

North Greenville University Department of PA Medicine

Admissions Handbook

For January 2020 Matriculation

Updated May 29, 2019

(All previous versions are archived and are obsolete)

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Preface

- This document provides clearly defined and published admissions practices, which can also be found at <http://www.ngu.edu/pa-medicine.php> (**A3.14; A3.15; A3.16; A3.18**).
- The **ideal NGU candidate** is well-rounded – demonstrating excellent grades, hands-on patient care experience, outstanding and altruistic commitment to service and volunteerism, a passion for medicine and the PA profession, and desire to serve as a primary care practitioner in a medically underserved area (**A3.15a**).
- All NGU PA courses must be taken as part of the **PA cohort** and no advanced placement options are available (**A3.15c; A3.18a**). All students who matriculate into the PA program must complete all program requirements (**A3.17c**).
- This entry-level master's degree program consists of 131 semester hours (SH) divided into three phases that span 24 consecutive months. The Didactic Phase represents the preclinical year and spans 12 months. The Clinical Phase represents the clinical year and consists of 11 months of supervised clinical education and coursework. The Summative Phase is 1 month in duration and represents the final stage of training. (**A3.14d; A3.14e**)
- Upon successful completion of the program, students will be awarded a **Master of Medical Science degree (M.M.S.)**.
- NGU's PA Medicine program will matriculate 20, 25, and 30 students in 2017, 2018, and 2019 (and beyond) respectively.

This PA Program *Admissions Handbook* provides a printable version of admissions related information that can also be found on the North Greenville University PA Medicine website. This handbook is updated on an annual basis and updates are published prior to the start of the next admissions cycle.

ARTICLE 1.0 MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND GOALS

1.1 Mission

Develop well-informed and compassionate PAs who provide patient centered and service oriented medical care in diverse environments.

1.2 Vision

Transform health care for the benefit of the people and communities.

1.3 Core Values

The DPAM embraces the following core values:

- Core Value 1 – Compassion
- Core Value 2 – Service
- Core Value 3 – Leadership
- Core Value 4 – Up-to-date medical knowledge

1.4 Core Goals

The DPAM affirms its core values as essential to fulfilling the program mission statement and is committed to the institutional values as statements of its culture and environment. With this in mind, DPAM goals support:

- PA employment as a primary care provider
- PA employment in the Upstate and other regions of South Carolina
- PA employment in underserved populations and areas
- PA volunteerism in community-sponsored organizations such as free medical clinics, search and rescue teams, emergency response groups, and fire departments
- PA volunteerism in medical mission work at a national and international level

ARTICLE 2.0 CASPA PARTICIPATION

The NGU PA Medicine program's application cycle will open in April concurrent to the start of the Central Application Service for PA (CASPA) application cycle and run through August 1. All applications and require materials are submitted via the Central Application Service for PA (CASPA). CASPA is an online application clearing house located at <https://portal.caspaonline.org>. As of March 2019, the cost for a CASPA application was \$179 for the first program you apply to. If you submit to other programs before the first e-delivery of your application, each additional program is \$45. If you submit to other programs after the first e-delivery of your application, each additional program is \$52. As a general rule, CASPA does not refund application fees. Information related to CASPA fees can be found [here](#). The link between the NGU PA Medicine program, CASPA, and student candidates will be managed by the PA program's Admissions Coordinator.

ARTICLE 3.0 APPLICATION (A3.15; A3.18)

The NGU PA program values fair admissions practices, evaluating applicants using the following objective criteria:

- Transcripts
 - Overall Academic Grade Point Average (GPA),
 - Pre-Requisite (Science) GPA,
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE),
- Letters of 'Professional' Recommendation,
- Paid Health Care Experience,

- Physician or PA Shadowing and Volunteerism

Each of the preceding items will be given a weighted point value (based on preset objective criteria) and the combined score will be used to rank candidates for interview (pre-screen matrix). The higher your score, the better your odds of being interviewed.

3.1 Transcripts

All Transcripts must be submitted and support completion of a bachelor's degree and required science prerequisites.

3.1.1 Bachelor degree (A3.15b; A3.15d)

A bachelor's degree, from a U.S. regionally accredited institution, with a 3.0 cumulative GPA minimum (**or B; B- is not acceptable**) is required to matriculate. A candidate may apply prior to meeting this requirement provided they can complete it by October 1 preceding matriculation. To do this, official transcripts [sealed] from the college or university (confirming the degree and cumulative 3.0 GPA) must be received by NGU's PA Medicine program by October 31. If a selected candidate does not meet these deadlines, he or she will relinquish their seat. Upon written request, NGU will consider an applicant whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 provided their last 60 SH of academic work produced a 3.3 or higher GPA. Students who qualify for a 60 SH review and meet the requirement of a 3.3 or higher GPA will receive a cumulative GPA of a 3.0 for scoring purposes. Pre-requisites (see below) must still meet the 3.0 per course requirement. *Note: The average cumulative GPA for all programs in the U.S. is 3.49.*

3.1.2 Science Prerequisites Aptitude (A3.15b; A3.15d)

All prerequisites must be taken at a U.S. regionally accredited institution and EACH course must meet a minimum 3.0 GPA (or B; B- is not acceptable) requirement (prerequisite course completion recommended within last 5 to 7 years). Completion of Advanced Placement courses (AP) and/or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) courses meet the prerequisite requirements with passed standardized examinations. An applicant may apply with up to two (2) outstanding prerequisites provided they can complete them by October 1 preceding matriculation. To do this, official transcripts [sealed] from the college or university (confirming course completion and course grade of at least 3.0) must be received by NGU's PA Medicine program by October 31. If a selected candidate does not meet these deadlines, he or she will relinquish their seat. *Note: the average undergraduate science GPA for all programs in the U.S. is 3.43.*

Note: In courses where a lab is required, the course and lab grades will be combined. In other words, if you receive an A (4.0) in 3 SH General Biology course and a C (2.0) in the General Biology lab your grade for the General Biology with lab will be a 3.5 GPA. This combined grade meets the 3.0 minimum requirement for the course.

Prerequisites include must have a 3.0 or B (B- does not meet the prerequisite)

Required Course	Semester Hours Minimum
Anatomy and Physiology – lecture and lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human-based <u>ONLY</u> (comperative is not accepted) <u>NO</u> online lab courses are accepted <i>The lab must apply to the course taken</i> If taken separately, no lab is required for the physiology course 	Applicants can fulfill this requirement with one of the following options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Taking <u>two</u> Human Anatomy and Physiology (with lab) courses (combined) for a total of <u>8 SH</u> Taking the Human Anatomy with lab (<u>4 SH</u>) and Human Physiology (no lab required) (<u>3 SH</u>) courses separately Successful completion of the Special Operations Combat Medic Course
General Biology with Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course designed for Biology Majors <u>NO</u> online lab courses are accepted <i>The lab must apply to the course taken</i> Survey courses <u>DO NOT</u> meet this requirement (usually a 100 level class) 	General Biology with Lab course (<u>4 SH</u>)
Other Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course designed for Biology Majors Survey courses <u>DO NOT</u> meet this requirement (usually a 100 class) No lab is required 	Applicants can fulfill this requirement with one of the following options (or equivalent) (<u>3 SH to 4 SH</u>): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General Biology II Genetics Cell Biology Histology Immunology Virology Epidemiology Biochemistry (can only be used once)
Microbiology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microbiology for non-science majors are accepted Online courses are accepted 	Microbiology course (<u>3 SH</u>)
General Chemistry with Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course designed for Chemistry Majors <u>NO</u> online lab courses are accepted <i>The lab must apply to the course taken</i> Survey courses <u>DO NOT</u> meet this requirement (usually a 100 class) 	General Chemistry with Lab course (<u>4 SH</u>)
Other Chemistry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course designed for Chemistry Majors Survey courses <u>DO NOT</u> meet this requirement (usually a 100 lass) No lab is required 	Applicants can fulfill this requirement with one of the following options (or equivalent) (<u>3 SH</u>): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General Chemistry II Organic Chemistry Analytical Chemistry Biochemistry (can only be used once)
Introductory to Psychiatry/Psychology or higher	Applicants can fulfill this requirement with one of the following options (or equivalent) (<u>3 SH</u>): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory to Psychiatry Abnormal Psychology Developmental Psychology Psychology throughout the Lifespan
Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Statistics is <u>NOT</u> accepted 	Applicants can fulfill this requirement with one of the following options (or equivalent) (<u>3 SH</u>): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General Statistics Behavioral Statistics Biostatistics

Note #1: Military applicants may have met some prerequisite course requirements in their training. For example, USAF Pararescueman training includes 12 SH of Emergency Medicine, 4 SH of Anatomy and Physiology, and 3 SH of Psychology. The decision to accept or decline military training, as meeting a prerequisite, is at the discretion of the PA program director. Since no letter grade is provided in these courses, they will be accepted 'as is' when successful completion can be proven (DD214 verification).

3.2 Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (A3.15d)

The GRE is required for admission and the score must have been taken and recorded ***within the last five years*** (at the time of application).

- This GRE requirement, however, is ***optional*** for applicants with a ***Master's Degree or higher from a U.S. regionally accredited institution***. Applicants with a Master's Degree (or higher), who opt out, will be assigned a 'good score' of 152 in verbal reasoning, 153 in quantitative reasoning, and 4 in writing.
- GRE is scored on a 130 to 170 scale for ***each section***. The writing score ranges from 1 to 6. To be competitive, consider the following GRE score guidelines:
 - ***Best Scores***: include a verbal score between 163 and 170, quantitative score between 165 and 170, and a writing score of 5 to 6.
 - ***Better Scores***: include a verbal score between 158 and 162, quantitative scores between 159 and 164, and a writing score of 4.5.
 - ***Good Scores***: include a verbal score of 152 to 158, quantitative score of 153 to 158, and a writing score of 4.
 - ***Below Average Scores***: include a verbal score 151 or lower, quantitative score 152 or below, and a writing score of 3.5 or below.
- ***The NGU GRE Code is 7362***

3.3 Professional Recommendations

Three letters of recommendation (each from a 'professional' source; should not be from a relation or close family friend)

3.4 Paid Health Care Experience (A3.15b)

A minimum number of patient care hours ***are not*** required for admittance into the program.

- A point value for paid health care experience, however, is added to the applicants overall score.
 - This point value is calculated based on total number of paid health care experience hours and the type of experience. Positions that provide no direct patient care (i.e. Medical scribe) may received less points than a paramedic or nursing assistant.
- To receive points for health care experience it must be from paid position(s) and not volunteer work. Exceptions include work as a paramedic or EMT when all emergency services are provided only on an all-volunteer basis. Note: Clinical experience gained through a training program, as a student, does not count as paid health care experience.
- Note: The average number of patient contact hours for a PA Applicant (based on data from all U.S. PA programs) is 3,350 hours.

3.4.1 ***Common, Competitive, Direct Patient Care Experience Examples***

- Military (medic, corpsman, pararescueman, SERE specialist, etc.)
- Emergency medicine (EMT, paramedic, ER technician, etc.)
- Nursing (registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, certified nursing asst, etc.)
- Respiratory therapist
- Medical assistant, Community health aid/practitioner, etc.

3.4.2 ***Other Acceptable Allied Health Experience Examples***

- Mental health practitioner
- Laboratory/medical technician
- Radiology technician

- Clinical research
- Chiropractor
- Emergency room or clinical/medical scribe

3.4.3 Positions NOT Meeting Direct Patient Care Prerequisite

- Medical billing
- Medical records
- Medical interpretation
- Medical transcriptionist
- Patient scheduler
- Anything considered administrative in nature

3.5 PA Shadowing and/or Volunteerism

A minimum number of PA Shadowing or Volunteer hours **are not** required for admittance into the program.

- A point value for provider (PA/MD/DO) shadowing and volunteerism (mission work, soup kitchen, big brothers/sisters, etc.), however, is added to the applicants overall score.
 - Note: For every one week on a medical mission, the applicant receives 100 hours of volunteerism.
- Note: Military veterans (with a DD214 showing honorable discharge) will receive the maximum volunteerism value.
- Note: The average number of shadowing and volunteer hours is:
 - Shadowing: based on data from all U.S. PA programs is 151 hours
 - Volunteerism: based on data from all U.S. PA programs is 710 hours

3.6 Test of English and Foreign Language (TOEFL)

An applicant whose native language is not English and who does not have a full year (two semesters) of composition or its equivalent in English studies must demonstrate skills in English understanding and use. Recent scores on the Test of English and Foreign Language (TOEFL) normally suffice. TOEFL scores should be submitted with the CASPA application or directly to NGU Graduate Admissions when CASPA is not used. Satisfactory scores are based on the testing format and include:

- Internet-based TOEFL: Score of 100 with a minimum score of 20 on each section.
- A total score of 600 on the paper TOEFL, with a score of 55 on the Listening Comprehension.
- A total score of 250 on the computer-based TOEFL.
- A level 112 from the ELS Language Centers or other recognized evidence may be considered satisfactory, pending the Admissions Committee approval.

3.7 Advanced Academic Placement (A3.15c; A3.18)

All NGU PA courses must be taken as part of the PA cohort and **no advanced placement** options are available.

ARTICLE 4.0 PRE-SCREEN SCORING MATRIX (A3.16)

Applicant requirements are reviewed, scored, and converted to percentage value (total points earned divided by the maximum potential). The NGU PA Admissions Committee will review all applicants meeting minimum requirements and either (1) invited to interview, (2) put on hold, or (3) deny an interview.

4.1 Special Consideration (A3.15a)

All **North Greenville University graduates** who meet the PA Program's admission requirements will be invited for an interview pending interview slot availability at the time the application is received. An invitation to interview, however, does not guarantee admittance to the program.

All **military veterans** (veterans must produce a DD214 showing an honorable discharge) will receive the full point value for the volunteerism portion of the pre screen scoring matrix.

4.2 Application Checklist Form

Item	Minimum Requirement	National Average / Goal	Your Results	Potential Points
Bachelor's Degree (<i>see article 3.1.1</i>)	3.0 GPA	3.49 GPA		25
Science Aptitude (<i>see article 3.1.2</i>)				30
✓ Anatomy & Physiology Lecture and Lab 1 (combined)	3.0 GPA			
✓ Anatomy & Physiology Lecture and Lab 2 (combined)	3.0 GPA			
✓ Gen Biology Lecture and Lab (combined)	3.0 GPA			
✓ Other Biology (see preceding list)	3.0 GPA			
✓ Microbiology	3.0 GPA			
✓ Gen Chemistry Lecture and Lab (combined)	3.0 GPA			
✓ Other Chemistry (see preceding list)	3.0 GPA			
✓ Intro Psychology	3.0 GPA			
✓ Statistics	3.0 GPA			
Graduate Record Evaluation (GRE)				5
✓ Verbal Reasoning	No Minimum	152		
✓ Quantitative Reasoning	No Minimum	153		
✓ Writing	No Minimum	4		
Paid Health Care Experience	No Minimum	3,350 Hours		25
Provider Shadowing and Volunteerism	No Minimum	861 Hours		15

Note: see Article 3.0 (preceding explanation) for each category in this table.

ARTICLE 5.0 INTERVIEW (3.15)

Interviews will begin in June and continue until the class is full or October 31, whichever comes first. By using this approach, it is possible to fill all available seats prior to the October 31 date. Therefore, ***it is to your advantage to submit a completed application as early in the process as possible!*** The longer you wait to submit an application (even though prior to the August 1 deadline), the greater your risk that no class seats will be available, or that only a few will remain. Once the class is full, remaining applicants who completed an interview will be evaluated for an alternates list.

5.1 Interview Process (A3.16)

An invitation to interview does not guarantee acceptance into the program. The NGU PA Program uses a rolling admissions process. Therefore, applicants who qualify for an interview may be invited to the next available scheduled interview date. Program faculty (program director, medical director and principal faculty), adjunct faculty, and local physicians, PAs, and health care workers will make up the interview team. Each will be trained on the interview process before the interview date and briefed on the scoring criteria before each interview session begins.

5.1.1 Introductions

The interview day will begin with introductions and expectations for the day.

5.1.2 Interview Stations (A3.16)

Applicants will be evaluated via a series of short, carefully timed interview stations and one essay station. Each of these encounters will assess the candidate's non-cognitive attributes. These characteristics include accountability, altruism, appearance, boundary recognition, compassion, flexibility, honesty, humility, problem-solving ability, reliability, respectfulness, responsibility, self-awareness, sensitivity, tactfulness, teamwork, tolerance, and work ethic.

ARTICLE 6.0 CANDIDATE SELECTION (A3.16)

6.1 General

Candidate scores from the interview process will be totaled and posted on a 'Post Interview Matrix' and applicants ranked in order of score. Next, the pre-screen matrix and post screen matrix will be provided to the NGU PA selection committee for discussion. The committee may select **up to 50%** of the program's open seats on the day of the interview (up to 100% once only six seats remain). The remaining will be set aside and reviewed again during each subsequent interview session. During each applicant review process (to include the initial review) applicants will be placed in one of three categories:

- Admit now. These candidates will receive a formal offer for a seat in the NGU PA Program within four weeks of completing the interview.
- Alternate list (wait list). These candidates will be formally notified – by email – within four weeks of completing the interview. Each wait-listed candidate will be reviewed during each subsequent interview session. At that time, their status will be updated to (1) admit now, (2) continue wait list, or (3) declined.
- Declined. These individuals will be notified within four weeks of the interview process.

Letters of acceptance may have conditions to matriculate. In this situation, the offer and conditions of acceptance will be detailed in the letter. An example would be acceptance of a student who **must** complete the required prerequisite course/s by October 1 (verified by October 31st) prior to matriculating into the program. In this case, their acceptance would be pending successful completion of the prerequisite course. For details on what is required, see 'post acceptance requirements' below.

6.2 Conflict of Interest (A3.16)

Faculty members must use their professional integrity and excuse themselves from interviewing, ranking, or selecting candidates whom they have a significant relationship with. This may include but is not limited to: family members, friends, family friends, acquaintances of individuals they know well, and those whom they have established professional relationships within other settings.

ARTICLE 7.0 POST-ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS (A3.07; A3.14G; A3.15E)

Once accepted into the NGU PA Medicine Program, the following conditions must be completed by – or verified by – <https://www.castlebranch.com> (they will forward to NGU) in order to matriculate into the program.

- Background Search:
 - Criminal Activity
 - Sex Offender Registry
 - National Healthcare Fraud and Abuse
 - Residence History
 - Social Security Alerts
- Twelve (12) Panel Urine Drug Screen
- Compliance Verification
 - Signed Technical Standards Form
 - Immunization Status Verification
 - Tuberculosis Screening Results (two step)
 - CPR Certification
 - Health Insurance Policy (showing current status)
 - Signed Release Form allowing NGU to Provide Preceptors with Status or Results of Immunizations, TB Screening, Drug Screening, and Background Check

- Mandatory Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPPA) and Operational Safety and Health Administrative (OSHA) certification
- Compliance with all other conditions of acceptance (done via NGU Admissions)

If official transcripts (sealed) are required – to verify outstanding degree or prerequisites – they must be received by NGU's PA Medicine program by October 31 or the selected candidate will relinquish his/her seat). All other 'post acceptance requirements' must be met by **November 1st prior to matriculation**. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in a forfeiture of seat and the candidate will not be allowed to matriculate into the program.

7.1 Background Search

Prior to matriculation (by November 1st), before the clinical year begins, **and** as required by a clerkship site – all PA students are required to have a **completed** certified background check via <https://www.castlebranch.com>. The background search looks for a history of:

- Criminal Activity
- Sex Offender Registration
- National Healthcare Fraud and Abuse
- Residence History
- Social Security Alerts

Admittance to the Program is contingent upon a successful background evaluation. If the background search reveals information that would prohibit a student from participating in clinical rotations, the seat offer will be rescinded or if already in the program the student will be dismissed (academically unable to fulfill course/program obligations). The estimated cost for the background check is \$150.

If a student is dismissed, the Academic Progress and Professionalism Committee will forward the decision (in writing) to the applicant, PA Medicine Program Director and Provost (within 14 days of a decision). Students who are dismissed or the conditionally admitted applicant who was denied admission – because of the background search results – can appeal the committee's decision. The appeal must be made in writing and received by the PA Medicine Program Director within seven days after the date the letter of denied admission or dismissal is mailed. In turn, the Program Director will render a decision within seven days of receipt of the appeal request. The applicant and Provost will be informed of the Directors decision. For applicants, this decision is final. A student, however, can appeal the decision, in writing, to the Provost within seven days after the Director's decision letter was mailed. The Provost will render a final decision within seven days of receiving the appeal. The Provost's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

7.2 Twelve Panel Urine Drug Screen

Prior to matriculation (by November 1st), before the clinical year begins, **and** as required by a clerkship site – all PA students are required to have a twelve (12) panel urine drug screen completed via <https://www.castlebranch.com>.

Admittance to the Program is contingent upon a negative twelve panel urine drug screen. If any drug screen reveals information that would prohibit a student from participating in clinical rotations, the student will be dismissed (academically unable to fulfill course/program obligations). The estimated cost for the twelve panel drug screen is \$41.

If a student is dismissed, the Academic Progress and Professionalism Committee will forward the decision (in writing) to the applicant, PA Medicine Program Director, Provost (within 14 days of a decision). Students who are dismissed or the conditionally admitted applicant who was denied admission – because of drug screen results – can appeal the committee’s decision. The appeal must be made in writing and received by the PA Medicine Program Director within seven days after the date the letter of denied admission or dismissal is mailed. In turn, the Program Director will render a decision within seven days of receipt of the appeal request. The applicant and Provost will be informed of the Director’s decision. For applicants, this decision is final. A student, however, can appeal the decision, in writing, to the Provost within seven days after the Director’s decision letter was mailed. The Provost will render a final decision within seven days of receiving the appeal. The Provost’s decision is final and cannot be appealed.

7.3 Mandatory HIPPA and OSHA Certification

Prior to matriculation (by November 1st) all PA students are required to complete Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPPA) and Operational Safety and Health Administrative (OSHA) training through <https://www.castlebranch.com>. The cost of this training is estimated at \$15.

Prior to the clinical year and as required by a clerkship site, this training will need to be repeated. Depending on circumstances, it may be done by <https://www.castlebranch.com> or through the clerkship site.

7.4 Compliance Verification

To matriculate ***and*** as needed throughout the program, certain tasks must be completed and/or verified by <https://www.castlebranch.com>. The estimated cost for compliance verification is \$35. These include:

- Immunization Status Verification
- Tuberculosis Screening Results (two step)
- Health Insurance Policy (showing current status)
- CPR Certification (must be current)
- Signed NGU PA Medicine Pre-Matriculation Technical Standards Testament
- Signed Release Form allowing NGU to Provide Preceptors with Status or Results of Immunizations, TB Screening, Drug Screening, and Background Check

7.4.1 Immunization History (A3.07)

The NGU PA Medicine Program has a pre-matriculation immunization policy that is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immunization recommendations for health-care personnel (<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2017.pdf>).

Prior to matriculation, all PA students are required to have the following immunization (or serology testing proving immunity) status verified through <https://www.castlebranch.com>. In addition, all immunizations must remain current while attending the NGU PA program. All vaccines must be administered in accordance with CDC’s published guidelines.

7.4.1.1 Hepatitis B

Unvaccinated applicants and/or those who cannot document previous vaccination must receive a 3-dose series of hepatitis B vaccine at 0, 1, and 6 months. Since PA students may be exposed to blood or body fluids they must be tested for hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) 1–2 months after dose #3 to document immunity.

- If anti-HBs is at least 10 mIU/mL (positive), the student is immune. No further serologic testing or vaccination is recommended.

- If anti-HBs is less than 10 mIU/mL (negative), the student is not protected from hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, and should receive 3 additional doses of HepB vaccine on the routine schedule, followed by anti-HBs testing 1–2 months later. A student whose anti-HBs remains less than 10 mIU/mL after 6 doses is considered a “non-responder.”

For non-responders: PA student non-responders are considered susceptible to HBV and will need to obtain HBIG prophylaxis for any known or probable parenteral exposure to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-positive blood or blood with unknown HBsAg status. It is also possible that non-responders are people who are HBsAg positive. Therefore, HBsAg testing is required for all non-responders. A student found to be HBsAg positive must see an infectious disease provider for a medical evaluation and counseling.

For students with documentation of a complete 3-dose HepB vaccine series but no documentation of anti-HBs of at least 10 mIU/mL (e.g., those vaccinated in childhood): students who are at risk for occupational blood or body fluid exposure are required to undergo anti-HBs testing and meet the preceding criteria on immunity or non-responder documentation.

7.4.1.2 Influenza

All PA medicine students must receive annual vaccination against influenza. Inactivated injectable influenza vaccine (IIV) is the preferred vaccine. Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), however, may be given to non-pregnant healthy students that are 49 years old and younger.

Contraindications are limited to a history of anaphylactic hypersensitivity to egg or other components of the vaccine or documented case of Guillain-Barré Syndrome within 6 weeks following a previous dose of influenza vaccine.

7.4.1.3 Measles, Mumps, Rubella

Although birth before 1957 is generally considered acceptable evidence of measles, mumps, and rubella immunity, it is not enough for health care providers or PA students. Therefore, all PA Medicine students will be considered immune to measles, mumps, or rubella only if they have documentation of (a) laboratory confirmation of disease or immunity or (b) appropriate vaccination against measles, mumps, and rubella (i.e., 2 doses of live measles and mumps vaccines given on or after the first birthday and separated by 28 days or more, and at least 1 dose of live rubella vaccine).

Students with 2 documented doses of MMR will still be required to completed serologically testing for immunity. If results are negative or equivocal for measles, mumps, and/or rubella, the student should be considered to have presumptive evidence of immunity to measles, mumps, and/or rubella and are not in need of additional MMR doses.

For students who do not have evidence of immunity, 2 doses of MMR vaccine are recommended during an outbreak of measles or mumps and 1 dose during an outbreak of rubella.

7.4.1.4 Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus

All PA medicine students who have not or are unsure if they have previously received a dose of Tdap should receive a dose of Tdap before matriculation, without regard to the

interval since the previous dose of Td. Pregnant students should be revaccinated during each pregnancy. All students should then receive Td boosters every 10 years thereafter.

7.4.1.5 Varicella

All PA medicine students must be immune to varicella. Evidence of immunity includes documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine given at least 28 days apart with laboratory evidence of immunity, laboratory confirmation of disease with laboratory evidence of immunity, or diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella or herpes zoster (shingles) by a healthcare provider with laboratory evidence of immunity.

7.4.1.6 Other Vaccines (travel related)

If a student travels outside the United States, data from the Center for Disease Control will be reviewed at least 6 weeks before travel to ensure required vaccines are known. Recommended vaccines will need to be completed prior to any training outside the United States.

Students who require one or more multi-dose-vaccine series to meet Immunization requirements must provide medical documentation that they have initiated the process by November 1st before their first day of orientation. Students failing to do so will not be permitted to matriculate into the program. They must also provide medical documentation of completion of the process according to established CDC immunization timelines. Students failing to do so will be dismissed from the program.

7.4.2 Tuberculosis Screening

All students must have a **two-step** PPD skin test within four (4) months of enrollment and yearly thereafter (verified by <https://www.castlebranch.com>).

- All positive PPD tests must have a chest X-ray and be evaluated by the Health Department.
- If the chest X-ray is positive, the applicant/student will not be allowed to enter or continue training until treated and cleared by an infectious disease specialist.

In addition, an IGRA test (Quantiferon Gold, TSpot) **must** be done for any of the following reasons:

- Positive PPD with history of negative chest x-ray (chest x-ray must be done for all positive PPD tests)
- BCG vaccine
- Applicant was born outside the U.S.

If the IGRA is negative, the applicant/student is cleared to enter the program; if the IGRA is positive, the applicant/student must be evaluated and cleared (treated if necessary) by an infectious disease specialist before they begin or continue their PAS training.

7.4.3 Health Insurance Policy Documentation

As a condition of enrollment, students are required to have health insurance coverage **while enrolled** in the NGU DPAM program. The cost of insurance and all covered, uncovered, or related health care expenses are the exclusive responsibility of the student and not the responsibility of NGU, SCPE preceptor, or SCPE site. These costs may include but are not limited to: immunization, illness, PPD testing, health evaluation post exposure to a communicable disease, or other accidental injuries sustained during program mandated training activities.

[Proof of insurance coverage must be provided prior to matriculation via https://www.castlebranch.com.](https://www.castlebranch.com)

In addition, students are not employees of NGU or the hospital, clinic or practice where SCPE rotations occur and therefore they are ***NOT covered under workman's compensation.*** Therefore, students are ***required to carry medical insurance*** (throughout the program) to cover the expense should an injury or exposure occur. Costs not covered by insurance are the student's responsibility.

7.4.4 CPR Certification

Prior to matriculation (by November 1st), before the clinical year begins, ***and*** as required by a clerkship site – all PA students are required to hold a current CPR certification. Proof of current CPR certification must be provided prior to matriculation via <https://www.castlebranch.com>.

7.4.5 Signed Technical Standards Testament and Academic Expectations

North Greenville University student candidates ***must*** possess the capacity to complete the entire curriculum to achieve the Master of Medical Science degree. The curriculum requires ***demonstrated skills*** in (1) observation, (2) communication, (3) motor, (4) intellect, and (5) behavioral and social. Candidates offered a seat in the program are required to sign this testament, verifying understanding and that they meet these Standards. In the event an applicant is unable to fulfill these technical standards prior to or any time after admission, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student ***will not*** be allowed to enter or progress within the program.

7.4.5.1 Technical Standards

Observation

The candidate must be able to:

- Observe demonstrations, visual presentations in lectures and laboratories, laboratory evidence and microbiologic cultures, microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states
- Observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand
- Use the sense of vision, somatic sensation, and smell as part of the observation process.

Communication

A candidate should be able to:

- Communicate professionally, effectively, and sensitively with patients and families
- Communicate professionally, effectively, and efficiently in oral and written forms with all members of the healthcare team
- Be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information, perceive nonverbal communications, and describe changes in mood, activity, and posture
- Utilize speech, reading, writing, and computers as part of the communication process. In addition, candidates must possess the skills necessary to communicate effectively in small and large group discussions.

Motor

Candidates must have sufficient motor skills and coordination to:

- Execute the movement required to provide patient care such as palpitation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers

- Execute movements required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. These skills require coordination of gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium, and sensation.
- Manipulate equipment and instruments necessary to perform basic laboratory tests and procedures required to attain curricular goals (e.g. needles, stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, tongue blades, intravenous equipment, gynecologic speculum, and scalpel)
- Transport themselves from one location to another in a timely fashion in order to facilitate patient care responsibilities and receive educational training.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

Candidates must be able to:

- Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and the spatial relationship of structures
- Collect, organize, prioritize, analyze, and assimilate large amounts of technically detailed and complex information within a limited time frame. This information will be presented in a variety of educational settings, including lectures, small group discussions, and individual clinical settings.
- Analyze, integrate, and apply information appropriately for problem solving and decision-making.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Candidates must have:

- Emotional health, maturity, sensitivity, intellectual ability, and good judgment needed to complete all responsibilities associated with the diagnosis and care of patients
- The ability to tolerate physical, mental, and emotional stress associated with training and the profession
- Qualities of adaptability, flexibility and be able to function in the face of uncertainty
- A high level of compassion for others, motivation to serve, integrity, and a consciousness of social values
- Sufficient interpersonal skills to interact positively with people from all levels of society, all ethnic backgrounds, and all belief systems
- The ability to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.

7.4.5.2 NGU Policy on Academic Learning Disabilities

North Greenville University PA Medicine Policy on Academic Learning Disabilities

- Provided the preceding 'technical Standards' are met, a student can claim disability through the NGU Learning Disabilities Office.
- **Criteria for establishing a PA Medicine candidate's disability is taken from the (1) National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) criteria and (2) peer reviewed literature published in the Journal of Physician Assistant Education.** To establish a disability the PA Medicine candidate requesting special accommodations must provide appropriate documentation of the disability or qualifying medical condition. The documentation must specify the extent to which classroom or testing procedures are to be modified. The accommodation requested or recommended by the PA candidate should **not be based on preferences but on disability**-driven reasons, nor should it over-accommodate the PA candidate. Reports from the qualified licensed professional should be on letterhead, typed in English, dated, signed, and legible. **Prior to considering any request for special accommodations, NGU must receive the following documentation:**
 - A complete description of disability or medical condition and impact on the PA candidates daily life and day-to-day functioning – **limitations to major life activity**
 - Signed, typed and dated current documentation of the disability by a qualified professional. The documentation **must be based on professional testing**, which was performed by a qualified professional. Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability and in alignment with current professional protocol. Documentation must include all the following:
 - The name, title, and professional credentials of the evaluator, including information about license or certification (e.g., licensed psychologist) as well as the area of specialization, employment, and state in which the individual practices must be clearly stated in the documentation.
 - Contact information including address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address of each professional providing documentation.
 - The date and location of the assessment upon which each professional's report is based.
 - A detailed description of the psychological, educational, and/or cognitive functioning tests that were conducted.
 - The results of those tests and a comprehensive interpretation of the results.
 - The name of the specific disability diagnosed and a description of the specific impact on daily life activities and day-to-day functional limitations to major life activities including a history of the impact of the disability on academic functioning if the disability is due to a learning disability or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD or ADHD).
 - The specific examination accommodations that are requested to compensate for those limitations and how they will reduce the impact of identified limitations.

- Description of treatment and rehabilitation. Describe all treatment and efforts at remediation that the candidate has undergone and the results of the treatment. Also, describe how the disability is accommodated in daily life.
 - Note 1: A qualified professional is someone with the credentials, training, and expertise to diagnose the disability the individual is claiming. The primary relationship of the attesting professional to the individual must be that of a treating medical professional to a patient; **there must be no familial, intimate, supervisory or other close relationship between the qualified professional and the individual requesting accommodations.**
 - Note 2: NGU reserves the right to request further verification, if necessary, of the evaluating professional’s credentials and expertise relevant to the diagnosis.
- Once the preceding assessment is provided, it will be evaluated by the Dean for the Graduate School of Health Science and, if deemed necessary, a consultant and either accepted, denied, or modifications suggested.
- As part of the preceding steps, an interactive dialog about what is reasonable will take place (student candidate suggestions does not mean they can be met).
- An accommodation is **considered unreasonable** when it causes “undue hardship” (a complex determination that can take into account how much the cost would be or how onerous to the school), alters the fundamental nature of the program, disrupts the cycle of education, or is related to dependent skill testing such as problem focused objective structured clinical examination or skills testing.
- In general, comfort aids will not require pre-approval but must be inspected prior to each use. These items include:

Medicine & Medical Devices
Auto-injectors; such as EpiPen
Bandages
Braces- Neck, Back, Wrist, Leg or Ankle Braces
Casts - including slings for broken/sprained arms and other injury-related items that cannot be removed.
Cough Drops - must be unwrapped and not in a bottle/container.
Eye Drops
Eye Patches
Eyeglasses (without the case), including tinted lenses - must be removed for visual inspection
Glucose Tablets (does not include hard candy) - must be unwrapped and not in a bottle/container.
Handheld (non-electronic) magnifying glass (without the case)
Hearing aids/Cochlear implant
Inhaler
Medical Alert Bracelet
<p>Medical device: Must be attached to a person’s body, must be inaudible, and must not include a remote-control device. Examples include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulin pump • Continuous glucose monitor • Note: If the insulin pump or continuous glucose monitor includes an accompanying remote-control device, the remote-control device may not be taken into the testing room. If there is a need to take the remote-control device into the testing room, Candidates must apply and be approved for an accommodation to do so. • TENS Unit • Spinal Cord Stimulator

Medical/Surgical face mask
Nasal drops/spray
Oxygen Tank
Pillow/Cushion
Pills - i.e. Tylenol or aspirin must be unwrapped and not in a bottle/container. Candidates may bring pills that are still in the packaging if the packaging states they MUST remain in the packaging, such as nitro glycerin pills that cannot be exposed to air. Packaging must be properly inspected.
Mobility Devices:
Canes
Crutches
Motorized Scooters/Chairs
Walkers
Wheelchairs
Other approved items (must be provided by Testing Center):
Tissues/Kleenex
Earplugs and Noise Cancelling Headphones

7.4.6 Release Form for Immunizations, TB Screen, Drug Screen, and Background Status

Each supervised clinical practice experiences site requires a copy of the student’s immunization history, tuberculosis screening results, background and sexual offense check, and drug screen. Therefore, candidates offered a seat in the program are required to sign a statement that allows the PA program to maintain and release this information when relevant to their academic training and clinical placement (via <https://www.castlebranch.com>).

7.4.7 Other Requirements

- Official transcripts of all course work including any courses that may have been completed since their program application was submitted
- Evidence of compliance with any other conditions noted in the applicant’s conditional letter of acceptance

7.5 Non-Refundable Deposit (A3.14g)

Candidates who accept a seat must pay a \$1500 **non-refundable** deposit within two weeks of notification of acceptance to hold their place in the cohort. This deposit will be applied toward first semester tuition costs. Accepted candidates who do not pay the \$1500 deposit within the required time frame (two weeks) forfeit their seat.

ARTICLE 8.0 STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WHILE ENROLLED (A3.04; A3.05; A3.06; A3.14H)

The PA program *strongly discourages* students from being employed while enrolled and does not make exceptions or alterations to required course work, scheduling, or rotation assignments for individual students due to employment (**A3.14h**). Employment status while in the program will not be used to excuse absence from scheduled learning activities, justify poor performance, or be considered as a mitigating factor when assessing students' academic and professional progress.

Students Will Not Work for The PA Program

The NGU PA Medicine Program *does not* permit its students to work (paid or voluntary) for the Program (**A3.04**).

Student Will Not Substitute as Faculty

NGU PA Medicine students *will not* substitute for or function as instructional faculty (paid or volunteer) (**A3.05**).

- Students with specific prior knowledge, experiences, and skills *may* assist faculty (provided faculty approval and oversight) and share that knowledge and skill set during didactic and laboratory sessions.
- Students *may not* be the primary instructor or instructor of record for any component of the program curriculum.
- Students *may not* participate in the primary assessment of other students, except as indicated in the student reflection activities.

Students Will Not Work at Clerkship Rotation Sites

During supervised clinical experiences, students may not substitute for clinical or administrative staff and must ensure all services provided to patients are directly supervised (**A3.06**). Students may not accept compensation for any services provided during supervised clinical experiences unless specifically approved by the DCE (e.g. housing stipend)

ARTICLE 9.0 CURRICULUM (A3.14D; A3.14E)

The PA Medicine Program at North Greenville University is a professional degree program intended to prepare students academically and professionally for responsibilities and services as a PA. Due to the sequential nature of the didactic curriculum, students must successfully pass all didactic courses for a given semester before becoming eligible to take courses in the subsequent semester. Advanced placement will not be granted under any circumstances. All students who are granted admission to the program must fulfill all program requirements. Clerkship Rotations are designed to provide medical experience and patient exposure and are referred to as Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE). These experiences form the basis of the clinical and socialization processes for adaptation to the roles and functions of a PA (**A3.14d; A3.14e**).

9.1 Curriculum Sequence

This entry-level master's degree program consists of 131 semester hours divided into three phases that span 24 consecutive months. The Didactic Phase represents the preclinical year and spans 12 months. The Clinical Phase represents the clinical year and consists of 11 months of supervised clinical education and coursework. The Summative Phase is 1 month in duration and represents the final stage of training.

All NGU DPAM curricular components are published online at <http://www.ngu.edu/pa-medicine-curriculum.php>, the NGU DPAM Admissions Handbook that can be downloaded at <https://www.ngu.edu/pa-handbook.php>, and the NGU DPAM Student Policy Handbook (which can be downloaded at <https://www.ngu.edu/pa-handbook.php>).

9.1.1 Didactic (Preclinical) Phase

The Didactic Phase represents the preclinical year that spans 12 months. As a general rule, this phase of training will occur between Monday and Friday, starting by 9:00 AM and ending at 4:00 PM. Some Saturday instruction may also be required. The Didactic Phase will emphasize critical thinking skills through breakout sessions to build a foundation of medical knowledge. Breakout sessions are student-centered pedagogy in which students learn about a subject through the experience of solving an open-ended **problem**. Students learn both thinking strategies and domain knowledge. Students will prepare for the Clinical Phase through hands-on experience in the program's Clinical Skills and Simulation Lab. Didactic phase (year 1) courses include:

9.1.1.1 Orientation Week (Mandatory One Week Long)

Orientation week occurs the first week of January. This is mandatory for all enrolled students.

9.1.1.2 Spring I-A (Three Weeks Long)

DPAM5100	(1 SH) Fundamentals of the PA Profession
DPAM5106	(1 SH) Research and Evidence Based Medicine
DPAM5108	(1 SH) Population Health
DPAM5109	(1 SH) Functional and Preventive Medicine
DPAM5140	(1 SH) Introduction to Pharmacology
DPAMXXXX	(0 SH) Anatomy and Pathophysiology Review (Mandatory)

9.1.1.3 Spring I-B (Fourteen Weeks Long)

DPAM5210	(2 SH) Human Anatomy I
DPAM5220	(2 SH) Pathophysiology I
DPAM5430	(4 SH) Medical Practice I (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5230	(2 SH) Physical Diagnosis I (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5160	(1 SH) Clinical Methods and Procedures I (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5242	(2 SH) Pharmacotherapy Principles I (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5170	(1.5 SH) Pediatric Medicine I (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5180	(0.5 SH) Geriatric Medicine I
DPAM5250	(2 SH) Critical Thinking I (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5260	(2 SH) Psychiatry/Mental Health (10 weeks)
DPAM5169	(1 SH) Special Populations (5 weeks; 1 week during Spring IA)

9.1.1.4 Summer I (Eleven Weeks Long)

DPAM5212	(2 SH) Human Anatomy II
DPAM5222	(2 SH) Pathophysiology II
DPAM5432	(4 SH) Medical Practice II (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5232	(2 SH) Physical Diagnosis II (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5162	(1 SH) Clinical Methods and Procedures II (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5244	(2 SH) Pharmacotherapy Principles II (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5172	(1.5 SH) Pediatric Medicine II (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5182	(0.5 SH) Geriatric Medicine II
DPAM5252	(2 SH) Critical Thinking II (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5104	(1 SH) Health Care Ethics (5 weeks)
DPAM5102	(1 SH) Health Care Policy (5 weeks)

9.1.1.5 Fall I (Eighteen Weeks Long)

DPAM5214	(2 SH) Human Anatomy III
DPAM5224	(2 SH) Pathophysiology III
DPAM5434	(4 SH) Medical Practice III (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5234	(2 SH) Physical Diagnosis III (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5164	(1 SH) Clinical Methods and Procedures III (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5246	(2 SH) Pharmacotherapy Principles III (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5174	(1.5 SH) Pediatric Medicine III (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5184	(0.5 SH) Geriatric Medicine III
DPAM5254	(2 SH) Critical Thinking III (includes breakout sessions)
DPAM5396	(3 SH) Global Health (with intensive week)
DPAM5376	(3 SH) Foundations of Emergency Medicine (with intensive week)
DPAM5178	(1 SH) Foundations of Surgery
DPAM5198	(1 SH) Transition to Clerkships (last week)

9.1.2 Clinical Phase

The Clinical Phase represents the clinical year and consists of 11 months of supervised clinical education and coursework. Clinical Rotations are designed to provide medical experience and patient exposure and are referred to as Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE). These experiences form the basis of the clinical and socialization processes for adaptation to the roles and functions of a PA. The NGU PA Medicine program has signed affiliation agreements with regional health care facilities that support the rotation process. These agreements will enable our students to gain clinical experience through hospitals, clinics and other practices throughout the region. The program is also intently engaged in developing opportunities for international rotations through existing relationships with North Greenville University. Clinical phase (year two) courses include:

DPAM6500	(5 SH) Psychiatry/Mental Health Clerkship
DPAM6502	(5 SH) Emergency Medicine Clerkship
DPAM6504	(5 SH) General Surgery Clerkship
DPAM6506	(5 SH) Internal Medicine Clerkship
DPAM6508	(5 SH) Prenatal and Gynecology Clerkship
DPAM6510	(5 SH) Pediatrics Clerkship
DPAM6512	(5 SH) Elective Clerkship
DPAM6514	(5 SH) Family Medicine Clerkship I (FP)
DPAM6515	(5 SH) Family Medicine Clerkship II (Acute Care)
DPAM6516	(5 SH) Family Medicine Clerkship III (Underserved)
DPAM6216	(2 SH) Rotation Assessment Days I

DPAM6218	(2 SH) Rotation Assessment Days II
DPAM5390	(3 SH) Teamwork and Communication for Integrated Healthcare

9.1.3 *Summative Phase*

The Summative Phase is 1 month in duration and represents the final stage of the program. The Summative Phase include the following evaluations:

- Written examination covering the knowledge base content associated with all the basic medical and clinical sciences and its application to the practice of medicine.
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), which is used to evaluate direct patient care skills including obtaining the medical history, physical examination skills, communication, and professionalism.
- Skill Specific Testing, which is used to assess the student's ability to perform and/or interpret the diagnostic and therapeutic skills, listed in this SCPE core syllabus.

During this time, students will also engage in preparation for the PANCE exam, Curriculum Vitae creation, and preparation for job interviews. The summative course title is:

DPAM6520	(5 SH) Summative Evaluation
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9.2 Course Descriptions

9.2.1 *Spring I-A Pre-Clinical*

DPAM5100 (1 SH) Fundamentals of the PA Profession

Prerequisite: Admission into the DPAM program. This course is designed to aid the student in the transition into the medical profession and serves as an introduction to professional issues.

DPAM5106 (1 SH) Research and Evidence Based Medicine

Prerequisite: Admission into the DPAM program. This course is designed to cover the importance of evidence-based medicine and review basic statistics, research methods, and ethical standards in research. Emphasis is on developing the skills needed to validate medical literature used in answering clinical questions and patient treatment.

DPAM5108 (1 SH) Population Health

Prerequisite: Admission to the DPAM program. This course is designed with an emphasis on social, cultural, emotional and psychological factors affecting patient care and human relationships including social determinants of health.

DPAM5109 (1 SH) Functional and Preventive Medicine

Prerequisites: Admission into the DPAM program. The functional and preventive medicine course focuses on the PA role in disease prevention (for individual and society) rather than treatment. This course will introduce students to strategies that promote health and wellness to includes self-monitoring of health risk behavior, goal setting, and behavior changes.

DPAM5140 (1 SH) Introduction to Pharmacology

Prerequisite: Admission into the DPAM program. This introductory course explores medication delivery, its impact on the body, and how it is eliminated. Topics include mechanism of action, pharmacokinetics, drug targets, pharmaceutical math, drug toxicity

and drug interactions. In addition, this course promotes a link between microbiology, disease processes and medication use.

9.2.2 Spring I-B Pre-Clinical

The series of progressive and synergistic courses cover (1) Dermatology, (2) Hematology/Oncology/Infectious Disease, (3) Head, Ears, Eyes, Nose, and Throat, and (4) Neurology.

DPAM5210 (2 SH) Human Anatomy I

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. This is the first course in a three-part series devoted to the study of human anatomy. The course will cover topography, internal structures, and functions with correlations to body systems being covered in the medical practice courses.

DPAM5220 (2 SH) Pathophysiology I

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. This is the first course in a three-part series devoted to pathology and pathophysiology. This course will lead the body systems being covered in the medical practice courses.

DPAM5430 (4 SH) Medical Practice I

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. This is the first course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon other courses this term to include (1) pharmacology, (2) physical diagnosis, (3) critical thinking, (4) clinical methods and procedures, (5) pediatric medicine, and (6) geriatric medicine. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Medical practice is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5230 (2 SH) Physical Diagnosis I

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. This is the first course in a three-part series, which runs concurrent with the 'Medical Practice' and 'Pharmacology.' Emphasis is placed on appropriate history taking, physical examination techniques, patient counseling (to include education), and how to document an encounter. In addition, verbal and written communication, cultural sensitivity, and professionalism are developed. Physical diagnosis is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5160 (1 SH) Clinical Methods and Procedures I

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. This is the first course in a three-part series, which mirrors the 'Medical Practice,' 'Physical Diagnosis,' and 'Pharmacology' series of courses. This course will utilize a problem list or differential diagnosis to identify and perform diagnostic procedures, laboratory studies, and minor surgical techniques that are indicated necessary for diagnosis and treatment. In addition, the course will address patient safety, quality improvement, prevention of medical errors, and risk management. Clinical methods and procedures is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5242 (2 SH) Pharmacotherapy Principles I

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work to include DPAM5140. This is the first course in a three-part series, which provides the link between pharmacology, clinical practice, and prescribing medications. It runs concurrently with the 'Medical Practice' and 'Physical Diagnosis' courses. This course sequence will present the pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, side effects, complications, dosages, and contraindications of medication delivery. Pharmacotherapy principles is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5170 (1.5 SH) Pediatric Medicine I

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. This is the first course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon the medical practice curriculum. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to pediatric practice, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Pediatrics is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5180 (0.5 SH) Geriatric Medicine I

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. This is the first course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon the medical practice curriculum. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to geriatric populations, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Geriatrics is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5250 (2 SH) Critical Thinking I

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. This is the first course in a three-part series, which mirrors the 'Medical Practice,' 'Physical Diagnosis,' and 'Pharmacology' series of courses. The course advances critical thinking, ethics, and problem-based learning. In addition, interprofessional experiences between NGU PA Students and VCOM DO students (related to body systems covered) will occur monthly at Bon Secours/Saint Francis campus in Greenville.

DPAM5260 (2 SH) Psychiatry/Mental Health

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work. Instruction focused on the clinical psychiatry to include social and behavior science and basic counseling and patient education. Social and behavior topics include (1) detection and treatment of substance abuse, (2) human sexuality, (3) issues of death, dying, and loss, (4) response to illness, injury, and stress, (5) principles of violence identification and prevention, and psychiatric/behavior issues. Psychiatric and behavior issues include (1) anxiety disorders (generalized anxiety, panic disorder, phobias, and post-traumatic stress), (2) attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, (3) autistic disorder, (4) eating disorders (anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and obesity), (5) mood disorders (adjustment, bipolar, depression, dysthymic), (6) personality disorders, (7) psychoses (delusional disorder and schizophrenia), (8) somatoform disorders, (9) substance use disorders (abuse, dependence, and withdrawal), and (10) other behavior and emotional disorders (acute reaction to stress, child/elder abuse, conduct disorders, domestic violence, grief reaction, and suicide). In addition, basic counseling and patient education techniques will be explored in this course (patient centered, culturally sensitive and focused on helping patients cope with illness, injury and stress, and designed to modify patient behavior.

DPAM5169 (1 SH) Special Populations

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. This course seeks to diminish barriers of care to (1) social identity groups (racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity), (2) visual, hearing, and language impaired, and (3) and patients with religious barriers.

9.2.3 Summer I Pre-Clinical

Topics and body systems covered include (1) cardiovascular and (2) Pulmonary. Relevant topics and disease processes in each topic area will be developed.

DPAM5212 (2 SH) Human Anatomy II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5210. This is the second course in a three-part series devoted to the study of human anatomy. The course will cover topography, internal structures, and functions with correlations to body systems being covered in the medical practice courses. Pertinent biochemical principles will be integrated into the course to cover cellular structures and processes, which impact health and disease.

DPAM5222 (2 SH) Pathophysiology II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5220. This is the second course in a three-part series devoted to pathology and pathophysiology.

DPAM5432 (4 SH) Medical Practice II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5430. This is the second course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon other courses this term to include (1) pharmacology, (2) physical diagnosis, (3) critical thinking, (4) clinical methods and procedures, (5) pediatric medicine, and (6) geriatric medicine. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Medical practice is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5232 (2 SH) Physical Diagnosis II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5230. This is the second course in a three-part series, which runs concurrent with the 'Medical Practice' and 'Pharmacology.' Emphasis is placed on appropriate history taking, physical examination techniques, patient counseling (to include education), and how to the document an encounter. In addition, verbal and written communication, cultural sensitivity, and professionalism are developed. Physical diagnosis is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5162 (1 SH) Clinical Methods and Procedures II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include 5160. This is the second course in a three-part series, which mirrors the 'Medical Practice,' 'Physical Diagnosis,' and 'Pharmacology' series of courses. This course will utilize a problem list or differential diagnosis to identify and perform diagnostic procedures, laboratory studies, and minor surgical techniques that are indicated necessary for diagnosis and treatment. In addition, the course will address patient safety, quality improvement, prevention of medical

errors, and risk management. Clinical methods and procedures is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5244 (2 SH) Pharmacotherapy Principles II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work to include DPAM5142. This is the second course in a three-part series, which provides the link between pharmacology, clinical practice, and prescribing medications. It runs concurrently with the 'Medical Practice' and 'Physical Diagnosis' courses. This course sequence will present the pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, side effects, complications, dosages, and contraindications of medication delivery. Pharmacotherapy is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5172 (1.5 SH) Pediatric Medicine II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5170. This is the second course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon the medical practice curriculum. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to pediatric practice, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Pediatrics is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5182 (0.5 SH) Geriatric Medicine II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5180. This is the second course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon the medical practice curriculum. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to geriatric populations, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Geriatrics is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5252 (2 SH) Critical Thinking II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5250. This is the second course in a three-part series, which mirrors the 'Medical Practice,' 'Physical Diagnosis,' and 'Pharmacology' series of courses. The course advances critical thinking, ethics, and problem-based learning. In addition, interprofessional experiences between NGU PA Students and VCOM DO students (related to body systems covered) will occur monthly at Bon Secours/Saint Francis campus in Greenville.

DPAM5104 (1 SH) Health Care Ethics

Prerequisite: Admission into the DPAM program. This course is designed to provide the student with an appreciation of the basic knowledge and skills in ethical theory and reasoning, professional ethics, and approaches to healthcare decision-making. It will focus on a four-step method of analyzing an ethical problem, which includes (1) medical indications, (2) patient preferences, (3) quality of life, and (4) contextual features meaning social, economic, legal, and administrative context in which the case appears.

DPAM5102 (1 SH) Health Care Policy

Prerequisite: Admission into the DPAM program. This course is designed to help students understand policy governing PA practice and the practice of medicine.

9.2.4 Fall I-A Pre-Clinical

Topics and body systems covered include (1) gastroenterology, (2) endocrine/reproductive, (3) genitourinary, and (4) musculoskeletal. Relevant topics and disease processes in each topic area will be developed.

DPAM5214 (2 SH) Human Anatomy III

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5212. This is the third course in a three-part series devoted to the study of human anatomy. The course will cover topography, internal structures, and functions with correlations to body systems being covered in the medical practice courses. Pertinent biochemical principles will be integrated into the course to cover cellular structures and processes, which impact health and disease.

DPAM5224 (2 SH) Pathophysiology III

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5222. This is the third course in a three-part series devoted to pathology and pathophysiology.

DPAM5434 (4 SH) Medical Practice III

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5432. This is the third course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon other courses this term to include (1) pharmacology, (2) physical diagnosis, (3) critical thinking, (4) clinical methods and procedures, (5) pediatric medicine, and (6) geriatric medicine. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to primary care practices, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Medical practice is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5234 (2 SH) Physical Diagnosis III

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5232. This is the third course in a three-part series, which runs concurrent with the 'Medical Practice' and 'Pharmacology.' Emphasis is placed on appropriate history taking, physical examination techniques, patient counseling (to include education), and how to document an encounter. In addition, verbal and written communication, cultural sensitivity, and professionalism are developed. Physical diagnosis is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5164 (1 SH) Clinical Methods and Procedures III

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5162. This is the third course in a three-part series, which mirrors the 'Medical Practice,' 'Physical Diagnosis,' and 'Pharmacology' series of courses. This course will utilize a problem list or differential diagnosis to identify and perform diagnostic procedures, laboratory studies, and minor surgical techniques that are indicated necessary for diagnosis and treatment. In addition, the course will address patient safety, quality improvement, prevention of medical errors, and risk management. Clinical methods and procedures is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5246 (2 SH) Pharmacotherapy Principles III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work to include DPAM5144. This is the third course in a three-part series, which provides the link between

pharmacology, clinical practice, and prescribing medications. It runs concurrently with the 'Medical Practice' and 'Physical Diagnosis' courses. This course sequence will present the pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, side effects, complications, dosages, and contraindications of medication delivery. Pharmacotherapy principles is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5174 (1.5 SH) Pediatric Medicine III

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5172. This is the third course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon the medical practice curriculum. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to pediatric practice, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Pediatrics is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5184 (0.5 SH) Geriatric Medicine III

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include DPAM5182. This is the third course in a three-part series, which focuses on human diseases and disorders in the areas of clinical medicine. This course runs concurrently with and builds upon the medical practice curriculum. Emphasis will be on disease processes common to geriatric populations, development of a differential diagnosis, interpreting diagnostic tests, and treatment plans. Geriatrics is covered using platform instruction and small group breakout session exercises.

DPAM5254 (2 SH) Critical Thinking III

Prerequisites: Successful completion of prior DPAM course work to include 5252. This is the third course in a three-part series, which mirrors the 'Medical Practice,' 'Physical Diagnosis,' and 'Pharmacology' series of courses. The course advances critical thinking, ethics, and problem-based learning. In addition, interprofessional experiences between NGU PA Students and VCOM DO students (related to body systems covered) will occur monthly at Bon Secours/Saint Francis campus in Greenville.

DPAM5396 (3 SH) Global Health

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The PA Service course discusses service opportunities at local, state, national, and international level to include:

- Global Burden of Disease
- Disaster Medical Operations/Improvised Medicine
- Basic Needs When Providing Care in Extreme Environment
- Water and Food Borne Disease (hydration and nutrition)
- Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV/Aids/Tropical Diseases
- Patient Assessment in Extreme Environments
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Search and rescue operations

Discussions will help students understand each concept and promote a life long commitment to service in their local and not so local communities.

DPAM5376 (3 SH) Foundations of Emergency Medicine

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. This course prepares students to recognize, rapidly assess, and effectively manage emergent situation, illness, or injury. Problem-based case studies and team-based activities are used to encourage the development of teamwork, collaboration, and interdisciplinary value. Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support training is part of this course.

DPAM5178 (1 SH) Foundations of Surgery

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. This course covers concepts of surgical assessment, basic surgical skills and procedures, surgical complications, and management of surgical patients. It builds on the foundation of the previous medicine courses and expands on etiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestation, and diagnosis, and appropriate management of selected surgical conditions including care of acute and chronic patients. Emphasis is on students developing competency in the principles and practices involved in aseptic and basic surgical techniques, surgical risk assessment, wound management, anesthesia, and preoperative, perioperative and postoperative evaluation and management.

DPAM5198 (1 SH) Transition to Clerkships

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The purpose of this course is to: (1) provide the student with a time of self-assessment, (2) evaluate the students' knowledge, skills, and attitude, (3) identify the student's level of preparedness for clinical rotations, and (4) promote interprofessional relationships. The course will evaluate student preparedness using Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) testing, clinical skills assessments, and a written examination. Students must pass each of the three testing areas prior to the start of SCPE rotations. Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (SCPE) expectations and behavior will be discussed.

9.2.7 Spring II, Summer II, and Fall II

During the second year of training, students will build upon the knowledge and skills learned during didactic through experiential learning in ten Supervised Clinical Practice Experience setting. Settings include (1-3) family medicine I, II, and III, (4) internal medicine, (5) pediatrics, (6) Prenatal and gynecology, (7) emergency medicine, (8) surgery, (9) psychiatry/mental health, and (10) an elective of choice. At least one of the clerkships will occur in an underserved population. PAEA 'end of rotation' exams and two 'rotation assessment days' (students return to campus for presentations and testing) will be used throughout the year. Minimum benchmark goals – related to patient exposure and procedures, during the clinical year – have been established and are outlined below and in the SCPE syllabus. These goals and clerkship timelines are based on an average of four unique patient contacts per day over the course of an SCPE rotation. Contact categories are based on didactic work, ARC-PA B3 standards and graduate competencies and outcomes. As part of this, realistic numbers related to the (1) type of encounter, (2) patient age, (3) women's health, and (4) practice setting were established. These goals will be used to help evaluate the value and validity of each clerkship site and determine if adequate exposure/training has occurred (via SCPE encounter tracking and end or rotation survey/s). In addition, when available, the PAEA end of rotation exams will be used as an evaluation tool to assess student's understanding of disease presentation and management across the continuum of patient exposures. Students are required to return to the NGU PA

Medicine campus on the last Friday of each clerkship. Finally, during Spring II, students will take an online course on teamwork and communication for integrated healthcare.

DPAM6390 (3 SH) Teamwork and Communication for Integrated Healthcare

Prerequisite: successful completion of the didactic year. Teamwork and communication for integrated healthcare is the study of how individuals and groups interact, think, and behave in an organization. The course also analyzes what factors enhance these interactions to positively impact the success of the organization. There are six blocks of instruction in this course and they are:

- Introduction to organizational behavior concepts
- Understanding individual behaviors
- Leadership
- Intrapersonal and interpersonal issues
- Groups and teams
- Managing organizational change

DPAM6500 (5 SH) Psychiatry/Mental Health Clerkship

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long Behavior Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to acute, chronic, and preventive medical need associated with behavior and mental health conditions.

DPAM6502 (5 SH) Emergency Medicine Clerkship

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long Emergency Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to acute, chronic, and emergent medical need associated with patients across the life span to include pediatrics, adults, elderly, women's health, and mental health conditions.

DPAM6504 (5 SH) General Surgery Clerkship

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long General Surgery Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to acute, chronic, and preventive medical need associated with pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative surgical management.

DPAM6506 (5 SH) Internal Medicine Clerkship

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long Internal Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to acute, chronic, and preventive medical need associated with the adult and elderly population.

DPAM6508 (5 SH) Prenatal and Gynecology Clerkship

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long Prenatal and Gynecology Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable

students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to acute, chronic, and preventive medical need associated with women's health to include prenatal and gynecological care.

DPAM6510 (5 SH) Pediatrics Clerkship

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long Pediatric Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to acute, chronic, and preventive medical need associated with the infant, child, and adolescent population.

DPAM6514 (5 SH) Family Medicine Clerkship I

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long Family Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to chronic and preventive medical need associated with patients across the life span to include pediatrics, adults, elderly, women's health, and mental health conditions. Occurs in a Family Practice setting.

DPAM6515 (5 SH) Family Medicine Clerkship II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long Family Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to acute care associated with patients across the life span to include pediatrics, adults, elderly, women's health, and mental health conditions. Occurs in an Urgent Care or similar setting.

DPAM6516 (5 SH) Family Medicine Clerkship III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. The 4-week long Family Medicine III Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care in remote inner-city clinics or isolated areas in the U.S. and beyond. The clerkship will expose students to patient care across the life span to include pediatrics, adults, elderly, women's health, and mental health conditions.

The Family Medicine III SCPE exposes students to underserved populations and areas and promotes inherent benefits to include:

- An appreciation for cultural literacy, increasing one's ability to recognize and respect socioeconomic and cultural differences
- Heightened enthusiasm for a career in medicine
- A better understanding of heavily underserved populations, global disease, and traveler's medicine – allowing them to respect their role in humanitarian service
- Recognition of the impact that society and economics have on disease
- Learning diagnostic skills in the presence of limited resources enhances clinical exam skills.

This course is broken into two pathway options (Stateside or International).

- The pathway for students choosing to the International option includes:
 - One week of didactics on ethics, cultures, religions, poverty, and behavior in developing countries.
 - One week in a developing country village (seeing severely underserved patients).
 - One week of debriefing
 - One week of student presentations on their experience (on campus)
- The pathway for students choosing the underserved stateside option includes:
 - Three weeks in an underserved area or population clinic
 - One week of student presentations on their experience (on campus)

A realistic cost estimate is between \$1,500 and \$2,000 and this cost should cover airfare, room and board, food, ground transportation, security, and translator needs. Note: students who opt out of the overseas portion of this clerkship will spend that week observing care in a rural and/or underserved clinic (at no additional costs beyond regular housing, etc.). All other aspects, however, of this clerkship will apply. Finally, this is a student-led trip and **students are responsible for additional costs** such as medications, health supplies, etc. (see tables at the end of this document for things to consider in terms of overall estimated cost). It is expected that students will use **fundraising** events to supplement these costs. The exact amount will be determined prior to the trip and estimates of costs will depend on vendors and availability.

DPAM6512 (5 SH) Elective Clerkship

The 4-week long Elective (orthopedics, endocrinology, dermatology, disaster medicine, wilderness survival, international, etc.) Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) will enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. SCPE encounters will include patient care related to acute, chronic, and preventive medical need. International rotations are available to students after successfully completing three domestic SCPE. The international option provides one week of travel (split between leaving the U.S. and return) and three weeks of observing medical systems and care in the developing country site.

A realistic cost estimate for this clerkship option is between **\$1,500** and **\$4,000** depending on the site (Nicaragua or Dominican Republic). The cost should cover airfare, room and board, food, ground transportation, security, and translator needs.

DPAM6216 (2 SH) Rotation Assessment Days I

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. During the last week of Spring II (end of April), students will return to campus for advisor meetings, discussions, and testing. The goals of the rotation assessment days are:

- Provide the student with a time of self-assessment
- Evaluate the students' knowledge, skills, and attitude
- Identify the student's level of preparedness for the PA national certifying examination (PANCE).
- Prepare the student for employment with topics on resume writing, contract negotiation, financial management and choosing the right practice. Potential employers will occasionally be invited to speak with students regarding employment opportunities.

During the course an ongoing evaluation of each student's progress will take place via:

- Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) testing
- Independent project presentations
- Case presentations

DPAM6218 (2 SH) Rotation Assessment Days II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prior semester of PA course work. During the first week of Fall II (beginning of August), students will return to campus for advisor meetings, discussions, and testing. The goals of the rotation assessment days are:

- Provide the student with a time of self-assessment
- Evaluate the students' knowledge, skills, and attitude
- Identify the student's level of preparedness for the PA national certifying examination (PANCE).
- Prepare the student for employment with topics on resume writing, contract negotiation, financial management and choosing the right practice. Potential employers will occasionally be invited to speak with students regarding employment opportunities.

During the course an ongoing evaluation of each student's progress will take place via:

- Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) testing
- Independent project presentations
- Case presentations

9.2.8 Fall II Summative

DPAM6520 (5 SH) Summative Evaluation

The Summative Phase is 1 month in duration and represents the final stage of the program and includes the following 'summative' evaluations:

- Written examination covering the knowledge base content associated with all the basic medical and clinical sciences and its application to the practice of medicine
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), which is used to evaluate direct patient care skills including obtaining the medical history, physical examination skills, communication, and professionalism
- Skill Specific Testing, which is used to assess the student's ability to perform and/or interpret the diagnostic and therapeutic skills, listed in this SCPE core syllabus

Additional instruction will include:

- A review of patient safety, quality improvement, prevention of medical errors, and risk management
- Instruction about PA licensure, credentialing, and laws and regulations regarding professional practice
- In addition, the program curriculum will include instruction in the PA profession and current trends to include:
 - Physician-PA team relationship
 - Political issues that affect PA practice
 - PA professional organizations

Finally, students will also engage in preparation for the PANCE exam, Curriculum Vitae creation, and preparation for job interviews.

ARTICLE 10.0 CURRICULUM MAP AND SCHEDULE

Curriculum Map and Schedule

		January				February				March				April				May				June				July				August				September				October				November				December																																							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52																																
Pre-Clinical (Didactic) Education - First 12 Months																																																																																					
Year 1	Break	Spring I																		Summer I																		Fall I																		Break																													
		-PA Profess -EBM -Pop Health -Funct/Prev -Pharm -Lab Orient																		-Human Anatomy I -Pathophysiology I -Medical Practice I (with PBL) -Physical Diagnosis I (with PBL) -Clinical Methods & Procedures I (with PBL) -Pharmacotherapy Principles I (with PBL) -Pediatric Medicine I (with PBL) -Geriatric Medicine I -Critical Thinking I (with PBL and IP) -Special Populations (First 5 weeks) -Psychiatry/Mental Health (Last 10 Weeks)																		-Human Anatomy II -Pathophysiology II -Medical Practice II (with PBL) -Physical Diagnosis II (with PBL) -Clinical Methods & Procedures II (with PBL) -Pharmacotherapy Principles II (with PBL) -Pediatric Medicine II (with PBL) -Geriatric Medicine II -Critical Thinking II (with PBL and IP) -Health Care Ethics (First 5 weeks) -Health Care Policy (Last 5 weeks)																			-Human Anatomy III -Pathophysiology III -Medical Practice III (with PBL) -Physical Diagnosis III (with PBL) -Clinical Methods & Procedures III (with PBL) -Pharmacotherapy Principles III (with PBL) -Pediatric Medicine III (with PBL) -Geriatric Medicine III -Critical Thinking III (with PBL and IP) -Foundations of Surgery -Global Health (includes 1 week intensive lab) -Foundations of Emergency Medicine (includes 1 week intensive lab)																		Finals	Break	Finals	Break	Finals	Break	Finals	Break	Finals	Transition to Clerkships	Break
		Finals																		Finals																		Finals																																															
		Break																		Break																		Break																																															
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Body System Topics by Term (Spring I-B)			
Dermatology	5%	3 wks	
Hem/Onc/Infectious Disease	6%	4 wks	
HEENT	9%	4 wks	
Neurology	6%	3 wks	

Body System Topics by Term (Summer I)			
Cardiovascular	16%	6 wks	
Pulmonology	12%	5 wks	

Body System Topics by Term (Fall I-A)			
Gastroenterology/Nutrition	10%	4 wks	
Endocrine	6%	3 wks	
Genitourinary/Reproductive	14%	4 wks	
Musculoskeletal	10%	4 wks	

Clinical Education - Second 12 Months																												
Year 2	Break	Spring II												Summer II						Fall II						Summative		Grad
		SCPE1			SCPE2			SCPE3			SCPE4			SCPE5		SCPE6		SCPE7		SCPE8		SCPE9		SCPE10		Sum		
		Week 2 - 5			Week 6 - 9			Week 10 - 13			Week 14 - 17			Week 20 - 23		Week 24 - 27		Week 28 - 31		Week 33 - 36		Week 37 - 40		Week 41 - 44		Week 45 - 48		
		Teamwork/Communication for Healthcare (Online)																										

SCPE Clerkships Occur in the Following	
Behavior Medicine	4 weeks
Emergency Medicine	4 weeks
General Surgery	4 weeks
Internal Medicine	4 weeks
Prenatal and Gynecology Medicine	4 weeks
Pediatric Medicine	4 weeks
Family Medicine I	4 weeks
Family Medicine II (Acute Care)	4 weeks
Family Medicine III (Underserved)	4 weeks
Elective	4 weeks

SCPE Clerkships Occur in the Following	
Behavior Medicine	4 weeks
Emergency Medicine	4 weeks
General Surgery	4 weeks
Internal Medicine	4 weeks
Obstetrics and Gynecology Medicine	4 weeks
Pediatric Medicine	4 weeks
Family Medicine I	4 weeks
Family Medicine II (Acute Care)	4 weeks
Family Medicine III (Underserved)	4 weeks
Elective	4 weeks

SCPE Clerkships Occur in the Following	
Behavior Medicine	4 weeks
Emergency Medicine	4 weeks
General Surgery	4 weeks
Internal Medicine	4 weeks
Obstetrics and Gynecology Medicine	4 weeks
Pediatric Medicine	4 weeks
Family Medicine I	4 weeks
Family Medicine II (Acute Care)	4 weeks
Family Medicine III (Underserved)	4 weeks
Elective	4 weeks

*This schedule is subject to change

ARTICLE 11.0 ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE (A3.14F; A3.14G)

11.1 Tuition

The standard undergraduate tuition rate does not apply to students who matriculate into the NGU PA Program. The following table outlines the program's *expected* tuition and fees for cohort 1 and cohort 2 academic process. It should be noted that tuition and fees might change from year to year subject to economic influences, the needs of the university, and needs of the program.

Semester	Tuition	Standard Fees	Total
Spring I	\$18,165	-	\$18,165
Summer I	\$18,165	-	\$18,165
Fall I	\$18,165	-	\$18,165
Spring II	\$18,165	-	\$18,165
Summer II	\$18,165	-	\$18,165
Fall II	\$18,165	-	\$18,165
Total	\$108,990		\$108,990

11.2 Payment (Application, Deposit, Tuition, and Fees) and Refunds

- **Application Fee:** All applications are received via CASPA (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com>). In March 2019, the cost for a CASPA application was \$179 for the first program you apply to and \$52 for each additional program. As a general rule, CASPA does not refund application fees. Information related to CASPA fees can be found at <https://portal.caspaonline.org/caspaHelpPages>.
- **Enrollment Deposit:** All applicants accepted into the program will be charged a \$1,500 nonrefundable deposit to hold their seat. This money will be applied toward their first semester tuition upon matriculation.
- **Payment:** 100% of semester tuition and fees are due at the beginning of the semester.
- **Refunds:** All program fees are nonrefundable. Tuition refunds are made as follows:

Refund Timeline	Spring Semester/s	Fall Semester/s	Summer Semester/s
Before Class Begins	100%	100%	100%
During 1 st Day	75%	75%	75%
During 2 nd Day	75%	75%	75%
During 1 st Week	75%	75%	75%
During 2 nd Week	50%	50%	50%
After 2 nd Week	0%	0%	0%

11.3 Program Required Expenses

The table below includes estimates of additional expenses incurred by the students.

	Cohort 2021			
	Year 1		Year 2	
Tuition Academic Year	\$54,495		\$54,495	
Diagnostic Medical Equipment	\$1,050			
Technology Supplies (Computer)	\$2,500		\$100	
Room, Board, Travel, Personal	\$22,836.00	Itemized	\$36,792.67	Itemized
Room and Board per Financial Aid		\$14,522.67		\$14,522.67
Travel - GSA per diem rate of \$0.535				
• Year 1 per Financial Aid		\$3,813.33		\$11,770
• Year 2 based on 50 mile radius of rotation sites (100 mile/day*5 days*44 weeks)				
Car Insurance		\$1,500		\$1,500
International Educational Trip (for eligible student ONLY)				\$6,000
Personal Expenses				
• Personal items (hygiene, cleaning supplies, clothing, etc.)		\$3,000		\$3,000
• Laundry				
• Medical Expenses (Medication, Copays, TB Screening, etc.)				
• WiFi				
Mandatory Costs of Attendance:	\$5,581	Itemized	\$5,761	Itemized
Criminal Background and Sex Offender Registry Search, National Healthcare Fraud and Abuse Scan, Residence History, and Social Security Alert. Due as follows:				
• Pre-Matriculation		\$150		\$150
• Pre-Clinical Rotations				
• As Required by Clinical Sites				
Due and/or verified by https://www.castlebranch.com				
12 Panel Urine Drug Screen. Due as follows:				
• Pre-Matriculation		\$41		\$41
• Pre-Clinical Rotations				
• As Required by Clinical Sites				
Due and/or verified by https://www.castlebranch.com				
Compliance Tracker Which Includes Verification of:				
• Signed Technical Standards Form		\$35		\$35
• Immunization Status				
• Tuberculosis Screening Results				
• CPR Certification				
• Release Form for Immunizations				
• Tuberculosis statu				
• Health Insurance Status				
Due as follows:				
• Pre-Matriculation				
• Pre-Clinical Rotations				
• As Required by Clinical Sites				
Due and/or verified by https://www.castlebranch.com				
Mandatory HIPPA and OSHA Certification		\$15		\$15
Due and/or verified by https://www.castlebranch.com				
Professional Organization Fees		\$100		\$100
Textbooks and misc. Supplies		\$1,000		\$1,000
Health Insurance based on current South Carolina premiums on Healthcare.gov marketplace		\$4,200		\$4,200
Graduate Parking Sticker		\$40		\$40
Online Class Fee				\$30
Graduation Fee				\$150
Total Cost to Attend (by Cohort Year)	\$86,462.00		\$97,148.67	
Total Cost of Attendance				\$183,610.67

ARTICLE 12.0 FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

12.1 Federal Stafford Student Loan Program

The primary source of financial assistance for students attending PA School will be the federal Stafford Student Loan Program. Beginning July 1, 2012, a Subsidized Stafford Loan will no longer be available, however graduate students may be eligible for as much as \$20,500 a year through the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan program. The student will be charged interest from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full. If the interest is capitalized (allowed to accumulate) it will be added to the principal amount of the loan and will increase the amount the borrower will have to repay. If the choice is made to pay the interest as it accumulates, the total interest charges paid during repayment will be considerably less.

The total amount a graduate or professional student may borrow from all Stafford Loans combined is \$138,500. The graduate borrowing limit includes any Stafford Loans received for undergraduate study. Under current law, the interest rate charged on Federal Stafford Loans is fixed. There are also origination and guarantee fees associated with each loan up to 1.0 percent. These fees are deducted up front and thus lower the actual amount of each disbursement. Repayment of Stafford Loans begins six months after graduation or withdrawal from the PA program. This is called the grace period.

12.2 Federal Graduate PLUS Loan Program

For students who need financial assistance beyond the \$20,500 Stafford Loan maximum, there is the federal Graduate PLUS Loan program. The PLUS Loan allows for the deferment of repayment while the student is enrolled in the PA program. The PLUS Loan carries a fixed interest rate. The maximum amount a student may borrow from the PLUS Loan program will be the Cost of Attendance for the PA Program less any Stafford Loans and other forms of financial aid a student may be receiving.

12.3 National Health Service Corps

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) scholarship is a competitive program that pays tuition, fees and provides a living stipend to students enrolled in accredited medical (MD or DO), dental, nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, and PA training programs. Upon graduation, scholarship recipients serve as primary care providers between 2 and 4 years in a community-based site in a high-need Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) that has applied to and been approved by the NHSC as a service site.

Awards are made to applicants most committed to serving underserved people and most likely to build successful careers in HPSAs and meet future needs for care throughout the nation. Please monitor the NHSC website <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/overview/index.html> for updated information on future application cycles.

12.4 Indian Health Service

Indian health programs need dedicated health professionals – people like you who envision a career with a purpose and mission and who are willing to commit to working in American Indian and Alaska Native communities where they can truly make a difference.

The mission of Indian Health Service (IHS) is to raise the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. Because of the IHS Scholarship Program, many qualified American Indian and Alaska Native health professionals are given the

opportunity to pursue their careers as well as help their own communities. More information can be found here: www.ihs.gov/jobscareerdevelop/dhps/scholarships

12.5 Military Scholarship

Air Force

<http://www.airforce.com/careers/detail/physician-assistant>

Navy

<http://www.navy.com/careers/healthcare/clinical-care/physician-assistant.html>

Army

<http://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/amedd-categories/medical-specialist-corps-jobs/physician-assistant.html>

12.6 Other Possible Funding Sources

Candidates and students are encouraged to apply to clubs, organizations, corporations, agencies and foundations for funding that may be used at any school the student chooses to attend. These groups may be able to offer students scholarship and grant funding that does not have to be repaid. In addition, many healthcare institutions offer tuition reimbursement for students who contract to work at their facility where they currently work or are interested in working after graduation. Students should inquire about this possibility at the facility where they are interested in working.

12.7 Student Academy of American Academy of Physician Assistants

Student Academy of American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA) provides a wealth of information on funding for PA education. The page linked below outlines (1) funding sources, (2) federal and state resources, (3) scholarships and traineeships, (4) AAPA constituent organizations scholarships, (5) loans, repayment programs, consolidation resources, and (6) other resources.

Link: <http://www.aapa.org/threeColumnLanding.aspx?id=1225>

ARTICLE 13.0 ACCREDITATION STATUS (A3.14A)

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation - Provisional status to the North Greenville University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by North Greenville University. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

ARTICLE 14.0 NCCPA PANCE PASS RATE (A3.14C)

The Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) is a computer-based, multiple-choice test that assesses basic medical and surgical knowledge. This examination must be successfully passed in order for graduates to become eligible for PA licensure.

The table below is designed to present PANCE performance data for graduates of the **North Greenville University PA Medicine Program**.

Class	First Time Takers	Program Aggregate	National Average
2018	100%	100%	98%
2019	Published Mid 2020	Published Mid 2020	Published Mid 2020
2020	Published Mid 2021	Published Mid 2021	Published Mid 2021
2021	Published Mid 2022	Published Mid 2022	Published Mid 2022
2022	Published Mid 2023	Published Mid 2023	Published Mid 2023

ARTICLE 15.0 COHORT ATTRITION RATE (A3.14)

At NGU the goal is to mentor and see each matriculated student through program completion, NCCPA certification, and active practice as a PA. We recognize, however, that attrition may occur and if it does it will be reported here.

Class	Enrolled	Program Completion	Attrition Rate
2018	Maximum of 20	20	0%
2019	Maximum of 25	Number of Graduates	8%
2020	Maximum of 30	Number of Graduates	1 student = 3%
2021	Maximum of 30	Number of Graduates	1 student = 3%
2022	Maximum of 30	Number of Graduates	1 student = 3%

ARTICLE 16.0 GOAL ATTAINMENT (A3.14B)

In addition to its mission, values, and goals, the NGU PA Medicine Program has established graduate goals/benchmarks. Following graduation of the inaugural cohort and annually thereafter, inclusive of each additional subsequent graduating class, alumni will be surveyed to determine the programs goal attainment. NGU will start gathering benchmark goal data in mid 2020. Benchmarks include:

PANCE PASS RATES	Timeline	Desired Result
PANCE: First Time Pass Rate	1 Year	96% (National Average)
PANCE: Cumulative Pass rate	1+ Years	93% (National Average)
PA Employment		
NGU Graduate PA Employment in South Carolina	1+ Years	41% (Data Based)
NGU Graduate PA Employed in Upstate South Carolina (One of 10 designated counties)	1+ Years	20% (Desired)
NGU Graduate PA Employed in Primary Care Practice (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics)	1+ Years	36% (Data Based)
NGU Graduate PA Employed in Underserved Population or Area	1 + Years	8% (Data Based)
Leadership/Volunteerism		
NGU Graduate PA is Involved in the Community (Search and rescue, community emergency response team, volunteer fire department, free clinic volunteer, health center volunteer, etc.)	1+ Years	50% (Entry Goal)
NGU Graduate PA Serves in Areas Outside Local Community (One developing country medical mission a year)	1+ Years	50% (Entry Goal)
NGU Graduate PA has a Leadership Role in the PA Profession (Leadership role in AAPA, NCCPA, AMA, State Medical Board, etc.)	1+ Years	25% (Entry Goal)

ARTICLE 17.0 CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, feel free to contract the program at pa.admissions@ngu.edu.

NGU DEPARTMENT OF PA MEDICINE CURRICULUM HANDBOOK REVIEW

The handbook has been reviewed and approved by the (1) Program Policy and Procedure Committee, (2) Program Evaluation Committee, and (3) the PA Medicine Program Director.

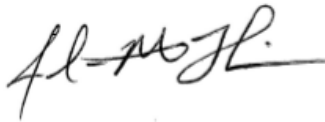
Approval Date

Original: December 10, 2015 (Dr. Isgett/Dr. Davenport; PA Medicine Faculty)

Review Approval: July 27, 2017

Review and Revisions: March 28, 2019

Signature/s



Jordan Hairr, MSPAS, PA-C
Program Director for the Department of PA Medicine

Review Process

NGU DPAM Policy and Procedure Committee and Program Executive Committee reviewed this document on December 18, 2018 and unanimously approved it.

The next annual review, is set for December 2019.

Policy Changes

Date and Change (any change to this policy will be dated and listed below this heading; old policy archived; updated policy changed to reflect version [r.e. V1.0x])

- V1.02: January 7, 2016:
 - Transition to clerkship (DPAM5198) moved to last week of pre-clinical year [Article 10.0]. Change in timeline helps (1) summarize training to date, (2) perform summative testing that evaluates preparedness for clerkship year, (3) and discuss clerkship expectations, and (4) professionalism during the clinical year. Approved by Curriculum Committee during discussions on this date.
 - Teamwork and Communications for Integrated Healthcare SH changed from 2 to 3; overall program SH changed from 130 to 131. Approved by Curriculum Committee during discussions this date.
- V1.03: June 29, 2016
 - Human Anatomy, Pathophysiology, Medical Practice, and Physical Diagnosis courses are fractionated into lecture (standing alone) and breakout session experiences where case presentations help promote aspects of each course. Approved by Curriculum Committee during discussions this date. Entered into program self-study process.
 - Changed outstanding pre-requisites, at time of application, from one to two and extended the completion date to October 1 (transcript due by November 1) prior to matriculation date.
- V1.04: October 17, 2016
 - Updated applicant requirements per discussions held on October 4, 2016 (admissions committee).

- ARC-PA accreditation status updated to Accreditation-Provisional.
- Meningococemia vaccine requirement removed.
- December 20, 2016. Document reviewed. Formatting changes.
- March 3, 2017: Updated Curriculum to reflect current plan
- March 20, 2017: updated BREAKOUT SESSION concept to include clinical methods and procedure and pharmacotherapy.
- V1.06: April 21, 2017. Complete review made between the Dean for the Graduate School of Health Science and the PA Medicine Program Director. BREAKOUT SESSION distribution updated (Medical Practice and Critical Thinking will use BREAKOUT SESSIONS as part of the course instruction).
- May 9, 2017. Clarified prerequisite grade evaluation. In a class where a lab is required, the total score of the course and lab are combined to determine if the 3.0 threshold is met.
- July 27, 2017. Curriculum sequence update; V1.xx title changed to DPAM Admissions Handbook where all future updates are noted here, at end of document.
- November 7, 2017. Updated program associated costs.
- November 28, 2017. Updated schedule jpg.
- January 5, 2018. Updated due dates for upcoming admission cycle. Updated CASPA costs.
- March 21, 2018. Updated Article 10.0 Curriculum Map and Schedule to reflect new Clinical Year schedule. Updated schedule to reflect dates for the upcoming cohort. Updated Article 11.1 Tuition, Article 11.2 Payment (Application, Deposit, Tuition, and Fees) and Refunds, and Article 11.3 Program Required Expenses for the upcoming cohort.
- December 18, 2018. Updated dates to reflect the upcoming admissions cycle. Updated Article 11.1 Tuition, Article 11.2 Payment (Application, Deposit, Tuition, and Fees) and Refunds, and Article 11.3 Program Required Expenses for the upcoming cohort. Provided clarification for Matriculation requirements outlined in Article 7.0. Updated Article 3.1.1 60 SH review and Article 4.1 Special Considerations. Removed weekly calendar example.
- March 28, 2019. Updated Article 2.0 CASPA Participation to reflect 2019 CASPA cost. Removed Medical Terminology from tables in Article 3.1 and 4.2 prerequisite requirements as it was not required and only highly recommended. Updated wording for Article 3.4 for clarification for paid health care experience. Updated Article 11.1 Tuition, Article 11.2 Payment (Application, Deposit, Tuition, and Fees) and Refunds, and Article 11.3 Program Required Expenses for the upcoming cohort. Updated Article 14.0 with the Cohort of 2018 PANCE Pass Rate.
- May 29, 2019. Fixed typographical error in Article 11.1 table.