



Department of Physician Assistant Education

Master of Science in Medicine

3 Units

MSM 6008 Medicine and Society III - Summer 2025

Meeting days: Tuesday	Instructor title and name: Laurel Miller
Meeting times: 11-12pm	Phone: 619.849.7950
Meeting location: room 154	E-mail: lmiller1@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: (day/time)	Office location and hours:
Additional info:	Additional info:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Medicine and Society is a sequence of four integrated and consecutive courses designed to examine the intersection of the individual and the larger community relating to healthcare. This course covers patient communication, coding, billing and reimbursement, and healthcare delivery systems and policies. Students will also participate in community learning groups and a field experience service month as part of this course.

COURSE GOALS

The goal of this course is to provide a foundational framework essential for the student to understand interactions with patients regarding medical compliance and the economics of the healthcare system. Students will also participate in a service month during this semester. Students will also practice team-building skills, utilize peer interactions, and learn the roles and responsibilities needed for a PA to develop as a medical professional.

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)
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, PR, PBL, SB)
8. Give or receive a patient handover to transition care responsibilities. (MK, PC, PR, IC, PB)

9. Collaborate as a member of an interprofessional team. (IC,PC,PR,SB)

13. Identify health systems success/failures and how these contribute to the culture of safety and improvement. (MK,IC,PC,SB)

Initials indicate PA core competency required to meet the PLO/CLO.

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

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

1. Demonstrate effective communication skills essential for caring and respectful counseling of patients and families in healthcare practice. (IC1, IC2, IC3, PC2, PC6, PR3, PR4)
2. Describe policies and procedures as they relate to billing, coding, and healthcare reimbursement. (MK9, IC6, SB2, SB3)
3. Recognize the impact of health policy on the delivery of care in various health care delivery systems. (PC4, SB1, SB5, SB6, SB7)
4. Through field experience, promote and foster health advocacy for individuals and communities served. (IC1, IC2, IC3, PC1, PC2, PC3, PC5, PR3, PR4, PR7, PR8, SB1, SB3, SB4, SB5, SB9)

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the **Coding, Billing and Reimbursement** section of the course the student will be able to: B2.14

1. Clarify the concepts of coding, billing and reimbursement. Knowledge B2.14a
2. Discuss the elements of reimbursement as it relates to the documentation of care. Comprehension B2.14b
3. Demonstrate how to effectively chart in an EMR and other documentation modalities. Application B2.14b

Upon completion of the **Healthcare Delivery Systems and Policies** section of the course the student will be able to: B2.14

1. Discuss healthcare delivery systems and health policies that impact health. Comprehension B2.14c, d
2. Describe healthcare expenditures and insurance coverage in the United States. Comprehension B2.14

Upon completion of the **Patient communication** section of the course the student will be able to: B2.12

1. Explore patient-centered and culturally sensitive basic counseling and patient education. Application B2.12a-c
2. Examine how to help patients adhere to treatment plans. Application B2.12a
3. Examine how to help patients modify their behaviors to more healthful patterns. Application B2.12b
4. Examine how to help patients develop coping mechanisms. Application B2.12c

5. Demonstrate techniques utilized in counseling on sensitive issues (bad news, abuse, substance abuse) including SPIKES and ABCDE techniques. Application B2.12c

Upon completion of the **Interprofessional** section of the course the student will be able to: B2.10

1. Explain the roles and responsibilities of various healthcare professionals. Comprehension B2.10a
2. Demonstrate interpersonal and group dynamics communication skills utilizing a problem-based learning strategy incorporating other professions. Application B2.10a, B2.04
3. Demonstrate the unique perspectives and contributions of each healthcare profession. Application B2.10b
4. Use group communication tools, IPASS, and team skills. Application B2.10c, B2.04

Upon completion of the **Field Experience to Promote Caring** section of the course the student will be able to:

1. Discuss what caring attributes they developed as part of field experience. Comprehension
2. Evaluate their personal perspective on caring related to the field experience. Analysis
3. Discuss health issues related to the population served. Comprehension
4. Demonstrate skill in establishing and maintaining relationships with staff as a member of an inter-professional team, including persons of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Application
5. Demonstrate skill in establishing, counseling, and maintaining relationships with patients, including persons of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Application
6. Assess the health service needs of a community or specific population. Evaluation
7. Discuss what they learned about interpersonal communication skills. Comprehension

Throughout the course in **Learning communities**, students will be able to:

1. Use clinical reasoning and problem-solving skills in real-world scenarios. Application B4.03b
2. Demonstrate effective communication on a personal and professional level. Application B4.03c
3. Demonstrate professional behavior in various settings and develop teamwork skills. Application B4.03e
4. Examine essential and accurate information about patients in mock cases. Application B2.07a, PA Comp
5. Explore ethical issues in a thoughtful, unbiased manner. Application B2.18, PA Comp
6. Participate in peer and self-evaluations related to professionalism. B4.03e
7. Discuss lifestyle medicine and its unique role in healthcare practice. Knowledge B2.12b, B2.08b
8. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients. Application B2.04
9. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with family. Application B2.04
10. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with healthcare providers. Application B2.04

Note: Superscripts identify the Bloom's Taxonomy level for each objective.

UNIT INSTRUCTION BY WEEK

UNIT	WEEKS	LECTURES
------	-------	----------

Unit I	1-3	Coding, Billing and Reimbursement
Unit II	4-8	Healthcare delivery systems and Policies
Unit III	9-12	Patient communication
Field Experience/Service Month	13-15	

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Note: All texts annotated with double asterisks are provided in Access Medicine.

****Medical Management of Vulnerable and Underserved Patients: Principles, Practice, and Populations:**
Edition 2

Talmadge E. King, Margaret B. Wheeler. McGraw-Hill Education

ISBN-13: 978-0071834445

ISBN-10: 9780071834445

Physician Assistant: A Guide to Clinical Practice: Edition 6

Ruth Ballweg, Darwin Brown, Daniel Vetrosky, Tamara S. Ritsema.

Elsevier Health Sciences

ISBN: 9780323401128

LEARNING MODALITIES

Modalities include lectures, reading assignments, community learning activities, anatomy labs, clinical skills labs and field experience. 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
 - Learning community 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

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. No partial credit will be given for late assignments. 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

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

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. 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, B4.03b, B4.03c, B4.03e

Service Month

The purpose of field experience is to provide students with a learning environment where they can gain experience working with underserved populations and become familiar with life issues with whom they are unfamiliar. Students will complete a minimum of 30 hours of field experience over 3 weeks. Upon conclusion of the Field Experience/Service Month, students will submit a reflective paper summarizing their learning experience and how they contributed through their service.

ACTIVITY	% OF GRADE
Learning Community Group	10%
Quizzes and Assignments	45%
IPE course and event	5%
Field Experience/Service Month Assignments	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

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

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

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

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.

PLNU SPIRITUAL CARE

Balboa Campus: PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide

resources for our graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. At the Balboa campus, we have an onsite chaplain, Rev. Kevin Portillo, who is available during class break times across the week. If you have questions, a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with Rev. Portillo, you may contact him directly at KevinPortillo@pointloma.edu.

ARC-PA standards (5th edition) addressed in this course: B2.12, B2.14

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