

Master of Medical Science, Physician Associate

Purpose

The purpose of the Physician Associate Studies Program at Our Lady of the Lake College is to educate physician assistants, who as compassionate health care professionals working together with physicians and others, will provide quality medical care to the residents of Louisiana and others in need. The Physician Associate Studies Program holds provisional accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Physician Associate Studies Program is to provide its students with the fundamental knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to function, with physician supervision as medical professionals who will serve as valued members of the health care team. The Program will prepare its graduates to provide the following:

- a. Evaluation – initially approaching a patient of any age group in any setting to elicit a detailed and accurate history, perform an appropriate physical examination, formulate a differential, and determine a diagnosis;
- b. Monitoring – conducting rounds in acute and long term care in-patient settings, developing and implementing patient management plans, charting and writing orders, and providing continuity of care in any setting;
- c. Diagnostics – performing and interpreting laboratory, radiologic, cardiographic tests, and diagnostics procedures;
- d. Therapeutics – performing procedures such as immunizations, suturing and wound care thoracentesis, lumbar puncture, peripheral and central cannulations, and I&D as well as assisting in operations and taking initiative in response to life-threatening situations;
- e. Counseling – instruction and counseling patients regarding compliance, medications, therapeutic regimens, normal growth and development, family planning, emotional problems, health maintenance, and living wills;
- f. Prescribing – determining and writing prescriptions appropriate to the patient’s diagnosis;
- g. Referral – facilitating the referral of patients to the appropriate provider or agency relevant to their needs.

Admission Requirements

Institutional Entrance Requirements

All admissions decisions at Our Lady of the Lake College reflect the College’s mission and core values, emphasize its commitment to excellence, and underscore its intent to admit students who demonstrate characteristics indicative of success not only at the College but also after they graduate and enter their profession.

The College is a learning community which values diversity. It intends to admit students whose admission will further the goal of having classes comprised of academically and otherwise qualified and unique individuals whose backgrounds (ethnicity, race, age, gender, life experiences, employment experiences, religion, socioeconomic status, etc.) contribute to a learning environment in which diversity is valued and in which students learn from one another.

The following are requirements for admission to the Physician Associate Studies Program. The admissions process is competitive. Successful applicants will generally exceed the minimum criteria for admission. Applicants must submit applications on-line to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org <<http://www.caspaonline.org>>

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Official transcripts from all academic institutions attended (high school and college). High school transcripts must be sent directly from the institution to the Program, 7443 Picardy Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808. College transcripts are submitted to CASPA. Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted.
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores completed within the last 5 years including a score of 4 or better on the written analysis, must be submitted to the PA program. The applicant must receive an admission minimum score using the graduate program formula. This formula is: the sum of the verbal and quantitative GRE scores times the applicant's undergraduate GPA must total 3000 or higher. In addition, the analytical writing score must total 4 or higher.
4. Successful completion of all prerequisite courses or their equivalents by August 1. An exception to this requirement for completion time can be made for one prerequisite course if the applicant has completed an additional 5 science courses beyond the prerequisites (a total of 9 science courses) and has a GPA of 3.0 or better. Such a delayed prerequisite must be completed with a grade of "C" or better before classes begin if the applicant is accepted. This exception must be requested of the Program Director in writing before an application is submitted. Prerequisite courses include:

Genetics (starting Spring 2010)

Statistics

Psychology

Biochemistry OR Organic Chemistry I and II

Microbiology

Anatomy and, at least, one anatomy lab (A&P I and II courses with labs will fulfill this requirement)

Physiology (A&P I and II with labs will fulfill this requirement)

(Immunology and Pharmacology are highly recommended.)

All prerequisite courses must be completed in a 4 year accredited U.S. or Canadian college/university unless written exemption is granted by the Program Director.

5. Current Provider CPR certification by the start of classes
6. Direct patient contact experience acquired on a full- or part-time basis, as an employee or volunteer, in credentialed or non-credentialed roles.
7. Three recommendations. It is suggested that one recommendation be from a former teacher/educator; one from a former employer; one from a friend or colleague of 5 years or more. Recommendations must be documented on the appropriate CASPA form and submitted to CASPA by the application deadline of August 1.
8. Completed application including all supporting documents submitted to CASPA by August 1.
9. Applicants with English as a second language must adhere to OLOL College ESL policy as well as complete the Test for Spoken English (TSE) with a score of 55 or higher.
10. Applicants with academic degrees acquired at non-US institutions must complete at least one year of full time studies at an American university/college.

A personal interview is required on invitation by the PA Program. Please note that not all applicants will be granted an interview.

Final acceptance into the Program is conditional pending completion and appropriate documentation of a physical exam and required immunizations. The required Hepatitis B series must be initiated prior to matriculation and completed prior to beginning clinical rotations.

Final acceptance is also conditional upon the student passing a criminal background check to meet clinical agency requirements. Information on the procedure for completing the criminal background check is included in the student health packet distributed by the Office of Campus Health and Safety.

Transfer Credit

Credit hours will not transfer from other institutions toward this degree. All credits for the Master of Medical Science degree in Physician Associate Studies from Our Lady of the Lake College must be earned at Our Lady of the Lake College.

Progression and Graduation Requirements

Students must comply with the policies of Our Lady of the Lake College and the Department of Physician Associate Studies. They are also required to emulate the standards of conduct of the College and abide by the Code of Ethics of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Students must pass all examinations (didactic, clinical and practical) and maintain an overall average 3.0 GPA in order to progress in the Program and ultimately earn the Master of Medical Science degree. Student performance will be reviewed at the conclusion of the didactic and clinical phases by a Progress and Promotions Committee which will recommend progression to the clinical phase and/or approve for graduation. The Committee also may require remedial work as necessary during the course of the educational program.

Eighty eight credit hours are required for completion of the Program. The didactic phase (Phase I) consists of a total of 54 credit hours. The Clinical phase (Phase II) consists of clinical rotations and 2 remaining courses for a total of 34 hours. All courses must be taken in the order and at the time indicated on the curriculum schedule, unless mandated by the Program Director or Progress Committee.

The two courses in Phase II of the Program (PHAS 5925 PA Seminar and PHAS 5910 Master's Seminar) must be completed by all students for 1 and 3 credit hours respectively. In addition, all students must complete twelve clinical rotations (30 credit hours), nine of which are mandatory (Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine I & II, Family Practice I & II, OB/GYN, General Surgery, and Psychiatry). The remaining three rotations are electives in areas of the student's choice.

In addition, students must complete and receive a passing grade on a Clinical Research Study Proposal. They must pass written examinations at the conclusion of mandatory rotations as well as pass a summative examination at the conclusion of their clinical rotations

Graduation Requirements

- Successful completion of all coursework and clinical rotations
- Satisfactory grade on the summative examination
- Successful completion of the Clinical Research Study Proposal
- Minimum overall average GPA of 3.0 in PA courses
- Progress and Promotion Committee approval
- Resolution of all indebtedness to Our Lady of the Lake College

Physician Assistant Curriculum – 28 Month Program

Phase I – Spring 1		Phase I – Summer 1	
Courses	Credit hours	Courses	Credit hours
PHAS 5726 PA History and Professional Issues	2	PHAS 5710 Biostatistics	3
PHAS 5740 Medical Anatomy and Neuroanatomy	6	PHAS 5751 Foundations of Clinical Medicine and Surgery II	3
PHAS 5742 Medical Physiology	4	PHAS 5762 Psychiatry and Psychosocial Dynamics	3
PHAS 5750 Foundations of Clinical Medicine and Surgery I	3	PHAS 5727 Patient Assessment	4
PHAS 5755 Introduction to Clinical Laboratory Medicine	3	PHAS 5745 Electrocardiology and Radiology	2
		PHAS 5731 Pharmacotherapeutics I	3
Total	18	Total	18
Phase I – Fall 1		Phase II – Spring 2	
PHAS 5715 Research Methods	3	4 Clinical Rotations (2.5 credits/rotation) Total 10	
PHAS 5720 Infectious Diseases and AIDS	3		
PHAS 5752 Foundations of Clinical Medicine and Surgery III	3		
PHAS 5728 Clinical Medicine Skills	3		
PHAS 5732 Pharmacotherapeutics II	3		
PHAS 5752 Foundations of Clinical Medicine and Surgery IV	2		
PHAS 5760 PA Ethics and Medical Law	1		
Total	18		
Phase II – Summer 2		Phase II – Fall 2	
2 Clinical Rotations (2.5 credits/rotation)		4 Clinical Rotations (2.5 credits/rotation)	
Total	5	Total	10

Phase III – Spring 3			
PHAS 5725 PA Seminar	1		
PHAS 5790 Master’s Seminar	3		
2 Clinical Rotations (2.5 credits/rotation)	5		
Total	9		
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	88		

Clinical Rotations

PHAS 5770 Emergency Medicine (2.5); PHAS 5771 Internal Medicine I (2.5); PHAS 5772 Internal Medicine II (2.5); PHAS 5773 General Surgery (2.5); PHAS 5774 Pediatrics (2.5); PHAS 5775 OB/GYN (3); PHAS 5776 Family Practice I (2.5); PHAS 5777 Family Practice II (2.5); PHAS 5778 Psychiatry (2.5); PHAS 5779 Elective Rotation I (2.5); PHAS 5780 Elective Rotation II (2.5); PHAS 5781 Elective Rotation III (2.5)