

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS)

Degree Type

Masters

Profession Overview

A Physician Assistant (PA) is a nationally certified medical provider who is licensed to diagnose and treat illness and disease and prescribe medication for patients. PAs work in physician offices, hospitals, and clinics in collaboration with a licensed physician. The physician-PA relationship is fundamental to the profession and enhances the delivery of health care.

Program Description

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) Program is 24 months in length consisting of a 12-month didactic component followed by a 12-month supervised clinical practice experience (SCPEs). The didactic phase is comprised of classroom instruction in advanced basic sciences, clinical skills, clinical medicine, pharmacology, behavioral medicine, ethics, and research.

Advanced Standing Policy

No advanced standing is allowed in the program, regardless of previous graduate work or experience in healthcare. All incoming students must complete the entire PA curriculum.

Mission

The mission of the College of Saint Mary Physician Assistant Studies Program is to establish an educational environment fostering academic excellence and leadership, which prepares students to become competent Physician Assistants who possess the knowledge, compassion, and clinical skills necessary to provide high quality medical care to all patient populations, including those that are underserved.

Accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **College of St. Mary - NE Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **College of St. Mary - NE**. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA *Standards*.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the *Standards*. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be **March 2031**. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation *Standards* and ARC-PA policy.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-college-of-st-mary/>.

Major Program Courses

Item #	Title	Credits
PAS 500	Clinical Anatomy	5
PAS 502	Physiology	5
PAS 504	Medical Pathology	5
PAS 506	Immunology/Hematology	3
PAS 508	Professional Practice	1
PAS 513	Clinical Medicine I	8
PAS 517	Pharmacotherapy I	3
PAS 519	Communication in Medicine I	2
PAS 521	Neuroanatomy	2
PAS 527	Clinical Lab Science	2
PAS 528	Healthcare Systems	1
PAS 529	Clinical Skills I	2
PAS 533	Clinical Medicine II	8
PAS 537	Pharmacotherapy II	3
PAS 539	Communication in Medicine II	1
PAS 540	Behavioral Medicine	4
PAS 549	Clinical Skills II	1
PAS 550	Medical Ethics	1
PAS 552	Research	1
PAS 660	Family Practice Rotation 1	4
PAS 670	Family Practice Rotation 2	4
PAS 671	Internal Medicine Rotation	4
PAS 672	Pediatric Rotation	4
PAS 673	Women's Health Rotation	4
PAS 674	Emergency Medicine Rotation	4
PAS 675	Behavioral Health Rotation	4
PAS 676	General Surgery Rotation	4
PAS 677	Elective Rotation 1	4
PAS 678	Elective Rotation 2	4
PAS 679	Elective Rotation 3	4
PAS 691	Elective Rotation 4	4
Total Credits		106