



Department of Physician Assistant Education  
 Master of Science in Medicine  
 0 units

**MSM 6800 Capstone**

<b>Course Director:</b>	<b>Term: Fall</b>
<b>Phone 619-849-7951</b>	<b>Meeting day &amp; time: TBD</b>
<b>Email dsayrest@pointloma.edu</b>	<b>Meeting location: TBD</b>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Successful completion of this multi-component examination which serves as the capstone for the physician assistant curriculum is required. It is composed of four parts: a comprehensive written examination, a series of clinical skills examinations, one or more observed patient encounters and an assessment of professionalism. Students failing any component of the examination will have one opportunity to remediate that section.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

Students will demonstrate the acquisition and retention of the skills and knowledge appropriate for the entry into practice as a physician assistant. Based on the program learning outcomes listed below, students will undergo a comprehensive assessment within a few months of their anticipated graduation. Specific assessment modalities are outlined within this document.

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

*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, PB, SB
2. Prioritize a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter. MK, IC, PC, PB
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, PR
7. Form clinical questions and retrieve evidence to advance patient care. MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB
8. Give or receive a patient handover to transition care responsibilities. MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB
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
11. Obtain informed consent for tests and/or procedures. MK, IC, PC, PR, PB

12. Perform the general procedures of a physician assistant. <sup>MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB</sup>
13. Identify system failures and contribute to a culture of safety and improvement. <sup>MK, IC, PR, PB, SB</sup>

*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

## **EVALUATION PROCESS**

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The summative evaluation is composed of three parts: a comprehensive knowledge examination administered in October toward the end of the clinical year, a series of skills stations (mini OSCEs) and one or more patient-centered OSCEs. Part One is a written, multiple-choice examination that reflects knowledge gained over the course of the PA Program in support of the Program Learning Outcomes and the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) blueprint. A passing score of 70% or higher is required.

Part Two is a series of timed mini stations covering pattern recognition or skills previously tested in the didactic or clinical phase.

Part Three is standardized patient (SP) encounters covering patients of all ages with acute, chronic, emergent or preventative issues to be addressed. The patient centered OSCE component is graded through a checklist completed by trained SPs and PA faculty. The final determination of passing is determined by the PA Program faculty.

A student must also achieve at least “Meets Expectations” rating for each parameter (see Section IV.C of the PLNU PA Student Handbook) of the Professionalism Evaluation in order to meet graduation requirements.

## **REMEDICATION**

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If a student fails the comprehensive, written knowledge-based examination the student will be placed on Academic Probation and must repeat the exam within seven (7) calendar days (including weekends and holidays) of exam grade notification. If the student successfully passes the retake, a grade of 70% will be documented and the student passes this component. If the student fails the second examination, the student will be referred to the Student Progress and Promotions Committee for review and is subject to dismissal.

If a student fails either of the summative OSCE sections, the student will have one (1) opportunity to retake the examination as scheduled by the faculty. As above, if the student is successful in the retake a final grade of 70% will be recorded. Failure of the OSCE retake will result in Academic Probation and referral to the Student Progress Committee with a recommendation for dismissal from the program. The final determination of passing is determined by the PA Program faculty.

## **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 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, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

## **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

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While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. ([DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students' equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

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