



OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

This 24 month, 121 credit program consists of six 15-week trimesters over a two year academic calendar. The program will be divided into a 12-month didactic phase and a 12-month clinical phase consisting of nine clinical rotations. The program will run continuously year round, to include summer terms, with University breaks during the months of April, August and December.

The mission of the Chapman University Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant Studies Program is to provide a personalized, exceptional medical education that inspires compassionate, collaborative, and analytical health care providers who enhance access to high quality care in the community.

The didactic portion of the curriculum spans the first three trimesters where the foundation for clinical practice is developed. The curriculum will follow an organ system-based modular format. Each clinical medicine module will provide or review the anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, epidemiology, signs/symptoms, laboratory/diagnostic studies, differential diagnosis, history/physical exam skills, pharmacology, and prevention/management concepts relevant to the organ system.

During the first trimester, students will receive foundational knowledge of medical science, history and physical diagnosis, pharmacology, and

evidence based medicine that will be applied later in the curriculum. The end of the first trimester and all of the second trimester will begin applying these concepts to the clinical medicine modules. While the first trimester concentrates primarily on basic skills, the second trimester will emphasize a more problem-focused approach to the history and physical exam. The student will build on their basic knowledge and physical exam skills by concentrating on abnormal findings found in various organ systems and pathologies, with an introduction to seminars and case-based studies.

By the third trimester, students will be involved in seminar and case-based courses where they can apply their clinical medicine skills to clinical scenarios as they prepare to enter the Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs) of the second year. The third trimester is where students will also receive instruction in the fundamentals of general surgery, emergency medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics and specific clinical skills. Students begin conceptual work for a research project to be completed during the clinical year. Throughout the didactic year the students will also receive instruction in the history of the PA profession, interprofessional experiences, ethical issues, medicolegal consideration of practice, healthcare systems, and other topics relevant to PA professional practice. These concepts will be reinforced in the clinical medicine modules where applicable.

On successful completion of the first three didactic trimesters, the students will begin their clinical experiences in direct patient care in both primary and specialty medical and surgical disciplines. The required nine 5-week rotations are as follows: *Family Medicine, Internal Medicine (Inpatient and Outpatient), Pediatrics, Women's Health and OB-GYN, Mental &*

Behavioral Health, Surgery, Emergency Medicine, and an Elective. Each of the five week clinical rotations will end with two call back days (End of Rotation) for testing, practical skills training, student presentations, and educational seminars. During the fourth and fifth trimesters, students will develop and implement their Graduate Project, which will culminate in a formal presentation to fellow students and faculty.

In the final four months of the program, students return to the University for a summative written examination covering the entire program of study, a clinical skills proficiency exam and Objective Structural Clinical Examinations (OSCEs). Upon successful completion of the Program, students are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).