



**Physician Assistant Education Department**

**Master of Science in Medicine**

**2 units**

**MSM 6304 FOUNDATIONS IN SURGERY**

**FALL 2025**

<b>Office location: 208</b>	<b>Instructor title and name:</b>
<b>Office hours:</b> please email to set-up	Steven Gottesfeld, PA-C
<b>Final Exam and OSCEs: Monday, 8:00am-5:00pm</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Meeting location:</b> Balboa Campus, Classroom 153, Clinical Skills Lab 223	<b>Email:</b> Steve.Gottesfeld@sharp.com

**PLNU Mission**

**To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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This course covers the principles of surgery and surgical management. Students will learn about pre-operative care, intraoperative care, post-operative care, common surgical conditions, complications and fluid management. Management of patients with surgical conditions across the lifespan from initial presentation through follow-up for surgical cases will be covered, as will referral when necessary, preventive medicine, and patient education.

**COURSE GOALS**

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**Course Goals:** This goal of this course is to provide instruction in basic surgical principles and a foundation in emergent management of acutely ill patients. It will provide the student with the basic skills necessary to function capably in an operative suite and in an emergency setting.

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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The content in this course will contribute to the student's proficiency in this/these area(s):

1. Gather a history and perform a physical examination. (MK, IC, PC, PR)
2. Prioritize a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter. (MK, PC, PB, PR, SB)
3. Recommend and interpret common diagnostic and screening tests. (MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB)
4. Enter and discuss orders and prescriptions. (MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB)
5. Document a clinical encounter in the patient record. (MK, IC, PC, PR)
6. Provide an oral presentation of a clinical encounter. (MK, IC, PC, PB, PR)
7. Form clinical questions and retrieve evidence to advance patient care. (MK, PC, PR, PB, SB)
8. Give or receive a patient handover to transition care responsibility. (MK, PC, PR, IC, PB)
9. Collaborate as a member of an inter-professional team. (MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB)
10. Recognize a patient requiring urgent or emergent care and initiate evaluation and management. (MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB)
11. Obtain informed consent for tests and/or procedures. (MK, IC, PC, PR, PB)
12. Perform general procedures of a physician assistant. (MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB)

*Initials indicate PA core competency required to meet the PLO.*

PA Core Competencies:

MK = Medical Knowledge	IC = Interpersonal Skills & Communication	PC = Patient Care
PR = Professionalism	PB = Practice-based Learning	SB = Systems-based Practice

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Successful completion of this course requires demonstration of the skills and knowledge outlined here at, minimally, the ADVANCED BEGINNER level.

1. Document a clinical encounter for a surgical patient including history, physical examination, lab and/or imaging results and a differential diagnoses in the patient record. ((PC4, PC6, IC1, IC2, IC5, PR4, SB1)
2. Provide an oral presentation of a clinical encounter for a surgical complaint including discussion of the pathology, laboratory and/or imaging results and justification of the proposed management plan. (PC2; PC6; IC1; IC2; PB1; PR1; PR3)
3. Form clinical questions and retrieve evidence to advance patient care. (PC5, PC7, MK3, MK4, PB1, PB3, PB6, PB7, PB8, PB9)
4. Recognize a patient requiring urgent or emergent surgical management or the patient in whom the manifestation of systemic disease require surgical management and initiate evaluation and management. (PC1, PC2, PC3, PC4, PC5, PC6, IC6, PR1, PR5)

## INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

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Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the general physical layout of the operating theater. Knowledge, B2.08c
2. Characterize the personnel on a standard operating team and describe their roles. Comprehension, B2.10a

3. Clarify your role as a PA-S on a surgical rotation and determine what steps you should take to prepare yourself to be a team member. Comprehension, B2.10a
4. Discuss the role of a PA as part of an interprofessional surgical team. Comprehension, B2.10a, B2.10b, B2.10c
5. Identify various operating room equipment and instruments and explain their basic function. Knowledge, B2.08c
6. Apply concepts of sterile technique, sterile field, scrubbing, gowning and gloving. Application, B2.08c
7. Differentiate various types of IV fluids and recommend which type should be used in specific surgical circumstances. Application, B2.08c
8. Recognize the surgical indications for blood replacement vs. IV fluids and select the appropriate blood component and quantity. Comprehension, B2.07e, B2.08c
9. Given a patient with surgical disease and electrolyte imbalance, analyze the etiology of the electrolyte disturbance and develop a management plan. Analysis, B2.07c
10. Demonstrate preoperative and postoperative charting. Application, B2.08c
11. Differentiate and discuss preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative care. Comprehension, B2.08c
12. Given a patient across all age groups, with signs or symptoms of a surgical disease or disorder: interview and elicit a comprehensive, relevant medical history, B2.07a perform a complete and focused physical examination and identify the physical findings, B2.07b generate a complete list of differential diagnoses prioritizing them appropriately, B2.07c recommend an appropriate work-up, order and interpret diagnostic studies, B2.07d propose patient management including acute and chronic care plans, B2.07e provide patient education and referral. B2.07f, Evaluation, B2.08c
13. Demonstrate skills in surgical patient positioning. Application, B2.08c
14. Specify the important elements of both pre-operative assessment and post-operative care with appropriate orders and demonstrate your ability to properly document them. Application, B2.08c
15. Recognize major post-operative complications and recommend methods to alleviate them. Application, B2.08c
16. Demonstrate skills in routine technical procedures necessary for managing care of adult surgical patients. Application, B2.07e
17. Recognize the common surgical disorders and patient presentations. Analysis, B2.07c
18. Determine surgical management based on the diagnosis of a surgical patient. Application, B2.07e
19. Identify common surgical procedures related to each organ system. Knowledge, B2.02a, B2.02b
20. Interpret laboratory, diagnostic and radiological tests associated with common surgical diseases. Analysis, B2.07d
21. Justify antibiotic selection for surgical infections. Evaluation, B2.02d
22. Identify the prenatal, infant, child, adolescent, adult and the elderly patient requiring emergent surgical intervention. Evaluation, B2.08a
23. Differentiate the evaluation and treatment approach in acute, chronic and emergent surgical diseases and disorders. Analysis, B2.07e, B2.08b

24. Educate the patient and family on appropriate post-operative care including diet and activity as well as signs/symptoms requiring patient to return. Application, B2.04, B2.08c
25. Working with the appropriate health care professional recommend a suitable postsurgical rehabilitation plan as needed. Application, B2.08b
26. Discuss common diseases and disorders presenting in the elderly that require surgical management, their varying presentations and propose a management plan including consideration of co-morbidities and polypharmacy. Application, B2.02d, B2.07e, B2.08a
27. Discuss common diseases and disorders presenting in pediatric patients that require surgical management, their varying presentations and propose a management plan. Application, B2.02d, B2.07e, B2.08a
28. Working with the appropriate health care professional, recommend an appropriate palliative care plan for a patient facing end-of-life decisions. Application, B2.08e
29. Working with the appropriate health care professional, develop an appropriate patient education plan as needed. Application, B2.07f
30. Working with the appropriate health care professional, recommend an appropriate patient referral plan as needed. Application, B2.07f
31. Working with the appropriate health care professional recommend a suitable prevention program as needed. Application, B2.08b
32. Demonstrate skills in problem solving and medical decision-making through community learning group case discussions and activities. Application, B2.05
33. Demonstrate supportive counseling skills when delivering bad news to a patient. Application, B2.12c

Upon completion of this course, the student will demonstrate competency in:

1. Eliciting a history. Application, B2.07a
2. Performing a complete and focused surgical physical examination. Application, B2.07b

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Create and maintain a sterile field. Application, B2.09
2. Demonstrate and perform surgical scrubbing, gowning and gloving. Application, B2.09
3. Perform preoperative skin preparation. Application, B2.09
4. Perform surgical wound closure, knot tying, proper surgical dressing application, and postoperative wound care. Application, B2.09

## UNIT INSTRUCTION

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## REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

**Note: Texts prefaced with double asterisks are provided in Access Medicine.**

\*\*Current Diagnosis & Treatment: Surgery, 15th Edition  
 Author: Gerald M. Doherty  
 Publisher: McGraw – Hill

ISBN 978-12601222213

ISSN: 0894-227

Date	Topic/Instructor	Reading/Assignment
Monday November 25th 8am-5pm  Steven Gottesfeld, PA-C	Pre Operative Evaluation Peri Operative Care Post Operative Care Post Operative Complications	Current Surgery Chapters 3,4,5
Tuesday November 26th 1-5pm  Emily Dodson, PA-C	Acute Abdomen Appendicitis Spleen	Current Surgery Chapters 23,39,30
Monday December 2nd  8-10am Dr. Jain, MD  10a-5p Steven Gottesfeld, PA-C	Operating Room Procedures Hip and Knee disorders  IV fluids, hypovolemic shock, Bleeding, Electrolytes  Thoracic Surgery Vascular Surgery	Current Surgery Chapters 19 (Sections: Anatomy of the chest wall, diagnostic studies, lung cancer, pleural effusions), Chapter 22 (Esophageal cancer), Chapter 37 (Sections: venous anatomy, workup and treatment of superficial and deep venous system), Chapter 20 (Sections: aortic aneurysm, aortic dissections) Chapter 36 (Sections treatment of carotid disease and LE PAD), 42
Tuesday December 3rd  9-11am Dr. Klaristenfeld, MD  1-2:30p	Anorectal Diseases Wound classification  ENT	Current Surgery Chapter 6, 27, 28

<p>Teddi Gaidadjiev, PA-C</p> <p>2:30-5p Emily Dodson, PA-C</p>	<p>Pancreas/Biliary</p>	
<p>Wednesday December 4th</p> <p>1-5p Dr. Sherman, MD</p>	<p>Upper and Lower GI, Hernias, Surgical Endocrine</p>	<p>Current Surgery Chapter 31,32</p>
<p>Thursday December 5th</p> <p>8am-12pm Steven Gottesfeld, PA-C</p> <p>1-4p Professor Carlson, PA-C</p>	<p>Review</p> <p>Ethicon Suture Lab</p> <p>Sterile Procedures Lab</p>	
<p>Friday December 6th 8-4p</p>	<p>Final Exams and PC OSCE</p>	

### **LEARNING MODALITIES**

Modalities include lectures, on-line pre-lecture activities, reading assignments, community learning activities, and clinical skills labs. The class schedule and assignments can be found in Canvas.

### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. However, we recognize that as adults you have other life responsibilities and challenges that may interfere. Ultimately you are responsible for your education and your ability to demonstrate mastery of the course and program objectives.

1. You MUST attend:
  - PE and clinical skills labs appropriately dressed and with all necessary equipment
  - examinations on the date and time for which they are schedule
  - Community learning group
2. We expect
  - active participation in all class activities.
  - completion of all class preparatory assignments prior to commencement of class.
  - respect for the class, peers and faculty.
  - on-time arrival for all classes, laboratories, learning groups or any scheduled activities. Routine tardiness demonstrates a lack of professionalism and will not be tolerated

## INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

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All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Failure to meet the deadline will result in a loss of 10% each day the assignment is not turned in to the requesting faculty member. Incompletes will only be assigned under extremely unusual circumstances. Students failing an examination or practicum must complete the designated remediation (See REMEDIATION below) within the assigned time.

## FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

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Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examinations (written and practical) **on their respective scheduled days**. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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Student course grades are calculated using all assessment tools utilized during the course. These include quizzes, written examinations, written assignments, practicums, and evaluation of skills.

Learning community groups will be utilized to provide case-based instruction. A clinical case will be presented to each group by the group mentor. Students are expected to utilize knowledge acquired from prior readings and lectures, as well as self/group directed learning to work up the case, develop a working diagnosis, a differential diagnosis and a therapeutic regimen which will include a follow-up plan and patient education. Effective interpersonal communication, clinical reasoning and problem solving abilities, professional behavior and teamwork are paramount to success and development as clinicians. Cases will be issued no more frequently than every other week. There will be 2 cases in this module. Students will receive a collective grade for this exercise.

Learning community group performance expectations include; demonstrating effective interpersonal communication, clinical reasoning and problem solving abilities, professional behavior and teamwork skills. Application, B2.05, B4.03b, B4.03c, B4.03e

ACTIVITY	% OF GRADE
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Learning Community	5%
Case Study H&P	5 %
Written Examination	50%
Patient-centered OSCE	40%

Grading will be in keeping with Point Loma Nazarene University policy for graduate programs and grading will be as follows:

A=93-100	C=73-76
A-=92-90	C-=70-72
B+=87-89	D+=67-69
B=83-86	D=63-66
B-=80-82	D-=60-62
C+=77-79	F=0-59

**REMEDIATION**

Remediation is the process by which both the student and the program are assured that performance indicating a deficiency in knowledge or skills is subsequently demonstrated to be satisfactory. This may include a re-test over missed material, a skills demonstration or a review of missed material with completion of corrected answers. It is important to note that this is content remediation, not grade remediation and no grade will be changed based on these activities.

Within 48 hours of the posting of a grade of <70%, the student MUST contact the course director to discuss the student’s performance and create a remediation plan. Unless otherwise directed by the course director, remediation activities must be completed within 5 days.

**PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY**

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Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

**PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION**

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In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorize personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or

publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

## **PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

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Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Graduate Academic and General Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY**

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You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, Grammarly, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. Please use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI.

[MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](#)

[APA Style: How To Cite ChatGPT](#)

[Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](#)

## **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

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PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

**This syllabus is subject to change. Students are encouraged to check course messages and emails in order to remain current.**

**ARC-PA standards (5th edition) addressed in this course: B2.02(a)(b)(d), B2.04, B2.05, B2.07(a-f), B2.08(a)(b)(c)(i), B2.09, B2.10(a)(b)(c), B2.12(c), B4.03b, B4.03c, B4.03e**