Presenter:
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Director of Clinical Education
Clinical Associate Professor
paprogram@chapman.edu
What is a Certified Physician Assistant (PA-C)?

• A key member of a physician-led healthcare team
• Board-Certified by the NCCPA (National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants)
• Licensed to practice medicine in all 50 states
• Educated in Programs accredited by the ARC-PA (Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant)
• Able to practice in all medical specialties and settings
PA History

- 1967: First PA Program originated at Duke University
- “PA” concept was the brain-child of Dr. Eugene Stead, MD
- Born from a need for accessible healthcare providers in the U.S.
- Post-Vietnam War Combat medics returned home, well-trained with the medical skills, competencies, and knowledge to provide healthcare to civilian populations
- All PAs are trained in the “Medical Model” (similar curriculum to physician training)
- Emphasized primary care and patient education/advocacy
What can PA-Cs Do?

• Make autonomous decisions regarding patient care
• Conduct physical exams
• Diagnose and treat illnesses
• Order and interpret diagnostic tests/studies
• Write and transmit prescription orders
• Educate and advocate on patients’ behalf
• Work in the specialty of their supervising physician(s)
• Are part of an interprofessional team
• PAs are required to pass a national certifying examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

• PAs must earn and log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years.

• PAs must take a recertification examination every six years (every 10 years starting in 2014); the current six-year time period between recertification exams has been extended to 10 years to better reflect physician assistants’ validated competence in practice.

• To be able to practice, PAs must have a state license and work with a supervising physician.
VITAL STATISTICS

Projected Growth of PAs in Clinical Practice

With a projected growth of 38 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts physician assistant will be the second-fastest-growing healthcare profession in the next decade (projected nationwide demand for an extra 33,300 PAs up to 2022; 86,700 PAs nationwide as of 2012).

50
Number of states authorizing PA prescribing privileges

1967
Year the first three PAs graduated from Duke University

$90,930
Median annual income from primary employer for full-time clinically practicing PAs* in 2012.

*Excludes self-employed and part-time PAs

Physician Assistant Program Mission:

Our mission is to empower local and global communities through training self-aware, interprofessional, well-rounded physician assistants committed to practicing in medically diverse areas of need. The Physician Assistant Studies Program will develop non-physician medical practitioners who will lead, influence, and change the evolving landscape of healthcare and healthcare professionals.

Physician Assistant Program Goals:

The primary goal of the program is to educate future generations of medical practitioners using a combined didactic and clinical curriculum that will prepare students to promote health and disease prevention, to diagnose and treat illness, and to work as a collaborative member of a health care delivery team.
Physician Assistant Studies Program

• Chapman University has applied for accreditation provisional from the Accreditation Review Commission on the Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

• Accreditation provisional is an accreditation status for a new PA program that has not yet enrolled students, but at the time of its comprehensive accreditation review, has demonstrated its preparedness to initiate a program in accordance with the accreditation standards.

• Chapman University anticipates matriculating its first class in January 2015, pending accreditation provisional from the ARC-PA.
Physician Assistant Studies Program

**PREREQUISITES FOR ADMISSION:**

**Basic Sciences:**

- Human Anatomy with lab 4 semester units
- Human Physiology with lab; OR 4 semester units
- Human Anatomy and Physiology with lab 8 semester units
- General Chemistry with Lab I 4 semester units
- General Chemistry with Lab II 4 semester units
- General Biology with Lab 4 semester units
- Microbiology with Lab 4 semester units

*Human anatomy and physiology, chemistry, biology, and microbiology MAY NOT be taken via an online or correspondence format.*
Physician Assistant Studies Program

PREREQUISITES FOR ADMISSION (CONT’D)

**General Education:**

- English Composition: 3 semester units
- General Psychology: 3 semester units
- Intro to Sociology: 3 semester units
- Intro to Statistics: 3 semester units
- Pre-Calculus or Calculus: 3 semester units

**Strongly Recommended Courses:**

- Medical Ethics
- Medical Terminology
- Medical Spanish or other Foreign Language
Physician Assistant Studies Program

PREREQUISITES FOR ADMISSION (CONT’D)

“Expiration Dates” on prerequisite courses:

6-Year Expiration: Human Anatomy with Lab; Human Physiology with Lab; General Biology with Lab; Microbiology with Lab; General Psychology; Intro to Sociology

10-year Expiration: General Chemistry with Lab I; General Chemistry with Lab II; English Composition; Intro to Statistics; Pre-Calculus or Calculus.
Physician Assistant Studies Program

• The Masters of Medical Science Physician Assistant Studies curriculum is a 24-month, full-time, year-round curriculum that is designed so that the material presented serves as a foundation for subsequent learning (*Note: 1-week break offered after Spring Trimesters; 4-week break offered after Summer Trimesters; 2-week break offered after Fall Trimesters*).

• The curriculum will be administered in various modalities that will promote and enhance learning through classroom, online, mixed, problem and team-based learning, and off-campus experiences utilizing the latest technology, laboratory learning, and simulation applications.

• The courses are offered in sequence as well as concurrently with other courses to achieve this goal.

• The Program will also incorporate interprofessional experiences, and PA students will participate in shared courses with the School of Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology, and Athletic Training programs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Trimester</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAS 500</td>
<td>Medical Science I</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAS 501</td>
<td>History and Physical Diagnosis I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS 502</td>
<td>Pharmacology I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS 514</td>
<td>Pathophysiology &amp; Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAS 504/504L</td>
<td>Human Anatomy with Lab</td>
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<td>PAS 506</td>
<td>PA Professional Practice I</td>
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<td>PAS 507</td>
<td>Interprofessional Experience I</td>
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### Second Trimester

<table>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Medicine I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Science II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Physical Diagnosis II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology II</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genetics of Health and Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA Professional Practice II</td>
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<td>Interprofessional Experience II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Trimester</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PAS 513</td>
<td>Lab Medicine II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAS 520</td>
<td>Medical Science III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS 521</td>
<td>History and Physical Diagnosis III</td>
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<td>PAS 522</td>
<td>Pharmacology III</td>
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<td>PAS 523</td>
<td>Clinical Skills</td>
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<td>PAS 600</td>
<td>Intro to Clinical Practice</td>
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<td>PAS 526</td>
<td>PA Professional Practice III</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAS 527</td>
<td>Interprofessional Experience III</td>
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**Total:** 24
### Physician Assistant Studies Program
#### CLINICAL CURRICULUM YEAR 2

During each trimester of the clinical year, students will participate in three 5-week long rotations of supervised clinical practice, and in one Capstone project course (series of three Capstone courses):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fourth Trimester</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAS 696</td>
<td>Capstone Project I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAS 601-609</td>
<td>Clinical Clerkships (3 rotations)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>Fifth Trimester</th>
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<td>PAS 697</td>
<td>Capstone Project II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS 601-609</td>
<td>Clinical Clerkships (3 rotations)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sixth Trimester</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAS 698</td>
<td>Capstone Project III</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS 601-609</td>
<td>Clinical Clerkships (3 rotations)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5-Week Clinical Clerkships (Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences, or SCPEs) will occur in the following medical specialties:

PAS 601: FAMILY MEDICINE
PAS 602: OUTPATIENT INTERNAL MEDICINE
PAS 603: INPATIENT INTERNAL MEDICINE (HOSPITALIST)
PAS 604: GENERAL SURGERY
PAS 605: WOMEN’S HEALTH
PAS 606: PEDIATRICS
PAS 607: MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
PAS 608: EMERGENCY MEDICINE
PAS 609: ELECTIVE-COMMUNITY HEALTH (RECOMMENDED)
PAS 611: ELECTIVE-ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY (OR OTHER AVAILABLE SPECIALTY OF INTEREST)
Physician Assistant Studies Program

TOTAL PROGRAM UNITS TO EARN A MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE DEGREE:

Total YR I: 66.5 units
Total YR II: 51 units
Program Total units: 117.5 units
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS/CRITERIA:

• Completion of a Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited university or college prior to matriculation into the MMS Physician Assistant studies program

• Completion of all prerequisite coursework with a “C” or better prior to submitting application (with no more than 2 pre-requisite courses pending completion at the time of application).

• High school AP examination scores of 4 or 5 in pre-requisite courses will be accepted

• International Baccalaureate (IB) courses accepted per Chapman Guidelines (http://www.chapman.edu/students/academic-resources/registrar/student-services/course-registration/new-student/ib-equivalencies.aspx); maximum of 32 credits may be earned in passing courses by examination.
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS/CRITERIA:

• Cumulative Basic Sciences pre-requisite GPA minimum: 2.75.
• Overall Cumulative GPA minimum: 3.0.
• **NOTE:** All grades will be averaged in calculating both cumulative basic sciences and overall GPAs (*even for repeated courses taken to achieve a better grade*)
• Within last 5 years: GRE verbal 153; quantitative 144; writing 4.5; or MCAT score of 28 (submission of combination of highest scores from separate exam sittings is permitted)
• TOEFL score must meet minimum standard requirement of 80 (if English is not the student’s first language)
• Meet the Technical Standards for admission: Observation capabilities, communication skills, motor function, intellectual capacity, and behavioral/social attributes (please refer to website for further details).
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS/Criteria (Cont’d):

• Three (3) letters of recommendation (within 1 year of application date) assessing the applicant’s ability to be a future health care provider (one must be from a practicing PA or physician).

• Minimum of 50 observational/shadowing experience hours completed and documented by a licensed and practicing physician assistant. Observational experiences to be arranged by the student. The PA Studies program will not arrange nor recommend observational sites. Please check the following website for information on shadowing:
  http://www.capanet.org/Students_Pre-PA/Information-on-Shadowing/

Note: Clinical work experience and/or any formal health career training (i.e. EMT, LVN, RN, RT, PT, Pharmacist, Medical Assistant, medical scribing, etc.) CANNOT be substituted for observational/shadowing hours; these hours must be arranged separately from one’s paid employment (even if one’s job involves working closely with PAs) to be considered legitimate PA shadowing hours.
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS/CRITERIA (CONT’D):

- **Personal statement**: 5000 character limit (approximately 625 words), 12 Font, Times New Roman; describe how your personal goals are in line with the mission of the program, and on how those goals will contribute to the community and to the profession.

- **Personal Interview**: After initial assessment and screening of applications, selected applicants will be invited to interview at the Rinker Health Sciences Campus in Irvine, CA. Those invited will be required to bring a passport-sized photo on the day of the interview.

- Successful completion of a background check

- Applicants falling below the minimum criteria in ANY category will not be considered
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS/CRITERIA (CONT’D):

• Due to new government regulations, we are unable to accept international students into this program at this time. We hope to be able to accept students for the next academic year. For questions, please contact intladmit@chapman.edu.

• **NOTE:** Students who have taken classes or received degrees abroad will need to have their transcripts reviewed by one of two agencies approved by Chapman University’s Admissions Office: International Education Research Foundation (IERF), or World Education Services (WES)

• Persons who have been admitted, then dismissed, from any other accredited Physician Assistant Program will not be eligible for admission to Chapman University’s Physician Assistant Studies Program
Physician Assistant Studies Program

APPLICATION PROCESS:

• INAUGURAL COHORT (25 students to matriculate in January 2015): Please apply directly through CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants)

• Applications cycle will begin on April 1st of each year, and will close on October 1st of each year.

• Subsequent cohorts after inaugural cohort will consist of 50 students per matriculating class
PA BRIDGE PROGRAM:

• This option is **ONLY** available for Chapman University Undergraduate Health Sciences Majors who plan to earn a Bachelor of Science degree (Degree Core: 53 units, plus “Area of Study” requirements: 15-16 units; Total Credits for Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences: 68-69 units)

• Guarantees excellent Health Science Undergraduates an **early guaranteed** seat in Chapman’s Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant Studies Program

• Students participating in the bridge program must work closely with a health sciences advisor to insure all eligibility requirements are met
PA BRIDGE PROGRAM (CONT’D):

THREE-STEP PROCESS FOR EARLY GUARANTEED ADMISSION:

STEP ONE: ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

• Students must declare the “Physician Assistant Track” for the Health Sciences Major through the Office of the University Registrar by the end of their sophomore year
PA Bridge Program (Cont’d):

STEP ONE: ACADEMICS (CONT’D)

- By Spring semester of their junior year, students seeking early guaranteed admission must complete the following courses and criteria associated with these courses:
  - **BIOL 204/204L** - From Molecules to Cells: Evolution of Life on Earth with Lab;
  - **BIOL 205/205L** – Evolution and Diversity of Multicellular Organisms with Lab (or **BIOL 208/208L** – Introduction to Molecular Genetics with Lab);
  - **BIOL 417/417L** – Microbiology with Lab;
  - **HESC 210/210L** – Human Anatomy with Lab;
  - **HESC 365** – Human Physiology (Part A);
  - **HESC 366/366L** – Human Physiology (Part B with Lab);
  - **CHEM 140/140L** – General Chemistry I with Lab;
  - **CHEM 150/150L** – General Chemistry II with Lab;
  - **PSY 203** – Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (or **MATH 203** – Introduction to Statistics)
PA Bridge Program (Cont’d):

STEP ONE: ACADEMICS (CONT’D)

• All of the “Bridge Program” prerequisite courses for the Health Science Major:

  a.) Must be taken at Chapman University (or must be identified as equivalent in the Chapman University/Saddleback College Transfer Admission Guarantee, or “TAG” agreement)

  b.) May only be taken once

  c.) Must be taken for a letter grade (earning a “C” or better)

  d.) Must be completed by the end of spring semester of student’s junior year

  e.) Taken together, the cumulative GPA for these “Bridge Program” prerequisite courses must be $\geq 3.6$
PA Bridge Program (Cont’d):

STEP TWO: EARLY ADMISSION DECLARATION AND PLAN

• By November 1st of the student’s junior year, he/she must schedule an interview with Ms. Lonnise Magallanez (magallan@chapman.edu) to review requirements and establish a plan to obtain early, guaranteed admission to the PA Program
PA Bridge Program (Cont’d):

STEP THREE: REQUIREMENTS TO CONVERT FROM CONDITIONAL TO A FULLY ADMITTED STUDENT

a) All “Bridge Program” students **must** still apply via CASPA

b) Must submit documentation showing completion of 50 hours of shadowing a practicing physician assistant **during any term of the senior year**

c) Must submit three (3) letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a physician assistant or a medical doctor (MD or DO) **during any term of the senior year**

d) Provide a personal statement (refer to general admissions requirements for guidelines)
PA Bridge Program (Cont’d):

STEP THREE: REQUIREMENTS TO CONVERT FROM CONDITIONAL TO A FULLY ADMITTED STUDENT (CONT’D)

e) Interview with the Physician Assistant Program’s Admissions Committee during the senior year

f) Complete B.S. in Health Sciences Degree with a Cumulative GPA ≥ 3.4. This degree may be completed during any term of the senior year, and must be verified by the Office of the University Registrar.

g) Admissions are not final until successful completion of a background check.
Questions?

PA Program General Phone: (714) 744-2190

PA Program and Admissions Email: paprogram@chapman.edu

PA Program Website (please check regularly for any important updates): www.chapman.edu/physician-assistant