. Students may not enter the program with advanced standing, regardless of educational or work experience, and no accelerated curriculum or course waivers are offered.

For the courses that span more than one semester, credit hours are awarded in the last semester that it is taken.

Phase I: Didactic Curriculum

<i>Term 1 - Spring</i>		16
MPAS 601	Intro to the PA Profession	
MPAS 602	Business of Medicine	
MPAS 603	Intro to Med Diagnostics	
MPAS 604	Legal & Ethical Issues in Med	
MPAS 615	Anatomy for Health Professions	
MPAS 619	Physiology and Pathophysiology	
MPAS 620	Foundations of IPE *	
<i>Term 2 - Summer</i>		16
MPAS 623	Medical Diagnostics I	
MPAS 624	Patient Counseling & Education	
MPAS 625	Clin Assessment & Reasoning 1	
MPAS 628	Clinical Pharmacology I	
MPAS 639	Intro to Clinical Medicine I	

<i>Term 3 - Fall</i>		17.5
MPAS 640	Practicum for IPE **	
MPAS 643	Medical Diagnostics II	
MPAS 644	Intro to Epi and EBM	
MPAS 645	Clin Assessment & Reasoning 2	
MPAS 648	Clinical Pharmacology II	
MPAS 649	Intro to Clinical Medicine II	
<i>Term 4 - Spring</i>		16
MPAS 663	Medical Diagnostics III	
MPAS 664	Psychosocial Elmts of Wellness	
MPAS 665	Clin Assessment & Reasoning 3	
MPAS 689	Intro to Clinical Medicine III	
MPAS 688	Clinical Pharmacology III	
Phase II: Clinical Curriculum ***		
<i>Term 5 - Summer</i>		16
MPAS 701	Intro to Clinical Practice	
MPAS 702	Interprofessional Practice ****	
MPAS 794	Senior Seminar ****	
3 SCPE Courses from SCPE Pool		
<i>Term 6 - Fall</i>		9
3 SCPE Courses from SCPE Pool		
<i>Term 7 - Spring</i>		9
3 SCPE Courses from SCPE Pool		
<i>SCPE Pool Courses</i>		
MPAS 710	SCPE in Family Medicine	
MPAS 720	SCPE in Pediatric Medicine	
MPAS 730	SCPE in Gen Internal Medicine	
MPAS 740	SCPE in Emergency Medicine	
MPAS 750	SCPE in General Surgery	
MPAS 760	SCPE in Womens Health	
MPAS 770	SCPE in Psychiatry & BH	
MPAS 780	SCPE in Elective I	
MPAS 785	SCPE in Elective II	
Total Credit Hours		99.5

*	Spans semesters 1 & 2. Grade earned after 2nd semester
**	Spans semesters 3 & 4. Grade earned after 4th semester
***	Each semester is approximately four months in duration. The sequence of clinical rotations is subject to change based on the number, specialty and location of preceptor sites, and will vary from student to student. Clinical electives include Orthopedics, Neonatology, Neurology, Dermatology, Cardiothoracic Medicine, Cardiology, Neonatology, Plastic Surgery, Trauma, Endocrinology, Pediatric Neurology, Gastroenterology, Pediatric Gastroenterology, and Nephrology. Additional electives can be pre-arranged with proper planning on the part of the student.
****	Courses that span the entire clinical year (semesters 5, 6, & 7). Grade earned after 7 th semester.