



University of Findlay

Department of Physician Assistant

Master of Physician Assistant Program

Student Handbook
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Contents

I. General Information	7
A. The University of Findlay Mission Statement:	7
B. PA Program Mission	7
C. PA Program Vision	7
D. PA Program Goals	7
E. PA Program Competencies	8
F. PA Program Core Values	9
G. Handbook Revision Policy	9
H. MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR	10
II. DEFINITION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	11
III. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION	11
A. HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT	11
B. ACCREDITATION HISTORY	11
IV. CURRICULUM/PROGRAM DESIGN	13
A. CURRICULUM CONSTRUCT	13
B. CLINICAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCES	13
V. PA PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM CURRICULUM	14
VI. University Policies Affecting PA Students	16
A. Refund Policy	16
B. Financial Aid	16
C. Student Services	17
1. Change of Name/Address	17
2. Photocopying/Printing	17
3. Academic Support Services	17
4. Office of Accommodation and Inclusion	17
5. Career Planning and Placement	17
6. Library Resources	17
7. Security	18
8. Parking	18
9. Computer Services	18
10. Computer Software	18
VII. Program Policies and Procedures	19
A. Computer Policy	19

B. Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom _____	19
C. Student Work Policy _____	21
D. Attendance - General Policies and Procedures _____	22
E. Registration for courses in the Program _____	23
F. Registration Terms _____	24
G. Program Orientation _____	24
H. Program Participation Overview _____	24
I. Student Conduct _____	24
J. Code of Ethics of the Physician Assistant Profession _____	25
K. Honor Code _____	25
L. Student Substance Use Policy _____	25
M. Unlawful Harassment _____	25
N. Background Check _____	26
O. Professional Liability Insurance _____	26
P. Student Leave of Absence Policy _____	26
Q. Student Voluntary Withdrawal Policy _____	27
R. Readmission Protocol _____	28
S. Disciplinary Action _____	28
T. Student Grievance/Appeals Process _____	28
U. Americans with Disabilities Act _____	28
V. Student Rights and Responsibilities _____	29
W. Student Identification _____	29
X. Inclement Weather Policy: _____	29
Y. Professional Attire _____	30
Z. Academic Evaluation Performance Standard _____	31
AA. Violation of Policies and Procedures _____	32
BB. Academic Integrity _____	32
CC. University of Findlay Physician Assistant Program Judiciary Committee _____	35
VIII. Matriculation and Progression _____	36
A. Matriculation into and Progression Through the Didactic Phase of the Program _____	36
B. Matriculation into the Clinical Year _____	36
C. Progression Through the Clinical Phase of the Program _____	37

D. Academic Probation, Deceleration, and Dismissal	38
E. Professional Behavior: Standards and Professional Probation vs. Dismissal	39
F. Grading Policies and Standards	41
IX. STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS	44
A. Matriculation and Pre-Clinical Health Requirements	45
B. Student Health Services	46
C. Health Insurance Policy	46
D. Health Status	46
E. General Student Bloodborne and Airborne Exposure Policy	46
F. Student Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Policy	47
Steps to Follow After Exposure	50
G. Tuberculosis Screening	51
H. Counseling/Mental Health Services	51
X. SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM STANDARDS	51
A. Clinical Setting Behavioral Standard	52
B. Supervised Clinical Practice Professional Comportment Standards	58
C. Communication with Program and Program Personnel	59
D. SCPE Site Placement	60
E. Sequencing of the Clinical Year	61
F. SCPE Performance Evaluation Standard	61
G. Performance Evaluation Outcomes	62
H. SCPE Discipline-Specific and General Medicine Quizzes	63
I. Non-pass/Failing SCPE Grades	63
J. Appealing the Clinical Portion of a Grade	64
XI. STUDENT RESEARCH STANDARDS	67
A. Research Conduct Standards	67
B. Evaluation of Research	67
XII. Dismissal from the PA Program	67
A. Poor Ethical Conduct and/or Poor Professionalism	67
B. Failure to Meet Minimum Academic Standards	67
C. Failure to Comply with the Attendance Policy	68
D. Cases of Academic or Professional Misconduct	68

E. Suspension	68
XIII. Completion of the PA Program	68
A. Course Completion	68
B. Summative Evaluations	68
C. Declaration of Graduation	69
D. Grade Point Average	70
E. Professional Probation	70
F. University Requirements	70
G. Remediation of “at-risk” Students	70
XIV. STUDENT/PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	70
A. AAPA	70
B. SAAAPA	70
C. OAPA	71
D. NCCPA	71
E. ARC-PA	71
XV. PROGRAM AND STUDENT RESOURCES	72
A. Program Personnel:	72
B. Physical Resources:	72
XVI. QUICK LIST DIRECTORY	72
A. University Administration	72
B. PA Program Personnel	73
C. Adjunct PA Program Faculty	73
D. Support Services	73
XVII. STANDARD PA PROGRAM FORMS	74
Student Handbook Acknowledgement and Academic Integrity Form	75
ABSENTEE FORM	76
Record of Accidental Exposure Form	77
Record of Program Follow-up of Student Exposure to PIM3 Form	79
Academic Dishonesty Form	80
Student Generated Preceptor Contact Form	81
Inability to Obtain the Minimum Number of Required Clinical Hours Form	83
The University of Findlay	84

Master of Physician Assistant Program Technical Standards Acknowledgement Form _____	84
<i>XVIII. Guidelines for Ethical Conduct For The Physician Assistant Profession Policy Of The American Academy Of Physician Assistants _____</i>	86
<i>XIX. Anatomy Lab Procedures _____</i>	94
A. Gross Anatomy Laboratory Guidelines _____	94
Open Lab Policy _____	97
<i>XX. Request for Clinical Accommodations _____</i>	99
<i>XXI. COVID-19 _____</i>	100
<i>XXII. University of Findlay Non-Discrimination Policy _____</i>	103
<i>XXIII. Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct _____</i>	104
<i>XXIV. UF PA Program Technical Standards _____</i>	105

ARC-PA Standard A3.01: Program policies must apply to all students, principal faculty, and the program director regardless of location. A signed clinical affiliation agreement or memorandum of understanding may specify that certain program policies will be superseded by those at the clinical site.

ARC-PA Standard A3.02: The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply its policies and practices to all students.



I. General Information

A. The University of Findlay Mission Statement:

The mission of The University of Findlay is to equip our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.

B. PA Program Mission

The Physician Assistant Program at The University of Findlay is committed to providing its students with the medical knowledge necessary for them to become ethical, competent, and compassionate health care providers who deliver superior quality health care to the community in which they practice and to communities throughout the world.

C. PA Program Vision

The University of Findlay Physician Assistant Program will be well respected and known for its high quality education, research and leadership initiatives in Physician Assistant education. Our faculty will continue to be innovative educators and leaders within the physician assistant community at both the state and national levels. The program will generate compassionate and genuine healthcare providers who are committed to the profession and who will make significant contributions toward advancing our profession. We will do this by encouraging our students to reach above and beyond their own expectations and strive for excellence. Last, our program will become a significant constituent in relation to the surrounding communities and will continue to actively seek ways to further healthcare delivery through our program.

D. PA Program Goals

At the satisfactory completion of the requirements of the Master of Physician Assistant degree from The University of Findlay, the graduate will be able to:

1. Evaluate diverse clinical situations by applying knowledge of anatomy, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, and health promotion and disease prevention.
2. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that facilitate the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, families, and other health professionals.
3. Provide care that is effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of wellness as a member of the health care team.
4. Demonstrate professionalism by practicing in a competent, legal, and ethical manner as a physician assistant and as a member of the health care team, serving a population of patients of all ages in diverse environments.
5. Assess and improve delivery of patient care through appropriate use of learning resources, self-reflection, and commitment to lifelong learning.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger system of health care to provide patient care that is of optimal value, and demonstrate an understanding of needs and priorities for cost-effective health care, resource allocation, and uncompromised quality of care.

E. PA Program Competencies

1. Medical Knowledge

- a. Evaluate diverse clinical situations by applying knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, and health promotion and disease prevention.
- b. Apply medical knowledge and clinical reasoning to interpret information gathered from the history, physical examination and diagnostic procedures to formulate, develop, and implement appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic management plans for a diverse patient-centered population across the age span.

2. Interpersonal Skills

- a. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that facilitate the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, families, and other health professionals.
- b. Provide patient education and counseling through the effective use of appropriate communication techniques while demonstrating awareness of cultural diversity.
- c. Accurately and adequately document and record information regarding the care process for medical, legal, quality, and financial purposes.

3. Clinical and Technical Skills

- a. Provide care that is effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of wellness as a member of the health care team.
- b. Demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families to establish a therapeutic patient-provider relationship.
- c. Provide services and education aimed at preventing health problems and maintaining health.
- d. Establish rapport with team members, maintain appropriate boundaries in work and learning situations, relate well to students, faculty, and health care professionals in a collaborative environment.
- e. Competently perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures expected of the generalist physician assistant.

4. Professional Behaviors

- a. Demonstrate professionalism by practicing in a competent, legal, and ethical manner as a physician assistant and as a member of the health care team, serving a population of patients of all ages in diverse environments.
- b. Demonstrate sensitivity and compassion toward patients in need, take time and effort to explain information to patients, listen empathetically to both the sick and the well patient acknowledging his/her concerns, show respect for patient's confidentiality, and put the patient's best interest first.
- c. Exhibit adherence to legal and regulatory requirements and ethical practices in relation to duty of care and inter-professional teamwork.

5. Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving

- a. Assess and improve delivery of patient care through appropriate use of learning resources, self-reflection, and commitment to lifelong learning.
- b. Locate, appraise, and integrate evidence from scientific studies related to patient health problems.
- c. Critically evaluate one's own performance to identify strengths and develop plans to resolve weaknesses.
- d. Apply information technology to manage information, access on-line medical information, and facilitate lifelong learning.
- e. Appropriately address gender, cultural, cognitive, emotional, and other biases; gaps in medical knowledge; and physical limitations in oneself and others.

6. Systems-Based Practice

- a. Demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger system of health care to provide patient care that is of optimal value, and demonstrate an understanding of needs and priorities for cost-effective health care, resource allocation, and uncompromised quality of care.
- b. Effectively function within different types of medical practices and delivery systems.
- c. Demonstrate knowledge of different types of payment systems in health care.
- d. Collaborate with supervising physician and other health care providers to promote a safe environment for the delivery of quality patient care.

7. Cultural Humility

- a. Exercise cultural humility towards all patients regardless of disability status or special health care needs, ethnicity/race, gender identity, religion/spirituality, and/or sexual orientation.
- b. Demonstrate awareness of “self” in regards to biases and actions that may affect patient care.

F. PA Program Core Values

Competency Achievement
Academic Excellence
Student Advocacy
Ethical Conduct

G. Handbook Revision Policy

The information contained in the PA Student Handbook is an extension of current graduate policies and procedures of The University of Findlay and the College of Health Professions. Since the implementation of the curriculum remains dynamic and therefore subject to continuous review and improvement, the provisions listed are directive in nature and subject to change without prior notice.

The University of Findlay Physician Assistant Program reserves the right to modify/edit the student handbook including policy and procedure additions, deletions, and modifications at any time. Students will be notified of any such changes in writing in the form of an addendum or new handbook (electronic or hard copy format) and are then under the jurisdiction of the new/modified material. Students will sign an acknowledgement form when presented with the changes.

All revisions apply to all enrolled students at time of notification, whether or not there is a signed acknowledgement form received.



H. MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

Welcome to the Master of Physician Assistant Program at The University of Findlay! As an enrolled student you will participate in an innovative educational experience designed to foster learning, service, and leadership. I encourage you to take full advantage of the unique opportunity to be a student in an academic program dedicated to preparing competent and patient centered individuals for the rewarding career of a practicing physician assistant.

The PA program faculty and I are committed to delivering education of the highest quality in an atmosphere of mutual respect and concern for each other, the community, and society. Our goal is to create a learning environment where you can maximize your academic pursuits, develop lifelong learning skills, and gain competency in health care services provided by entry level physician assistants.

To participate fully in the physician assistant program please read this *Student Handbook* carefully and completely. Important information is provided in this handbook to ensure your awareness of and compliance with the academic policies and procedures adopted by the PA program and The University of Findlay. A statement confirming that you have received and read this handbook is required of every student and is maintained in your program record. (Refer to *Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form*) While this handbook is discussed fully at your program orientation, you are always welcome to contact the program if you have any questions.

On behalf of the PA program faculty, I extend our best wishes for your success in the Program and ultimately in your goal to become one of tomorrow's physician assistants.

COVID-19 Statement:

Please be aware that due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, a change to fully online course/content delivery may be required. If such a change occurs, all assignments, exams, quizzes, and course information will be administered in Canvas. Changes to the schedule, with the exception of the scheduled final examination for the course, may also be required and will be communicated through Canvas and email. Please be sure to pay attention to Canvas notifications and emails from your instructor. Due to changes that may occur, a change in the format of the clinical year in addition to the didactic year may occur in addition to a possible delay to the start of the clinical year or a delay in graduation/completion of the program. See the end of the handbook for a more detailed statement regarding COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Hopkins, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C
Program Chair/Director, Associate Professor of Teaching in Physician Assistant
The University of Findlay
College of Health Professions

II. DEFINITION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Physician assistants are certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) – a mark of professional accomplishment – and state-licensed. They are health professionals who practice medicine as members of a team with their supervising physicians. PAs deliver a broad range of medical and surgical services to diverse populations in rural and urban settings. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications.

The PA's responsibilities depend on the type of practice, his or her experience, the working relationship with physicians and other health care providers, and state laws.

PAs are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

III. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The University of Findlay established a bachelor education program for the physician assistant in 1999 under the direction of Paul Davis, MD, who served both as Medical Director and Founding Program chair/director. The program obtained initial accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission, Inc. (ARC-PA) on 27 April 2000 and obtained its most recent continuing accreditation status in 2016. Dr. Davis retired from the PA program in 2005 and was succeeded by Cynthia Pentz, PA-C. Cynthia Pentz left the program in 2008 and was succeeded by interim Program Director Kay Ericson, PA-C.

In 2008 students enrolled in the bachelor program were offered an option of completing the existing bachelor level program or transitioning to the state and national regulatory education agency approved, modified and extended program leading to a master degree. This program required students to earn additional credits in key content areas commensurate with graduate level education and absent in the bachelor degree program. Students who completed the transition program earned a MPAS degree (Master of Physician Assistant Studies). This particular degree awarded was approved for this transition cohort of students only. The University of Findlay did not admit students in 2009 to either the bachelor or MPAS programs.

A new graduate education program construct for the physician assistant leading to a MPA (Master of Physician Assistant) award was developed under the leadership of Diane Zywojko, MPM, PA-C, PA Program chair/director/Chair. This program was approved by the state of Ohio and welcomed the members of its charter class in January 2010 along with a new medical director and a full cadre of dedicated core and adjunct faculty.

Paul T. Davis, MD, resumed the role of Program chair/director/Chair in 2010. The program start date has been changed resulting in classes now matriculating in the fall semester. Richard Hopkins, DMSc, PA-C, an existing faculty member and UF PA program graduate, assumed the role of program chair/director following the retirement of Paul T. Davis MD in May 2014.

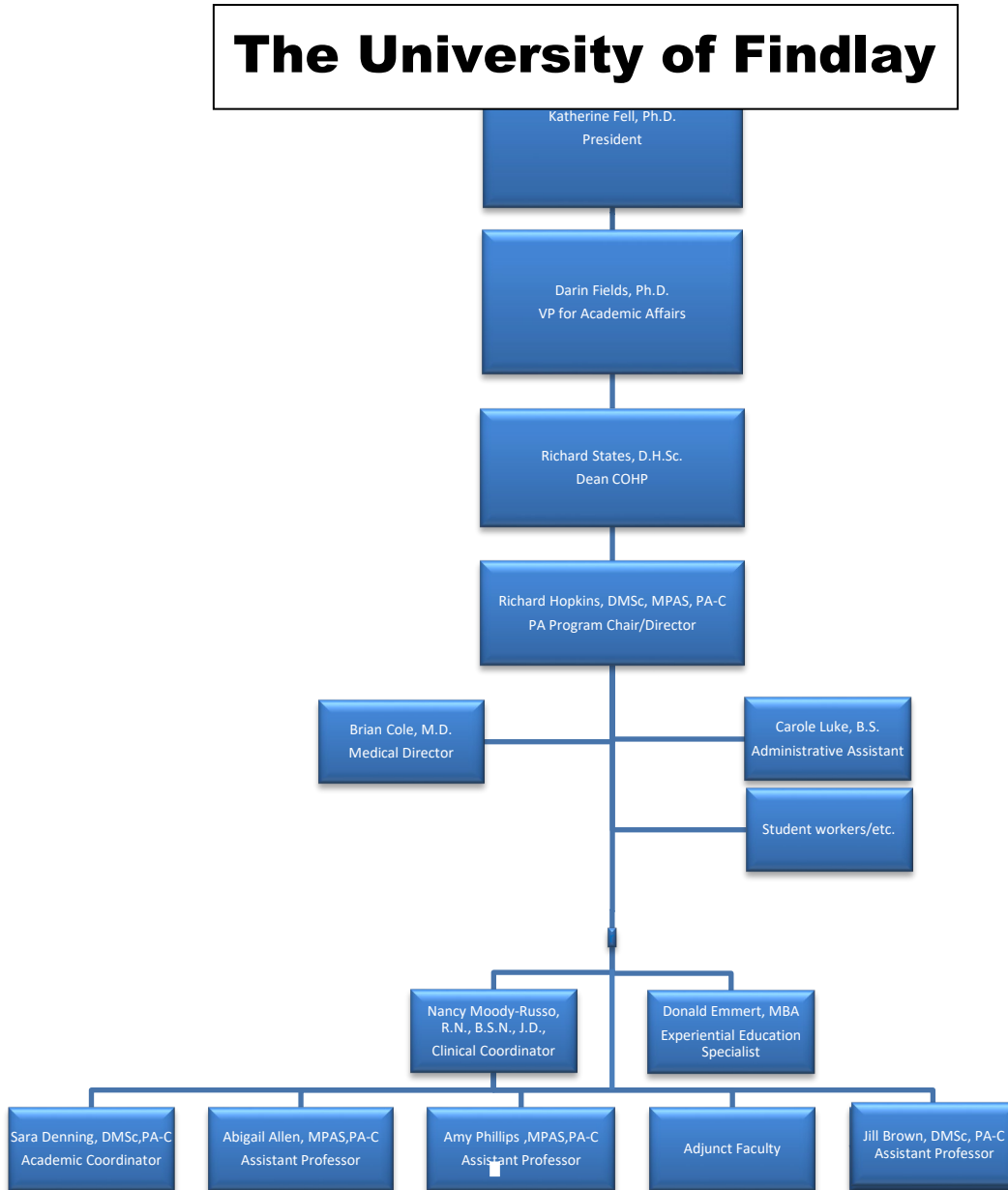
B. ACCREDITATION HISTORY

The Physician Assistant Program has been accredited since April 2000. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation - Continued to The University of Findlay Physician Assistant Program sponsored by the University of Findlay. Continued accreditation is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Continued Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The date of the most recent

comprehensive site visit of the program by the ARC-PA was March 21, 2016. In September of 2016, the PA program was awarded 10 years (the maximum length of time) of continued accreditation until the next site visit.

C. PA PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



IV. CURRICULUM/PROGRAM DESIGN

A. CURRICULUM CONSTRUCT

The Master of Physician Assistant (PA) Program at The University of Findlay (UF) is a professional degree program intended to prepare students academically and professionally for responsibilities, services, and leadership as a physician assistant. This graduate education program consists of two phases spanning 28 months over seven semesters and a total of 95 credits. Phase I (didactic phase) represents the pre-clinical year and spans 4 semesters (16 months) and 67 program credits. Phase II (clinical phase) represents 28 program credits through eight diverse supervised clinical field experiences (Supervised Clinical Practice or SCPEs) over a period of 48 consecutive weeks. Phase II also includes 1 credit of research and 3 credits of seminar-format learning. Categorical learning domains include basic medical sciences, clinical medical sciences, clinical diagnostics, clinical patient care skills and interventions, professional development, research, and multiple field practice experiences.

The program reserves the right to modify the curriculum sequence as deemed appropriate. The program additionally reserves the right to add additional courses after obtaining the approval of the University's curriculum change process committees.

B. CLINICAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCES

Each SCPE spans a 6-week period and begins and ends over the course of the second phase of the program (clinical field education) along with the on-campus classes.

All PA students advance through the required SCPEs (PHAS611-617) and one elective (PHAS618) during the second phase of the program. Only students deemed to be in good academic standing by the program are permitted to complete an elective. Specific SCPEs may be assigned to students deemed at risk by the clinical coordinator in place of an elective.

Students may submit a request for a particular discipline for PHAS618 with the understanding that the sequence of clinical placements is determined by the Clinical Coordinator (CC).

Whenever possible, students are placed at clinical sites within a 150-mile radius of Findlay, Ohio. However, due to changes in availability of individual clinical sites, it is sometimes necessary for a student to travel further than this distance.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS INCURRED FOR TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING DURING ALL SCPEs whether placed there by their choice or placed there by the program. Students should expect to need alternate housing for at least one clinical rotation due to distance.

It is the responsibility of the PA Program and not the students to identify and schedule sites used for the SCPEs. (ARC-PA standard A3.03)

It may be possible for a student to suggest a clinical site for his or her use that is or is not part of the established clinical network of preceptors. Such sites must meet all of the established educational goals for the clinical experience and must agree to become legally affiliated with The University of Findlay PA Program during the time the student is attending the site. The priority will be focused on established local sites and establishing new local sites (including, but not limited to, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation). However, no student is permitted to contact a potential preceptor directly. All contact information must be provided to the PA program's clinical coordinator to make contact with preceptors. Failure to follow this protocol can result in dismissal from the program. Students must seek approval from the Clinical Coordinator prior to making any contact with *any* prospective preceptors.

It is the discretion of the PA Program to utilize student-identified sites and not all students may be placed at sites which they identify/request. Note that this is especially difficult in cases of pandemics/etc.

V. PA PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM CURRICULUM

MPA CURRICULUM SEQUENCE: Beginning FALL 2020 and forward (see previous editions for cohorts starting before FA2020)

Didactic Phase	(67 credit hours)	Semesters 01 - 04	
FA20	Year 1	August – December	<u>20 credits</u>
	PHAS 500	Mechanisms of Health and Disease	4 credits
	PHAS 501	Clinical Anatomy	5 credits
	PHAS 502	Physical Assessment I	3 credits
	PHAS 505	Clinical Inquiry and Communication	1 credit
	PHAS 534	Community and Individual Wellness	3 credits
	PHAS 507	Orientation to the Physician Assistant Program and Profession	2 credits
	ADDC 500	Fd & Cx Aprches to Tx of Sbs Use D/o	2 credits
SP21	Year 1	January – May	<u>18 credits</u>
	PHAS 510	Clinical Medicine I	5 credits
	PHAS 511	Clinical Pharmacology I	3 credits
	PHAS 514	Clinical Patient Care I	3 credits
	PHAS 508	Medical Ethics	1 credit
	PHAS 513	Health Care Systems, Policy, and Practice	1 credit
	PHAS 512	Physical Assessment II	3 credits
	ADDC 600	Fd & Cx Aprches to Tx of Sbs Use D/o	2 credits
SM21	Year 1	June –August	<u>12 credits</u>
	PHAS 520	Clinical Medicine II	6 credits
	PHAS 523	Clinical Heuristics and Decision Making	1 credits
	PHAS 532	Fundamentals of Surgical Patient Care	3 credits
	PHAS 541	Clinical Pharmacology II	2 credits
FA21	Year 2	August-December	<u>17 credits</u>
	PHAS 533	Behavioral Medicine	3 credits
	PHAS 530	Clinical Medicine III	5 credits
	PHAS 531	Fundamentals of Emergency Care	3 credits
	PHAS 535	Evidence –Based Case Management	2 credits
	PHAS 551	Clinical Pharmacology III	2 credits
	PHAS 522	Clinical Patient Care II	2 credits

Clinical Phase MPA Curriculum Semesters 05 - 07 Total Credits: 4+24 = 28credits

Semester 05 Spring Phase 2 Year 2 January - May
 PHAS 601 Developing a Reflective Practitioner 1 1 credit

Semester 06 Summer Phase 2 Year 2 May - August
 PHAS 603 Developing a Reflective Practitioner 2 1 credit
 PHAS 606 Leadership Symposium 1 credit

Semester 07 Fall Phase 2 Year 2 August – December
 PHAS 605 Developing a Reflective Practitioner 3 1 credit

Semester 05, 06, 07 Phase 2 Year 2 January – December 24 credits
 PHAS 611 Supervised Clinical Practice in Family Practice 3 credits
 PHAS 612 Supervised Clinical Practice in General Internal Medicine 3 credits
 PHAS 613 Supervised Clinical Practice in General Pediatrics 3 credits
 PHAS 614 Supervised Clinical Practice in Women’s Health 3 credits
 PHAS 615 Supervised Clinical Practice in General Surgery 3 credits
 PHAS 616 Supervised Clinical Practice in Emergency Medicine 3 credits
 PHAS 617 Supervised Clinical Practice in Psychiatry/Mental Health 3 credits
 PHAS 618-00 Supervised Clinical Practice in Elective 1* 3 credits

- The program is developing an international/intercultural experience that may be incorporated into an existing rotation. You must apply for this through the program and additional instructions will be provided.
- Each SCPE course (supervised clinical practice) spans a 6 week period and begins and ends over the course of the second phase of the program (clinical field education) with the on-campus classes PHAS601-606.
- All PA students advance through the required SCPEs (PHAS611-617) and one elective (618-00) during the second phase of the program in compliance with program and university policies. Students may submit a request for a particular discipline for PHAS618-00* (* from among listed sections 618-XX) with the understanding that both the sequence of clinical placements from among the 7 required disciplines as well as the one elective is determined by the Coordinator of Clinical Education and is subject to change based on the number, specialty, and location of preceptor sites. The program strives to place each student in a non-surgical setting for their first SCPE.

VI. University Policies Affecting PA Students

*All PA students should refer to the University Graduate Catalog which contains all University policies and procedures regarding non-program-specific circumstances including, but not limited to, admission, appeals, dismissal, probation, student rights, and student responsibilities. The UF Graduate Catalog can be found at <http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Graduate-Catalog>.

A. Refund Policy

A student who withdraws from the PA Program, takes an authorized leave of absence, or is requested to withdraw from the Program, is eligible for a refund in compliance with university and financial aid policies and practices and in conjunction with federal regulations. Copies of these policies and examples of refund calculations are available in the Office of Financial Services (419-434-4791) and available at the UF web site www.findlay.edu keyword “financial aid”. No refunds are given for the entrance deposit.

B. Financial Aid

Responsibility for meeting educational expenses rests with the student. Questions may be directed to the Office of Financial Aid at 419-434-4791 or findaid@findlay.edu which is available to assist you with your financial aid questions and concerns. Students are encouraged to be familiar with the timelines followed by the financial aid office for the disbursement of loan funds for graduate students in the Master of Physician Assistant Program.

Students applying for financial assistance may be eligible for all standard sources from state and federal assistance, discipline-specific scholarships and grants. Information on the various financial aid opportunities available to PA students is available through the financial aid office located in Old Main. All students are strongly encouraged to explore their eligibility and options for financial aid through the university Financial Aid Office and other organizations. Financial aid counselors are available on both an appointment and walk-in-basis.

To assess each applicant’s financial need, UF requires the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be completed. All students seeking financial assistance are required to apply for the maximum subsidized federal Stafford Loan. Applications for these loans are available through the Office of Financial Aid as well as directly on-line www.fafsa.ed.gov; please note to subscribe and electronically sign the electronic FAFSA you will need a PIN number. A PIN number may be requested by using the link to the PIN website on the FAFSA home screen, or, directly by accessing the website, www.pin.ed.gov. Financial aid is not automatically renewed.

Once enrolled in the program, a student needs to submit the FAFSA and reapply for financial aid each year if continued support is needed. Refunds to students who officially withdraw from the program are personal matters specific to the individual and ascertaining details on refund policies and practices remains solely the responsibility of the withdrawing student.

Supplies are required for many of the courses and payment will be made directly to the UF PA program. The financial aid office is supplied a spreadsheet of when these costs typically take place to aid in the distribution of your available financial aid. All course-associated costs must be paid before a student is able to matriculate to the next semester. A grade of ‘incomplete’ will be recorded for courses with remaining balances which will result in affected students not being able to progress through the program.

- **Richard E. and Jean K. Davis Scholarship**
 - The family and friends and the University’s physician assistant alumni established the Richard E. and Jean K. Davis Scholarship in honor of their many years of dedicated service to others. This scholarship was created to encourage students from locales that are medically underserved to pursue a career as a physician assistant
- **Dr. Paul and Jane Davis Physician Assistant Endowment**
 - Dr. and Mrs. Paul Davis established this fund primarily to assist Physician Assistant students and faculty in attending conferences. Dr. Davis was an Assistant Professor for the Physician Assistant Program at The University of Findlay from July 1997 through May 2010. He then served as the Associate Professor and Chair of the PA Program from June 1, 2010 until his retirement on May 15, 2014. He was also the founding program director of the UF PA Program.

C. Student Services

Students are encouraged to consult the current UF Graduate Catalog for more complete information concerning student services (<http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Graduate-Catalog>). The following information is supplied to cover areas that may be of specific interest to PA students.

1. Change of Name/Address

Students are **required** to notify the PA program of any change in name, address, email address, or telephone number. In addition, students must notify the Office of the Registrar.

2. Photocopying/Printing

Lamination materials are available for purchase in the resource center in the Davis Street building. Students are not permitted to use the photocopier in the PA Program Office. Printing stations are available at multiple locations on campus, including but not limited to the library, computer labs, and the basement of BCHS. Students are permitted a set number of free copies/prints per semester and can purchase additional if needed. Photocopying by students in the PA office is not permitted.

3. Academic Support Services

The University of Findlay provides complete academic support through the Academic Support Services office. The office is located in room #45 in the basement of Old Main. Specific services offered through this office include help with test taking, study skills, and specific academic areas of study. For further information, contact the Academic Support Services office at 419-434-4697. The Oiler Success Center is located on the first floor of Old Main, room 122, and is available to assist students with progression through their academic programs and retention at UF.

4. Office of Accommodation and Inclusion

The Office of Accommodation and Inclusion provides accommodations and services for students with:

Attention Deficit Disorder

Attention Deficit with Hyperactivity Disorder

Cognitive Disorders

Deaf

Health-related Impairments

Hearing Impairments

Learning Disabilities

Physical Disabilities

Visual Limitations

Temporary conditions that limit academic participation

Contact can be made by calling 419-434-5532 or emailing oai@findlay.edu.

5. Career Planning and Placement

The Career Planning office and Career Placement office are available to provide students assistance with resume writing, interviewing, and all aspects of potential employment upon graduation as alumni. To contact these offices, call 419-434-4665 (Career Placement) and/or 419-434-4615 (Career Planning).

6. Library Resources

Shafer Library currently houses volumes/texts, periodical subscriptions, microfiche, Audio Visual items, and government documents as well as E-books and E-journals. The building also contains the University Archives, one technology enhanced classroom (S117A), two meeting rooms (S104 and S221-Special Collections) and three group study rooms (S212, S213, and S214) in addition to a 24-hour student lounge.

Catalogue holdings for the Shafer Library are computerized and students have access to both the OhioLINK and Ohio Private Academic Libraries (OPAL) networks. These services provide access to the holdings of many Ohio colleges and university libraries.

OPAL is a consortium of libraries in independent institutions of higher education in the State of Ohio. OhioLINK offers six main electronic services: a library catalog, research databases, a multi-publisher electronic journal center, a digital media center, a growing collection of e-books, and an electronic thesis and dissertations center. The University of Findlay also participates in Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a bibliographic utility, and OHIONET, a library services network.

Catalogue holdings may be accessed through the internet via the library's page through the UF website. Student's internet accounts also provide them access to library catalogues across the United States and research databases such as MEDLINE. Full-text journal articles from many medical journals are available from campus via services offered through the library. ProQuest® online information resources is available on the Shafer Library computers. ProQuest® contains a library of 400 medical journals, the majority of which have full-text articles available from 1998 to the present.

7. Security

The University of Findlay maintains an [Office of Safety and Security](#) that is staffed by UF employees who provide security services on campus. The campus is patrolled 24 hours a day. They will escort students or faculty who may need to walk through campus alone.

To contact a security officer, dial extension 4799.

The University of Findlay has installed security cameras in all parking lots and in most of the buildings and common areas on campus, and emergency blue light phones on the main campus.

The University of Findlay has established a Crisis Response Plan that provides important information to students, faculty and staff on what to do in the event of an emergency. This plan can be viewed on-line from the Office of Safety and Security web page. Additionally, the University has established a Campus Violence Addendum to the Crisis Response Plan that establishes a program to prevent violence on campus. This Addendum includes information on what types of behaviors to report as well as what to do when confronted with a threatening situation. This plan can also be viewed on-line from the [Office of Safety and Security](#) web page.

8. Parking

University parking permits are available through the University Security Office. The cost of these permits is included in the yearly student activity fee. The University of Findlay's parking rules and regulations will be given to you once you obtain your permit.

9. Computer Services

All UF students are eligible for an internet account which includes access to the World Wide Web from campus as well as an e-mail address. It is the student's responsibility to secure a UF email address. Since all official electronic communications from the PA Program to the students will be sent to their UF email address, having this address and frequently (bare minimum of every other day) checking it is required. Apple Macintosh and Microsoft Windows PC computer labs are available in Old Main and Shafer Library in addition to other labs on campus. Hours for all computer labs are published by computer services.

10. Computer Software

The University of Findlay is currently under a Microsoft Campus Agreement (MCA). Through this, registered students can purchase specific Microsoft software products to be used on a personally owned computer. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the huge savings the MCA provides.

Throughout the year, these products can be [purchased online](#) (some products are free for students). All students must have access to fully functioning versions of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, and may need access to Excel. If you are using other brands/formats, it is up to you to make sure it is compatible with whatever is being done at the time.

You will be required to login using your UFnet account username and password.

VII. Program Policies and Procedures

The PA program complies with all the policies and practices of the governing sponsoring institution, The University of Findlay. Program-specific policies and procedures administrated by the PA Program are described in terms of a “standard” to which the program holds as the optimum measure of engagement and/or outcome and justly enforces. These standards, which apply to all enrolled PA students in the College of Health Professions at The University of Findlay, are clarified below and, in some instances, program policies may be more stringent and supersede those of the University of Findlay:

A. Computer Policy

- 1.0 All students enrolled in the UF PA program are required to have a laptop computer or tablet with the same capabilities as a laptop computer. It must have a working webcam, microphone, and speaker at all times.
- 2.0 The computer must be compatible with Microsoft Office and have the ability to connect to the internet. Many notes, handouts, assignments, etc. are only available electronically. Students will also utilize their laptops for online testing while in the program (didactic and clinical phases). The computer must be able to support “Proctorio” (a testing/proctoring software program) or other similar software if used by the Program. Testing/etc. may occur outside of the standard class day and students are responsible for having reliable internet access.
- 3.0 It is the student’s responsibility to maintain access to their computer in working order and have the ability to print and/or submit documents as required by the PA program and access the internet for research and testing. Failure to maintain a working laptop may result in a student being unable to participate in some program activities (i.e., testing) which may result in failing grades or loss of points. It is not the responsibility of the program to provide loaner computers or repair damaged computers.
- 4.0 Documents submitted to the program/faculty (assignments, forms, etc.) must be able to be opened by the faculty and therefore must be submitted in as a standardized document. Faculty may make specific submission requirements (i.e., only accept docx).
- 5.0 Failure to have a working computer/printer as described above or the inability to access the internet is not an acceptable excuse for missing or late assignments (computer labs are available on campus for student use). Violating the above may result in any credit awarded for missing/late assignments being at the discretion of the instructor (typically a “0”). Repeat offenses will result in “Professional Probation” and may result in dismissal from the program.

B. Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom

- 1.0 Technology use in the classroom is intended to enhance the learning environment for all students. It is the responsibility of the course instructor to decide when, if, and what type of technology is to be used during class.
- 2.0 Any use of technology that degrades the learning environment, promotes dishonesty, or is used for illegal activities is prohibited.
- 3.0 Each course instructor has the authority to decide whether or not student behavior is disruptive in his/her classroom.

- 4.0 This applies to the use of all electronic devices as well as phones. Disruptive episodes will be handled as follows:
- 4.01 The instructor will ask the student to cease the disruptive behavior.
 - 4.02 If the behavior persists, the student will be asked to leave the classroom and shall be referred to the program chair/director for further disciplinary action.
 - 4.03 The student will be placed on “Professional Probation” within the program.
 - 4.04 In accordance with the current Graduate Catalog which identifies obstruction or disruption of teaching research, administration, disciplinary procedures or other authorized activities on University-owned or -controlled premises as a type of misconduct of a non-academic nature which may subject a student to suspension or dismissal, the student may be dismissed from the program at the discretion of the program chair/director.
- 5.0 The use of mobile computers (including tablet computers) in class is at the discretion of the instructor.
- 5.01 Instructors are asked to consider allowing the use of mobile computing devices to take notes and for activities formerly done in computer labs.
 - 5.02 The instructor may restrict the use of laptops to specific purposes and may prohibit other uses such as messaging, game playing, and Internet surfing during class time.
 - 5.02.a If possible, the instructor should outline mobile device usage guidelines for the class at the beginning of the semester, preferably in the syllabus.
 - 5.02.b The instructor can change electronic device usage guidelines if circumstances warrant.
 - 5.03 Instructors may require students to leave all electronics and personal items at the front of the room during testing times or class time.
- 6.0 Mobile phones can be disruptive in the classroom in a number of ways and their use should not be abused.
- 6.01 Ringtones must be turned off in class, and if on, phones must be in vibrate mode. Students may be asked to leave their phones in their book bags/etc. or leave them at the front of the room if problematic.
 - 6.02 If there is a need to check for and/or receive a call (parent with sick child and similar needs), the student must inform the instructor in advance that the student may need to excuse him/herself to take an important call. This may not be permitted during exams.
 - 6.03 Students should refrain from text messaging in the classroom unless the instructor has given permission.
 - 6.04 Students who create a disturbance by mobile phone use will be warned and may be asked to leave the class session if the behavior continues.
 - 6.04.a Such behavior will result in Professional Probation and/or dismissal from the program if repetitive in nature.
- 7.0 **Electronic devices and academic dishonesty and/or illegal activities:** The course instructor can ban or limit the use of these devices in ways that might promote academic dishonesty.
- 7.01 Incidences of dishonesty will be handled referencing the current University policies on dishonesty.

- 7.02 Cell phones with text messaging or photo/video capabilities, PDAs, watches, and other electronic devices with similar capabilities, could be used for cheating on examinations and instructors should make students aware that having a cell phone in hand during an examination can bring a suspicion of (and possibly charges of) violating University honesty policies.
- 8.0 Sanctions for minor disruptions with cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices may include a warning, course grade penalties, and/or professional probation.
- 8.01 If a student is asked to leave class due to additional infractions of the instructor's restrictions (following a personal warning), the instructor is not obligated to allow make up of examinations/quizzes or other graded assignments missed during the session in which the student was not in class.
- 9.0 **Appeals:** Any appeals related to a course instructor's or facility director's restrictions on communications and use of electronic devices should be addressed to the department chairperson or faculty/staff member's supervisor.

C. Student Work Policy

- 1.0 Students are **strongly discouraged** from working in any form of employment while enrolled in the UF PA program.
- 2.0 Outside activities and working are not considered to be valid excuses for poor academic performance or lack of attendance at required PA program activities.
- 3.0 It is especially important during the clinical phase of the program that students be available to their preceptors on short notice for special learning opportunities outside of regular office hours. This requirement precludes the ability to work outside jobs. Failure to fully participate in all SCPE-related activities is considered abandonment of the SCPE and will result in failure of the SCPE unless it is an excused absence per program guidelines.
- 4.0 Students enrolled in the PA Program cannot substitute for practicing physician assistants or provide unsupervised services common to a certified PA while at any learning or employment site while enrolled in the program. (*Standard A3.05, 5th Edition*)
- 5.0 Students credentialed as other non-PA professionals cannot substitute as staff in their credentialed discipline while in the role of a physician assistant student. (*Standard A3.05, 5th Edition*)
- 6.0 Students are not staff and/or employees of the program while in the role of a learning student and as a result must not be required to earn a stipend/salary for their services while a physician assistant student. (*Standard A3.05, 5th Edition*). Students are not required to work for the UF PA program (*Standard A3.04, 5th Edition*).
- 7.0 Students are not permitted to substitute for or function as instructional faculty. (*Standard A3.05, 5th Edition*)
- 8.0 Students failing to follow the above Student Work Policies will be subject to disciplinary action ranging from but not limited to professional probation to dismissal from the PA program. The disciplinary action taken is at the discretion of the PA program based on the severity of the infraction.
- 9.0 Students will serve as "patients" for other PA students in lab and competencies/OSCEs. This is not employment/work and the goal of being both the "provider" and the "patient" with a lab partner/etc. during these experiences is to further develop a sense of empathy to realize what patients are experiencing when you are performing a physical exam, taking a history, etc. Additionally, PA students will interact with College of Pharmacy students in the second semester during the pharmacy students' physical assessment labs. This is a part of interprofessional education where pharmacy students are learning how/what PAs do professionally and you will be learning more about the expectations of pharmacists. PA students will also

participate in health fairs and similar activities as clinical experiences through which knowledge, skills, and professionalism can be assessed.

D. Attendance - General Policies and Procedures

- 1.0 Students must keep the hours between 8AM and 5PM available during weekdays (Monday through Friday) to accommodate schedule changes and activities mandated by the PA program. Care for dependents should be secured during these times as a lack of childcare/eldercare/pet care/etc. will not be considered an excused absence (even on short notice) other than in emergent situations. No outside appointments are to be scheduled during apparent “open” times in the schedule (especially between 8am-5pm) without the approval of the PA program (complete an absentee form in advance to request the time) and documentation of such will be retained in the office with the program administrative assistant for your file. In addition, there may be evening and/or classes/events that are scheduled/re-scheduled on short-notice at which attendance may be mandatory outside of the 8AM-5PM window.
- 2.0 To facilitate and maximize learning opportunities, attendance at all scheduled didactic sessions in the PA Program is mandatory. Students are expected to be on time for each class. Each course director has the option to establish his/her own attendance policies which shall be published in the course syllabus if they differ from program policies. When no instructor-specific policy has been published in the syllabus, the PA program policies on attendance are in force. “On time” means the student is in their seat with the appropriate educational materials (e.g., laptop, pencils, etc.) and food/drink needs ready for class to start.
- 3.0 Students are expected to attend any guest lectures, events, seminars, etc. as deemed mandatory by the PA program. The Program will make every attempt to notify students of these activities in a timely manner; however, educational/professional/informative opportunities may develop with short notice. These activities may occur outside of the standard 8am-5pm window (may occur in the early mornings/evenings/weekends) and students are expected to attend. Required activities may involve travel and lodging which will be at the student’s expense. Outside personal, family, and/or work commitments are not valid excuses for missed attendance.
- 4.0 Students who fail to attend required events, regardless of when they are informed of such events, may be placed on professional probation, be assigned additional work/activities, or may have the course grade (if applicable) lowered. Repeat offenses may result in dismissal from the program.

Penalties for missing classes shall be up to the individual course instructors and may include but are not limited to grade reduction and/or make-up requirements for classes missed in addition to the possibility of Professional Probation.

- 5.0 Excused absences may be permitted and students are required to follow the same procedures for being excused from courses and other PA program activities. Students who anticipate an absence from any class have the responsibility to notify the PA Program course instructor/s (and Clinical Coordinator if during the clinical phase) or administrative assistant if the faculty/CC cannot be reached on a daily basis and complete the “Absentee Form” available in the program office and in the forms section of this handbook.

A student may be excused from a class on an individual basis upon the verbal or written permission of his or her course director or Program chair/director. In an emergency and when no faculty member is available, the student is expected to notify the Administrative Assistant, appropriate faculty member, or the Program chair/director.

- 6.0 Membership and participation with the UF PA Program Physician Assistant Student Society (PASS) is a mandatory activity and is used to aid in assessment of professionalism. Failure to participate will result in being placed on Professional Probation. Students are required to participate in PASS events in addition to program academic requirements (exams, classes, etc.) unless removed from participation by the Program.

- 7.0 Individual courses may have additional policies and procedures superseding those of the PA Student Handbook that are specific to the given course or faculty member.
- 8.0 Attendance at on-campus classes in the face of inclement weather should align with university inclement weather policies and closing announcements posted on the website/or media announcements. Students may also call 1-800-472-9502 for confirmation. See “Inclement Weather” policy (on-campus PA classes and clinical rotations are cancelled for Level III snow/weather emergencies even if classes are being held for the remainder of the campus).
- 9.0 Attendance records including the Absentee Form will be utilized for consideration for evaluation of substandard performances and letters of recommendation upon graduation.
- 10.0 The PA program reserves the right to assess attendance records of those students who have a serious or prolonged illness and to determine their ability to successfully progress through the curriculum.
- 11.0 The individual instructor has the right to refuse admittance to any student who is chronically tardy although the student is still responsible for any material covered during that time and will need to complete the Absentee Form. “Tardy” is defined as a student not being at his/her assigned position and ready to begin at the class start-time.
- 12.0 An excused absence does not mandate that the student be allowed to make up any missed work as a result of the absence. The instructor may use his or her discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain missed material such as lecture notes and handouts.
- 13.0 Any absence in violation of the course instructor’s attendance policy or not approved by the course instructor is considered an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences may result in a student having to repeat a course.
- 14.0 Chronic absenteeism may be used as a reason for dismissal from the program if the course instructors, Program chair/director, Academic Coordinator deem dismissal is warranted. The final decision will be made by the Program chair/director with advice from the PA faculty.
- 15.0 Excused/Emergency absences generally include but are not limited to the following:
 - Death of an immediate family member
 - Natural disaster
 - Significant personal injury
 - Childbirth

In cases such as those above, the student must make a reasonable effort to notify the program as soon as possible. If contact prior to the absence is not possible, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the program immediately following the absence. The student must make arrangements for making up any missed work that is permitted within one week of the absence.

E. Registration for courses in the Program

Matriculating students will be advised of procedures for registration, payment of fees, and other pertinent information in writing in advance of classes starting.

- 1.0 In order to register for course work, all new students must have satisfied all pre-program requirements and submitted a deposit and confirmation form to reserve their seat in the matriculating cohort class. All continuing students must have fulfilled all financial obligations to the university for the previous semester and must be academically eligible for progression to the next semester.
- 2.0 Students **must** sign the Online Financial Agreement prior to being registered for **each** semester. Students can sign the forms for multiple semesters at one time by changing the date/time period. Failure to do this

in a timely fashion will result in a delay in the student being registered which may affect the timely delivery of financial aid.

- 3.0 The Academic Coordinator and Clinical Coordinator will oversee the registration process (serve as academic advisor) for all students for all courses. Students must self-select courses in WorkDay to register themselves with a final approval from the Academic Coordinator. A delay in a student self-registering for classes can significantly impact the availability of financial aid and students will not be permitted to progress into the next semester if they are not registered.
- 4.0 Note that the PA Program will not always be on the same schedule as the UF calendar, especially during the clinical year. There may be times/days when the general University is closed/classes are not in session, but the PA Program will have events and/or classes in session. Students are still expected to be present at SCPEs even when the University is closed/not in session unless due to weather/excused absence.

F. Registration Terms

Active Enrollment: Student who is currently enrolled in the program and is eligible to continue within the graduate program as defined by the UF Graduate Catalog enforced at the time of entry into the PA program.

Voluntary Withdrawal: Student in good academic standing who elects to withdraw from the PA Program during the period of a semester startup to and including one full week before final exams and formally informs the Program Chair/Director.

Directed Withdrawal: Student who is directed in writing by program or institutional leadership to withdraw from the PA Program for specified reasons while maintaining appeal process options.

Leave of Absence – A student in good academic standing who seeks a medical leave of absence or personal leave of absence by informing the Program Chair/Director in writing.

G. Program Orientation

The PA program sponsors a mandatory orientation program for matriculating students before the first day of class on designated dates. The orientation must be successfully completed to matriculate into the fall semester. This is a two-credit hour course, PHAS 507 – failure to successfully complete the orientation course results in dismissal from the program.

H. Program Participation Overview

Matriculated PA Students are expected to complete the designated professional curriculum in the sequence specified by the program's design. Each semester's coursework is to be considered pre-requisite to the next semester's coursework. Students are required to successfully complete, in sequence, all coursework as full-time-students progressing as a cohort. There is no opportunity to alter the didactic course work sequence.

No transfer or advance placement credit is accepted, including courses taken at a medical school or other PA school. (ARC-PA Standard A3.13c, 5th Edition).

I. Student Conduct

Physician assistant students are required to abide by all academic, clinical, and professional comportment policies as described in the governing University Graduate Catalog, the PA Student Handbook, and the program's Technical Standards. Failure to abide by/perform all of the above can result in dismissal from the program. The ability to perform all technical standards is a requirement to advance through the UF PA program (see XXIV UF PA Program Technical Standards).

J. Code of Ethics of the Physician Assistant Profession

(Applies to PA students as well)

“Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession”, (Adopted 2000, amended 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, reaffirmed 2013) AAPA website, accessed 4/12/2019.

http://www.aapa.org/your_pa_career/becoming_a_pa/resources/item.aspx?id=1518

All UF PA students are held to the highest ethical and moral standards due to the nature of their work and responsibilities. Students who fail to adhere to these standards in terms of conduct, professional demeanor or professional attire will be subject to being placed on Professional Probation. If such actions are severe or could potentially endanger the public, the student will be dismissed from the PA program with no opportunity for readmission.

K. Honor Code

Every student is assumed trustworthy and committed to maintaining honor and professional ethics purported by the profession’s national organization. Students will be found in violation of the Honor Code with acts of lying (including plagiarism), cheating, or stealing while enrolled as a student in the PA program or if engaging in an action that constitutes a violation of administrative rules, civil and or/ criminal laws of the United States. Each matriculant to the PA program is required to present a signed copy of their pledge to not engage in any dishonorable or dishonest act in all program/school matters. This signed Honor Code pledge (see below) will be filed in the individual’s student record. See Section VIII. Academic Integrity of the University Graduate Catalog.

“I will not knowingly engage in any dishonorable behavior, cheat, steal, lie or commit any act of plagiarism during my academic work, course, or endeavor. If I observe an act which I believe violates the University’s Honor Code, I may, in my discretion, report it to the appropriate personnel. I acknowledge that any assignments/papers I submit may be put through a software program which detects plagiarism.”

L. Student Substance Use Policy

As a professional program of health service, the PA Program promotes a healthy lifestyle with avoidance of the use of tobacco products, controlled substances, or the abuse of alcohol.

- 1.0 Participating in a Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (SCPE) or any PA program-sponsored patient care activities as well as didactic class time while under the influence of intoxicating substances is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal from the program. Intoxication during PA program-sponsored non-patient care activities may result in professional probation to dismissal from the program.

M. Unlawful Harassment

The University and the PA Program considers harassment in any form as reprehensible and intolerable behavior and it is prohibited. Relationships involving unlawful harassment have no place at the university or at any university sponsored event. Unlawful harassment subverts the mission of the institution and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Policies and procedures regarding filing any complaint of harassment can be found in The University of Findlay Graduate Catalog (section X). The University has established a Campus Violence Addendum to the Crisis Response Plan that establishes a program to prevent violence on campus. This Addendum includes information on what types of behaviors to report as well as what to do when confronted with a threatening situation. This plan can also be viewed on-line from the [Office of Safety and Emergency Management](#) web page.

These policies and practices include protection for and prohibit retaliation against individuals making a complaint or supplying information concerning a complaint. Protection for a person who considers himself or herself falsely accused has also been incorporated.

University of Findlay's Title IX Policy Regarding Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct can be found at <https://www.findlay.edu/offices/student-affairs/title-ix/>.

N. Background Check

- 1.0 All students are required to undergo a criminal background check upon admission to the PA program and again just prior to the clinical phase of the PA program.
- 2.0 Should a student have a prior felony conviction or be convicted of or plead guilty to a felony while a student in the PA program, he/she should be aware that criminal conduct may have implications for their ability to continue within the program and/or receive training at certain clinical education sites.
 - 2.01 This could also affect eligibility to enter practice.
- 3.0 A finding of a prior conviction of an assault-related felony will result in denial of admission and/or dismissal of the student from the PA program.
 - 3.01 If a matriculated student is convicted of any other felony, the decision about continuation in the program will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- 4.0 The costs associated with these background checks are the responsibility of the student, not the program.
- 5.0 Contact the PA Program Administrative Assistant for instructions in accessing how to complete a background check if any questions. The program will document completion of the background check.
- 6.0 The PA program and The University of Findlay cannot guarantee that a student will be eligible to complete the program or attain employment as a PA-C if he/she has a criminal record. It is up to the student to determine if he/she should continue in the program if they have something that is found on a background check – there may be instances where the student will be permitted to continue in the program but clinical sites will not accept them during the clinical year rendering them unable to complete their education.
 - 6.01 **Students with felony convictions** are encouraged to contact the medical board or other appropriate regulatory agency in the state where they anticipate practicing upon graduation prior to their matriculation into the PA program to determine if it will be possible for them to obtain licensure after graduation and passing the national certifying examination. Misdemeanors (depending on type and number) can also affect one’s ability to obtain licensure and/or practice as a PA. It is the sole responsibility of the student to ensure whether or not they are able to practice after graduation as, it is possible to complete the program and not be able to practice clinically due to convictions prior to and while enrolled in the PA program.
7. If a student is not a US citizen, it is up to the student to contact the NCCPA to ensure eligibility to take the national certification exam as well as to contact each state/location where they intend to practice to determine whether or not they are eligible for state licensure.

O. Professional Liability Insurance

Students are provided student liability insurance (\$1 million of professional liability each claim and \$5 million aggregate) by The University of Findlay which is effective only at assigned supervised clinical practices and assigned clinical experiences. This coverage terminates upon completion of the program. This insurance will not cover any activity not sanctioned by the PA program.

P. Student Leave of Absence Policy

- 1.0 A PA student in good academic standing, (overall and session GPAs of 3.0 or above {at that point in the session} with no more than one grade of “C+” and no grades of “C” or below in any courses in the PA program), after presenting a written request to the Program Chair/Director, may be granted an official leave for personal or medical reasons for a period not to exceed one calendar year. If the condition occurs during the didactic phase of the program and involves greater than two weeks of absence, the student will not be permitted to continue in that given semester and will decelerate into the next cohort when medically cleared and repeat those courses as “audit” (but must meet the same grade requirements as if it was for a grade). Exceptions may exist in instances where remote learning may be possible for a short duration of time. If a

condition necessitates a student needing to be out of the program for greater than one calendar year, but less than two calendar years, they will have a guaranteed seat in the program but must restart the program in the next available cohort taking all courses for academic credit (no audit) regardless of their current academic standing or progression/phase within the program. If a condition necessitates a student needing to be out of the program for greater than two years, he/she must reapply to the program. No leaves will be granted during the final two weeks of an active/current semester (students must complete the current semester and the leave will start with the subsequent semester) with rare exceptions as deemed necessary by the PA Program Chair/Director. (See UF graduate catalog for university readmission requirements)

- 2.0 If the leave is approved, the Program Chair/Director will provide written notification, including applicable beginning and ending dates, to the student.
- 3.0 It is the responsibility of the student to notify the registrar and the office of financial aid (if applicable).
- 4.0 The student must notify the Program Chair/Director in writing of his or her wish to return to the Physician Assistant Program at the time the leave is granted with an anticipated re-entry date.
- 5.0 Eligibility to return from a leave of absence caused by a student's medical illness or injury must be based upon the student being free of communicable disease, appropriately managed behavioral conditions, and having the ability to meet the PA program's defined technical standards.
 - 5.01 The student is responsible for providing documentation from the health care professional that provided the treatment or was the main coordinator for such treatment that he/she is "cleared" to resume a seat in the PA program.
 - 5.02 The PA program **must not** intentionally be made aware of the exact diagnosis or treatment, only that the student has recovered sufficiently to resume their studies.
- 6.0 When a leave is granted, the student will be required to restart the program with the next matriculating cohort if the leave occurs while the student is in the didactic phase of the program. The student will be considered a "decelerated student" and repeat all coursework either for a grade or for audit at the discretion of the program. Students auditing courses must meet the same course and program requirements as if the courses were taken for a grade. When a leave is granted for a student in the clinical phase of the program, he/she will not be made to restart the program, but only to complete the clinical year courses not yet completed.
- 7.0 In all cases of leave, the student is required to complete the full curriculum to be eligible to earn the MPA degree.
- 8.0 The student who fails to re-enter the program by or prior to the anticipated date for return to the program will be required to reapply for admission to the program.
- 9.0 For purposes of deferring payment of student loans during a program-approved emergency leave, there may be federal regulations limiting the amount of leave a student can take without financial penalties. It is the student's responsibility to address this concern and any questions should be directed to the office of financial affairs.

Q. Student Voluntary Withdrawal Policy

Should a student choose to withdraw from the program for personal or academic reasons, he/she is recommended to first meet with their adviser and complete a Voluntary Withdrawal Form. A scheduled meeting with the Program Chair/Director must follow to review the proposed action and garner consultation for options and implications. Students withdrawing from The University of Findlay or taking a leave of absence must meet with a representative of The Oiler Success Center to be withdrawn from the courses in which they are currently registered.

Individual course withdraw: If a student withdraws from an individual course without the approval of the PA program director, he/she is ineligible to progress in the PA program. Students must successfully complete each

course in a given semester of the didactic phase of the program in order to progress into the next semester. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program regardless of the grade earned/recorded for the course (i.e., “W”).

R. Readmission Protocol

- 1.0 Students who have not completed all PA program requirements and have withdrawn may or may not be eligible for readmission.
 - 1.01 Students should contact the program chair/director to determine eligibility for readmission.
 - 1.02 These students must reapply to the program by completing a new CASPA application.
 - 1.03 This does not apply to students who are approved for a leave of absence and are decelerated into the cohort beneath them and do not need to reapply for admission.

S. Disciplinary Action

The PA program complies with all University procedures regarding disciplinary action. Additional program-specific policies as outlined within the Student Handbook will also be enforced.

T. Student Grievance/Appeals Process

Students have the right to due process involving grievances and appeals processes and procedures for both academic and non-academic grievances. Students experiencing difficulties within the academic program who obtain unfavorable evaluations or feel they are being unfairly graded are encouraged to first address these issues with the Course Faculty member and/or Course Director and then if not resolved, with the Program Chair/Director, as needed. The student can appeal to the Graduate Academic Standards Committee for academic grievances. This committee is comprised of graduate faculty members and organized by the registrar. This committee processes student appeals in several academic areas. Appeals are to be submitted in writing to the Registrar with a clear explanation of what is being requested and reasons for the request and must include a statement from the student’s faculty adviser concerning the appeal. <http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Graduate-Catalog/Appeals-Records-and-Concerns>

Non-academic grievances not resulting in suspension or dismissal from the program or institution are not subject to appeal and are final when rendered. The appeals process can be found in the UF Graduate Catalog at <http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Graduate-Catalog/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities-Statement/IV-Disciplinary-procedures-in-instances-of-student-misconduct-of-a-non-academic-nature-not-subject-to-suspension-or-dismissal>

Students appealing decisions regarding SCPEs will need to follow the University appeals process as outlined in the UF Graduate Catalog: <http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Graduate-Catalog/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities-Statement/IX-Policies-Regulating-Experiential-Learning>.

University of Findlay's Title IX Policy Regarding Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct can be found at <https://www.findlay.edu/offices/student-affairs/title-ix/>.

U. Americans with Disabilities Act

- 1.0 The University of Findlay does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. However, PA students must meet the Technical Standards of the UF PA Program.
- 2.0 The University of Findlay does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

- 3.0 Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may be forwarded to the ADA Compliance Office in the Academic Support Center, room #45 in the basement of Old Main (419)434-5532 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.
- 4.0 Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of The University of Findlay are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.
- 5.0 This statement is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- 6.0 Any student admitted to The University of Findlay who has documentation identifying a disability has the right to request and receive modifications in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- 7.0 *If you are a student admitted with a disability, it is your responsibility to register with The Office of Accommodation and Inclusion and notify your instructor at least two weeks prior to a needed service so reasonable accommodations can be made.*
- 8.0 It is the responsibility of the student, not the faculty member, to ensure that exams and other accommodations are scheduled/set within the parameters of a given faculty member's policy. For instance, some faculty may permit exams to be taken after the exam time or date assigned to the remainder of the cohort (depending on the content and format of the exam), while others may require the exam to be completed at the same time, on the same day, or earlier. The testing center has limited availability and students must make arrangements in advance to ensure that their needs are met.

V. Student Rights and Responsibilities

All University students have certain rights and responsibilities. Refer to The University of Findlay webpage, keyword "[Student Rights and Responsibilities Statement](#)".

W. Student Identification

All students are required to wear a name-tag that includes identification of program sponsorship, discipline, and student status while on supervised clinical rotations or when required by the PA program. In some instances, clinical affiliation sites will require additional identification and nametags to be worn. The University of Findlay name-tags will be provided by the PA program.

X. Inclement Weather Policy:

Students who are attending classes at The University of Findlay are not expected to travel to class when the University is officially closed.

- 1.0 All University closings are announced on local radio, television channels, and the UF website.
- 2.0 Students who do not have access to local radio, TV, or internet are advised to call 800-472-9502 for this information.
- 3.0 Students who are unable to travel to class due to treacherous travel conditions are to call and notify the PA program office.
 - 3.01 Students are expected to use their best judgment in deciding whether or not to travel.
- 4.0 Students at Supervised Clinical Practice (SCPE) sites not affected by the adverse weather conditions are required to attend their SCPE even if the University is closed.

- 5.0 Students at an SCPE site that has significant adverse weather conditions must use their best judgment in consultation with their preceptors in determining their clinical site attendance regardless of the University's status. Students are not permitted to travel to their clinical site if they are in a location under a level three snow/travel/etc. emergency (the site, their home, or a significant area of travel). If they are travelling through an area under a level III to reach their clinical site (i.e., neither their home nor the SCPE site are under a level III condition, but they must drive through an area that is), students should refrain from attending their clinical site or seek an alternate route to travel.
- 6.0 If a class/course is cancelled due to inclement weather, the course instructor(s) will determine the "make-up time" for the course.

This may occur during pre-set testing/lab blocks or during other times the faculty member is available that do not conflict with other PA program courses/requirements (including evenings or weekends if necessary). This may also occur via electronic means and/or self-study.
- 7.0 All PA program classes will be cancelled if a level three emergency is declared in Hancock County regardless of whether or not the university remains open. Individual faculty members may cancel their individual classes if a level three emergency is declared in their county of residence or they deem it too dangerous to travel. See number 6.0 above for makeup classes.

Y. Professional Attire

- 1.0 Students while attending classes at The University of Findlay PA Program will be required to dress professionally as outlined below.
- 2.0 Students will be required to wear short white jackets with business/professional attire and their UF ID badges when attending any clinical experience or as directed by the program.
- 3.0 Each student must have a working watch with a second hand or a device with a timer present at all times.
- 4.0 Students may choose to purchase a long white jacket to be worn only during their anatomy laboratory experience. (Refer to directives of course facilitator.)
- 5.0 Students are expected to wear business casual attire while in class and/or attending any program event where professional/business attire is not required (slacks, dress, skirt/blouse/sweater, dress shirt or collared polo/golf shirt, slacks, and appropriate shoes). Low cut dresses/tops and any revealing clothes are not permitted. Jeans, leggings, tight clothing, overly baggy clothing, tennis shoes, sandals, and open-toed shoes are not considered professional attire. Any jewelry (male or female) should be worn with professional discretion.

5.01 When presenting for class or an event, professional/business attire is required in place of business casual (e.g., button-down shirt and tie in place of a polo shirt or button-down shirt only).
- 6.0 Professional appearance includes good hygiene, absence of visible body piercing/tattoos, and clean shaven appearance, kempt appearance. Artificial nails are not acceptable in the clinical setting and any painted and/or artificial nails are NOT permitted during a surgery rotation. Trendy hairstyles may not be permitted in some clinical settings.
- 7.0 "Dress-down" is defined as wearing blue jeans, non-revealing shorts, and informal shirts or blouses (no ripped, torn, or cut-off clothing). No ½ shirts/crop tops/etc. will be permitted.
- 8.0 Dress-down days occur when instructed by the PA program/faculty. Students are permitted to dress down and wear shorts/etc. over the summer semester and on Fridays of the fall and spring semesters as long as clothing is not ill-fitting (too tight, too short, etc.) and in good repair (not stained, torn, etc.) if

approved by the program. In general, to be approved by the program, there must be nearly 100% completion of the course/faculty evaluations for the preceding semester.

- 9.0 Final Exam week falls under “dress-down day” unless otherwise announced.
- 10.0 Students may find it necessary to bring a change of clothes and/or casual clothing when engaged in lab sections of courses such as Physical Assessment or Clinical Patient Care. Scrubs may be acceptable if authorized by the faculty. For lab competencies, the “provider” (student who is being assessed) is expected to be in professional attire (shirt, tie, slacks, blouse, dress, etc.) with their student white lab coat and medical equipment – the “patient” should be appropriately dressed for area assessed (shorts, t-shirt, sports bra, etc.).
- 11.0 While on SCPEs mini clinical experiences:
 - 11.01 Students will comply with established dress code policies of the PA Program and host institution during clinical education placements. Students will follow instructions from preceptors/sites regarding appearance (i.e., shave face, remove piercings, cover tattoos, shower, etc. if instructed). Failure to do so may result in failure of the SCPE, professional probation, or removal from the program depending upon the severity of the infraction.
 - 11.02 Clean and pressed short white lab coats with proper identification are mandatory (unless instructed not to wear it by the preceptor) for clinical education sites. They may be required to be worn at SCPE activities including End of Rotation (EOR) Days. (Scrubs may be allowed, but ONLY when approved by the preceptor. **Do NOT wear or take scrubs from a facility without permission.**)
 - 11.03 While the specific form of proper identification may vary from site to site all students must maintain their UF student identity by displaying the photo ID badge which identifies one as a physician assistant student (PA-S) at The University of Findlay.
 - 11.04 Students are expected to wear professional attire (women: dress, skirt/blouse/sweater, dress slacks with stockings; men: dress shirt/slacks, tie, shoes, and socks.). Low cut dresses/top and revealing clothes are not permitted. Tennis shoes, sandals, and open-toed shoes are not considered professional attire. Any jewelry (male or female) should be worn with professional discretion and must be removed/modified as per the policy of the clinical site and/or preceptor.
 - 11.05 Professional appearance includes good hygiene, absence of visible body piercing/tattoos, and clean shaven appearance, kempt appearance. Artificial nails are not acceptable in the clinical setting and any painted and/or artificial nails are NOT permitted during a surgery rotation.
- 12.0 Failure to comply with the above standards will result in disciplinary action which may range from a verbal or written warning, professional probation, or dismissal from the program.

Z. Academic Evaluation Performance Standard

- 1.0 At the end of the semester, each student will have the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on the course instructor/s and guest speakers, the presentation, the content of the course, and the activities. The students’ evaluations and comments are valuable for assessment of the success of the course as well as the improvement of the course. All materials needed to provide this feedback are supplied by the PA program and the university.
- 2.0 Informal course/instructor evaluations may be distributed for completion throughout the semester as deemed necessary by the instructor.
- 3.0 Evaluations should be used to express positive or negative *constructive* criticism, not personal opinions.

AA. Violation of Policies and Procedures

Failure to follow the policies and procedures set forth in section “**VII. Program Policies and Procedures**” may result in, but is not limited to, the student being placed on Probation to dismissal from the PA program depending upon the severity of the infraction and the decision of the PA program chair/director in conjunction with the faculty/staff.

BB. Academic Integrity

The policy below is copied directly from the UF Graduate Catalog and applies to all PA students:

Disciplinary procedures in instances of student misconduct of an academic nature.

When, in the opinion of a faculty member, a student is responsible for violating University rules, regulations, or policies of an academic nature on or off campus, the faculty member must report the incident following the policy protocol. For reporting purposes, an Academic Dishonesty Form is available in the Office of the Registrar or on the UF website (Keyword: Advising Information). Violations are classified into levels according to the nature of the infraction. The levels are defined as follows:

Level One

Level One violations may occur because of a student’s inexperience or lack of knowledge of principles of academic integrity. These violations are likely to involve a small fraction of the total course work, are not extensive, and/or occur on a minor assignment.

Level Two

Level Two violations are more serious in nature and affect a more significant aspect or portion of the total course work.

Level Three

Level Three violations affect a major or essential portion of total course work, or involves premeditation. Level Three violations represent serious violations of intellectual honesty and academic integrity.

Level Four

Level Four violations are the most severe violations of academic integrity and as such will be sent directly to the Student Academic Standards Committee for sanctions which in most cases will be immediate dismissal.

Definitions of student misconduct of an academic nature.

Violations of an academic nature may include, but are not limited to, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and/or sabotage. Definitions of each are found below with examples of scenarios and their suggested violation levels.

Cheating

Cheating is the use or intention to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or assistance in any area of academics. Work is expected to be the sole effort of the student, unless otherwise directed by the faculty member. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

Level One

- Copying to a minor extent on quizzes, exams, or assignments.
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof to satisfy the requirements of more than one course without the permission of the current instructor.

Level Two

- Working collaboratively on assignments when prohibited.
- Using prohibited materials (e.g., books, notes, or calculators) during an exam without permission from the instructor.
- Copying to a moderate or major extent on quizzes, exams, or assignments.

Level Three

- Buying unauthorized aid on examinations, papers, or assignments.
- Offering bribes related to academic work.

Level Four

- Obtaining a quiz, exam, or assignment by theft, stealth, or deception.

Fabrication

Fabrication is the intentional falsification or invention of research, data, citations, or other information. Fabrication includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

Level One

- Providing false information/documentation to postpone tests or due dates.

Level Two

- Altering quizzes, exams, or assignments and submitting for regrading.

Level Three

- Falsifying documents for academic gain.
- Fabricating data by inventing or deliberately altering material (this includes citing “sources” that are not, in fact, sources).

Level Four

- Changing the record of work done by stealth or deception.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty

Facilitating academic dishonesty is the aiding of another student(s) in any form of academic dishonesty. Acts may include providing unauthorized materials for assistance on tests or assignments or producing work on another’s behalf. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

Level One

- Giving unpermitted assistance to others, such as help with research, statistical analysis, computer programming, or field data collection that constitutes an essential element in the paper, project, or assignment.

Level Two

- Giving unpermitted assistance on quizzes, exams, or assignments.
- Permitting another to present one’s work as the student’s own.

Level Three

- Selling unauthorized aid on quizzes, exams, or assignments.
- Accepting bribes related to academic work.
- Taking an exam for another student.

Level Four

- Obtaining a quiz, exam, or assignment by theft, stealth, or deception and distributing to other students.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own work, in written, oral, or visual form. If the work of another is used, acknowledgment of the original source must be made through a recognized reference practice. To assure proper crediting a student will acknowledge the work of others. Neither ignorance nor carelessness shall be an acceptable response in the cases of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

Level One

- Failing to cite or give proper acknowledgement in a limited amount of an assignment.
- Failing to cite or give proper acknowledgement from others, such as help with research, statistical analysis, computer programming, or field data collection that constitutes an essential element in the undertaking in a paper, project, or assignment.

Level Two

- Failing to cite or give proper acknowledgement in a moderate amount of an assignment.

Level Three

- Failing to cite or give proper acknowledgement in an extensive amount of an assignment.

Level Four

- Significant plagiarism of a major work such as a dissertation, thesis, or research paper or project.
- Purchasing a research paper or project.

Sabotage

Sabotage is the disruption or destruction of another person's work or a group’s work so that the other person or group cannot successfully complete an academic activity. Failure to contribute as required to a group/team project may also be considered academic sabotage. Sabotage includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

Level One

- Preventing a student or students from having access to materials resulting in minor effects.

Level Two

- Preventing a student or students from having access to materials resulting in moderate effects.

Level Three

- Sabotaging the work of a student or students through actions designed to prevent the student(s) from successfully completing the academic activity.

Level Four

- Destroying another student's artwork, research, or experiment beyond repair or recovery.

Policy protocol after an incident of student misconduct of an academic nature.

Discovery of Academic Dishonesty

Based on the severity of the violation of University rules, regulations, or policies of an academic nature, the faculty member will initiate the filing of an academic dishonesty charge. The instructor will first select and consult with a designated college delegate. This delegate must be a faculty member appointed by the dean of the college or the college representative that serves on the appropriate Student Academic Standards Committee aligned with the student's course level (e.g. undergraduate or graduate). After consulting with the designated college delegate, the instructor will assign the appropriate level of violation and course of action. The course of action must include academic counseling along with a zero for the assignment, a reduction in possible points for the course, a grade of "F" for the course, or other appropriate action. The faculty member must include his or her course of action when completing the Academic Dishonesty form. When a student has violated University rules, regulations, or policies of an academic nature, the student will not be permitted to withdraw from the course. If a student is given an "F" for the course, he or she may not continue to attend the course. However, if the student is issued a grade of "F" for the course and appeals, the student may resume attending class pending the final disposition of the matter.

Meeting with the Student

Within five working days of the discovery of the violation, the instructor will set up a meeting with the student, the instructor, and the designated college delegate. The student is entitled to invite an advocate. The advocate must be a University of Findlay faculty member or academic advisor. The meeting will cover an overview of the violation in relation to the University policy, the course of action, the remediation process, and the appeal process in the event the student wishes to appeal the charge. At the conclusion of this meeting, the instructor will send the paperwork (i.e., Academic Dishonesty form, supporting evidence) to the Office of Academic Affairs. Upon receiving the paperwork, the Office of Academic Affairs will notify the student in writing of the formal charge(s) pertaining to the violation of University rules, regulations, or policies of an academic nature as well as the process to be used to appeal said charge(s).

Under the circumstance where the instructor has made reasonable documented attempts to schedule the meeting with the student during the allocated five working days and the student has failed to respond to the meeting requests, the charge will automatically be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs. The recommended number of scheduling attempts would be two or three in the five working days. If the student fails to attend the scheduled meeting the charge will also be automatically submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs.

Appealing the Academic Dishonesty Charge

After the student receives notification from the Office of Academic Affairs, the student will have five working days to notify the Office of Registrar of his or her desire to appeal the charge. The student has five additional working days to submit his or her completed appeal to the Student Academic Standards Committee via the Office of the Registrar. The decision rendered by the Student Academic Standards Committee is final and not subject to additional appeal. If the appeal is denied or the student chooses not to appeal (i.e., does not meet the appeal deadline), then the charge of academic dishonesty becomes part of the student's academic record. At this point, the Office of the Registrar will notify the student, his or her advisor, the instructor, the college dean, and the area director/department chair as well as the Office of Academic Affairs.

Remediation and Sanctions

If this is the student's first academic integrity violation, the student will be expected to complete a remediation program. A student will be assessed points based on the level of the charge of academic dishonesty. A Level One is assessed one point; a Level Two is assessed two points and so on. The record keeping of this point system will be

maintained by the Office of the Registrar. If a student has a Level Four charge or has two or more violations, the student will be notified that he or she is being referred to the Student Academic Standards Committee for possible University sanctions. The number of academic dishonesty points accumulated by the student will aid the Student Academic Standards Committee in determining the appropriate sanction.

UF PA Student Sanctions

All UF PA students are graduate students and are expected to know and understand the above policy regarding academic integrity. Students are educated on this policy in the first/orientation week of the program and this serves as an initial verbal and written warning regarding this policy. All students sign an acknowledgement form that they have read the handbook and were able to ask questions. As such, due to the professional nature of the program and the risks involved for future patients, any occurrence that is a violation of Academic Integrity, whether it is a level 1, level 2, level 3, or level 4, is grounds for failure of the assignment and the course in which it occurred which results in dismissal from the PA program. Treating patients literally has life and death consequences on a daily basis and violations of academic integrity cannot be tolerated. Students will/would be dismissed from the program due to the severe lack of professionalism exhibited when committing acts that violate academic integrity from a professionalism standpoint as well. Examples of violations include, but are not limited to, cheating on an exam, intentionally or unintentionally not properly citing someone else's work (failure to fully understand a given citation style is not an acceptable excuse), including fabricated information in an assignment (e.g., making up physical exam findings/history/lab results/etc.), as well as the many examples provided in the policy above. Please note that the sanctions applied specifically to PA students (dismissal) may only apply to the PA program itself and the student may still be eligible to remain enrolled at the University and participate in another program of study other than PA.

CC. University of Findlay Physician Assistant Program Judiciary Committee

Committee purpose: The UF PA Program Judiciary Committee is charged by the program director to evaluate alleged violations of professional PA student misconduct (and any academic misconduct not covered under the umbrella of the University Academic Integrity policy) and to make a recommendation to the program director regarding whether a violation occurred and what the penalty, if any, will be. The program director will issue the final decision, at his/her discretion, to the student on behalf of the UF PA Program. (See #6 on page 39 – for obvious acts of misconduct with documentation {such as emails, failing to properly clock in/out/use eValue despite instruction and communication regarding this, etc.}, an individual can be placed directly on Professional Probation without implementation of the PA program judiciary committee).

Committee make-up: The UF PA Program Judiciary Committee shall be comprised of three full-time UF PA Program faculty which could include the clinical coordinator, academic coordinator, and/or medical director. The committee members shall be appointed by the PA program director for each incident and will include those with the least connection to the incident in question when possible.

Procedure:

1. In cases of academic or professional misconduct, a program faculty or staff member will submit a summary of the event to the program director in writing.
2. The student in question must first meet with the appropriate faculty member who is reporting/documenting the incident and then with the program director. If there is still concern of misconduct, the program director will appoint a committee as stated below.
3. The program director will appoint three individuals (must be fulltime faculty, CC, and/or medical director) to the committee and charge them with evaluating the information at hand. This may include, but is not limited to, evaluating personal statements from the student in question and the individual who witnessed or is reporting the incident, examining any pertinent materials, interviewing the parties in question, or a combination of the preceding. The student may, if he/she desires, select one of the three individuals

appointed to the committee (must be a fulltime UF PA program faculty member, CC, AC, or the medical director). In the event that the student declines, the program director will appoint all three.

4. The UF PA Program Judiciary Committee will nominate a chair of the committee to be responsible for scheduling the meetings, maintaining and creating any documentation, and forwarding the committee findings and recommendations to the program director.
5. The program director will, at his/her discretion, notify the student in question of the final decision on behalf of the UF PA Program within two business days.

VIII. Matriculation and Progression

A. Matriculation into and Progression Through the Didactic Phase of the Program

In order to successfully enter into and progress through the didactic phase of the PA program, each student must complete or meet the following requirements:

1. Successfully complete the admission requirements including, but not limited to, submission of proof of a physical examination within the specified timeframe, profile information (phone number, address, emergency contact information), pass a urine drug screen, complete/pass a background check, and complete the required immunizations as well as successfully complete and pass the portion of the UF PA Program Orientation that occurs prior to the start date of classes.
 - a. Failure to complete these requirements prior to matriculation could result in dismissal from the program or failure to progress. A plan to demonstrate compliance with these requirements must be available during orientation. Students unable to complete this process will be unable to matriculate/progress.
2. Successfully complete each PHAS-designated course in the prescribed sequence.
 - a. Course sequences are published on the University website and are sequenced as deemed appropriate by the faculty on a year-to-year basis.
3. Successfully achieve a minimum of 3.0 out of 4.0 GPA each semester (session/semester GPA) throughout the didactic phase of the PA program.
 - a. **Failure to achieve a GPA of 3.0 or better out of 4.0 during any didactic semester will result in dismissal from the program without the opportunity to reapply or re-enter.**
4. Earn a grade in any PHAS-designated course of “C+” or better in every course during the didactic phase of the program with no more than one course grade of “C+” permitted.
 - a. Final course grades of “C” or below are not acceptable for progression in the program and are grounds for immediate dismissal from the program with no opportunity to reenter the program.
 - b. Earning more than one final course grade of “C+” or less any time throughout the program shall result in dismissal from the program.
5. Attend all events noted as mandatory by the PA program which may include but is not limited to OAPA conferences, meetings, and dinners; guest lectures; seminars; UF and PA program events including accreditation responsibilities, PA week, MajorFest, PASS activities, Health Professions Day; Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs), PA cohort graduation ceremonies (all, not just for the cohort you are in), and other activities unless officially excused. – Note: advanced notice may not be possible in some instances and additional costs may be incurred that are not covered by the PA program.
6. Pay all fees associated with courses for supplies/etc. as stated in each syllabus or as notified by the program before progressing to the next semester.

B. Matriculation into the Clinical Year

In order to matriculate into the clinical phase of the PA program, each student must complete the following unless the timing of activities is altered by the PA program. Failure to complete the following will result in inability to begin the clinical year and/or dismissal from the program.

1. Successful completion of all didactic PA program coursework.
2. Successful completion of a complete physical examination practical within one month of the beginning of the clinical phase of the program.
3. Obtain current ACLS and BLS training that will remain current throughout the duration of the clinical phase of the program.

4. Successfully complete a background check.
5. Complete HIPAA compliance paperwork.
6. Successfully complete OSHA training.
7. Update his/her physical examination, including immunizations (as discussed in section IX.A), as required by the PA program and clinical sites. Depending on status at start of program, some of the required vaccines may need updated or a booster administered/etc.
8. Complete an emergency contact form.
9. Maintain proof of current health insurance coverage.
10. Pass a urine drug screen test.
11. Assure that they have the appropriate student ID badge.
12. Complete the Physician Assistant Clinical Knowledge Rating and Assessment Tool (PACKRAT) when so directed.
13. Attend all clinical orientation meetings as scheduled.
14. Demonstrate the development of professional and ethical maturity.
15. Pay all fees associated with courses for supplies/etc. as stated in each syllabus before progressing to the next semester.

C. Progression Through the Clinical Phase of the Program

In order to successfully progress through the clinical phase of the PA program, each student must complete the following (unless the timing of activities is altered by the PA program):

1. Successful completion of all Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs) (AKA clinical rotations)
2. Maintenance of ACLS and BLS certification
3. **Maintain a PA program overall GPA of a 3.0 or greater**
 - a. **Students who earn less than a 3.0 in a clinical year semester due to failing one SCPE may be permitted to continue in the program until that SCPE is successfully passed on the second attempt. If they earn less than a 3.0 in a second semester or fail a second SCPE (or fail the same SCPE a second time), they will be dismissed from the program.**
4. Successful completion of courses that take place in addition to the SCPEs during semesters V, VI, and VII.
5. Attendance at all events noted as mandatory by the PA program which may include but is not limited to OAPA conferences, meetings, and dinners; guest lectures; seminars; UF and PA program events including accreditation responsibilities, PA week, MajorFest, MMIs, PASS activities, Health Professions Day, Ohio PA Program Olympics; and other activities unless officially excused – Note: advanced notice may not be possible in some instances and additional costs may be incurred that are not covered by the PA program.
6. In order to select an elective SCPE, the student must be in good academic standing, otherwise the elective will be selected by the program in a discipline felt to best prepare the student for success.
7. Failure to keep all items required for matriculation into the clinical year up to date over the course of the clinical year can result in being removed from clinical rotations once noted until they are completed. This will cause a delay in graduation (by a minimum of one semester as it is necessary to wait until the next degree conferral date at the end of spring semester). Students will be asked to update information and, if not done by the deadline, sent one reminder notification. If not received by the deadline of the reminder notification, they will be placed on professional probation. If not received within one week of being on professional probation, the student will not be permitted to go on their first clinical rotation – it will be rescheduled at the end of the clinical year. This will result in a delay in graduation/program completion and the student will not be able to apply for state licensure until after the next degree conferral date (if completing the program in January/February, this would be May of that year).
8. Different SCPEs may have different requirements, such as paperwork and/or applications to complete, additional background checks, labwork or vaccinations to obtain, etc. Failure to complete the items by the deadline set forth by the clinical coordinator and/or experiential education specialist involved with working with the site will result in a formal written warning with 2 additional days to complete the required task/s. Failure to complete the task/s within the 2 days after the written warning will result in Professional Probation and an additional 2 day extension. Failure to complete the task/s within the additional 2 days will result in cancellation of the SCPE in question and the student sitting out for 6 weeks. The SCPE will be rescheduled and occur after the clinical year which will result in a delay of receiving your diploma by several months (the

following May) unless this results in difficulty scheduling the SCPE. The cost of the stipend paid to the preceptor for the cancelled SCPE will be the responsibility of the student (\$500 paid to the UF PA Program) and a letter grade for the SCPE will not be entered for the course until the fee is paid. If it involves not meeting deadlines directly set forth by the site/preceptor once the SCPE has started, it may result in failure of the SCPE by the preceptor (requiring a repeat of that SCPE and/or Professional Probation vs. dismissal from the program depending on the severity of the infraction).

D. Academic Probation, Deceleration, and Dismissal

- 1.0 Refer to the Graduate Catalog for the Academic Probation policy at UF. The UF PA program has a more stringent policy which supersedes the University policy, see below.
- 2.0 Students with weak performance on examinations will be placed on Academic Probation within the PA Program with consequences as outlined below. Any student concerns and any information regarding students who are required to remediate and/or retake examinations or competencies will be forwarded to the PA Program Academic Coordinator for tracking and evaluation.

Academic Probation is a status designed to put at risk students on notice regarding their performance in the PA program. Students on Academic Probation will be required to seek guidance from Academic Support Services at the University as well as attend regularly scheduled meetings with their faculty mentor as determined by the PA Program.

2.01 Students requiring more than four remediations (scoring below an 82% {81.4%} on examinations) within a semester will be placed on Academic Probation.

2.02 Students earning more than four remediations ~~or more than two retake exams~~ in any subsequent semester (after being placed on Academic Probation) are decelerated or dismissed from the program per the evaluation of the entire faculty with the Program Director having final decision. Decisions made at this stage include the student's overall performance and professionalism on all exams, competencies, assignments, and outside activities in all classes and professional and student organizations.

2.03 PA students are adult, graduate, students and it remains the responsibility of the student to seek additional assistance if they are having academic concerns for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to seeking assistance from course faculty, faculty mentor, academic support center, counseling center, etc.

2.04 If a student is placed on deceleration, they will be dismissed from the PA Program if any semester has more than four remediations.

2.05 Students placed on Academic Probation will be removed from any leadership position (if they hold one) in the Physician Assistant Student Society and/or any other program-associated clubs/activities/committees. Additionally, permission to attend conferences, meetings, events, etc. may be withheld.

2.06 Once a student is placed on Academic Probation, he/she will remain on Academic Probation until graduation. Students on Academic Probation will be required to undergo remediation plans as assigned by the program/faculty while on Academic Probation if additional areas of deficiency/weakness are noted. Additional activities may be assigned throughout the program once a student is on Academic Probation if they are felt (by the program) likely to help improve student performance and understanding.

*2.07 Note that the grades on repeat exams must be an 82% (81.5%) or above to demonstrate competence of the material and the repeat exam grade does *not* replace the initial grade earned. The initial exam grade will be used to calculate the final course grade.

2.08 The above criteria only apply if the student's overall semester GPA remains greater than or equal to a 3.0, they have no more than one grade of "C+," and they have no course grades below a "C+." See number 3.0 below.

2.09 A "**module**"/**content exam** that takes the place of a **comprehensive final exam** must be remediated if earning less than an 82% (81.4% and below), and it must be remediated with a repeat exam taken as well if less than a 73% (72.4% and below) as with all other exams. This counts towards the total number of remediations. A final **comprehensive** examination scoring less than a 73% (72.4% and below) counts towards the total number of remediations and a remediation plan must take place (which may or may not include a repeat examination as a part of the plan developed by the faculty member).

3.0 Students are removed from the program if the semester or cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0 and/or they earn more than one grade of "C+" or any single grade below a "C+". It is ultimately the student's responsibility to seek feedback from instructors to determine their academic progress (it is the student's responsibility to know their standing within each course). Students will be informed of their academic progress by their faculty mentor around the mid-semester time period and will have discussion whether or not they are at risk for being removed from the program. The program has instituted a remediation policy requiring students to remediate each individual exam grade (and final exams if a module/content exam replaces a *comprehensive* final exam) that falls below an 82% ($\leq 81.4\%$; 81.5% and above is classified as 82%) as an attempt to correct deficiencies as they occur. Final *comprehensive* exams are remediated if below a 73% (72.4 and below).

E. Professional Behavior: Standards and Professional Probation vs. Dismissal

Professionalism is the expression of positive values and ideals as care is delivered. Foremost, it involves prioritizing the interests of those being served above one's own. Students are expected to exhibit professionalism in the below areas:

1. Understanding of legal and regulatory requirements, as well as the appropriate role of the physician assistant
 2. Professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers
 3. Respect, compassion, and integrity
 4. Responsiveness to the needs of patients and society
 5. Accountability to patients, society, and the profession
 6. Commitment to excellence and ongoing professional development
 7. Commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices
 8. Sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender, and disabilities
 9. Self-reflection, critical curiosity, and initiative
- 1.0 Students will engage in any and all classroom and clinical field environments in a professional manner with comportment that shows consideration and respect for others, patients, preceptors, faculty, administrators, and any and all staff members.
- 2.0 Every student is assumed trustworthy and committed to maintaining honor and professional ethics as purported by the profession's national organization. Students will pledge to support the Honor Code system which serves as the overarching mode for conducting program affairs.
- 2.01 Violations of the honor code are subject to disciplinary action by the PA Program/University.
- 2.02 Violations of the honor code include acts of lying (including plagiarism), cheating, or stealing while enrolled as a student in the PA program or engagement in an action that constitutes a violation of administrative rules, civil and or/ criminal laws of the United States.

- 3.0 Students will be required to demonstrate full compliance with the technical standards attested to on their admission statements.
- 4.0 Students will engage in any and all supervised clinical practice settings in a professional manner and compliance with rules, regulations, policies, and practices of the host institution/preceptor.
- 5.0 Students who fail to comply with the Didactic Professional Comportment Standards above may be subject to Professional Probation.
- 6.0 Professional Probation: Students engaging in unprofessional behavior in the didactic or clinical phase of the PA program (deemed as such by the UF PA Program faculty or staff or individuals outside of the program (i.e., clinical preceptors, patients, etc.)) *will* be placed on Professional Probation at a minimum and may be dismissed from the program. Note that, for obvious incidences of professional misconduct that are easily documented, students are placed directly on Professional Probation (no PA program judiciary committee).
- 6.01 Professional Probation is an internal designation within the PA program.
 - 6.01.a Professional Probation is not reported to the Registrar or any other University official except in instances where dismissal is necessary.
 - 6.01.b Upon successful remediation of the probationary status, its occurrence will not be reported to any credentialing agency after graduation with the exception of incidents that result in the involvement of non-PA program personnel as discussed in Section 1.01.3 below.
 - 6.01.c If the infraction that resulted in the student being placed on Professional Probation is serious enough to require consultation with or intervention by faculty, staff, administrators, or healthcare providers outside of the PA program, the probationary status is no longer considered internal to the program and will be reported to credentialing agencies along with other requested information when accompanied by a release of information form signed by the graduate.
- 6.02 Students placed on Professional Probation must complete a remediation plan designed by the PA program faculty in consultation with the Program Chair or, in some instances, a committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Health Professions.
- 6.03 Once the student successfully completes the plan, they will be removed from Professional Probation. A student cannot graduate/successfully complete the program while on professional probation (they must successfully remediate prior to graduation).
- 6.04 A student will only be placed on Professional Probation once.
 - 1.04.1 A second incident that would place a student on Professional Probation will result in dismissal from the program without the option for readmission.
- 6.05 Students placed on Professional Probation may be removed from leadership positions in PASS or other program-associated committees/clubs and may not be permitted to attend conferences/meetings/events/etc.
- 6.06 If the circumstances surrounding unprofessional behavior are clear/obvious to the Program (Program Director), a student may be placed on Professional Probation by the Program Director without the convening of a committee (as discussed elsewhere) for further investigation.
- 6.07 If activities/actions occur that are deemed of a severe enough nature by the Program (Program Director), with or without consultation of other members of the PA Program, the Program Director may place a student on Professional Probation without a formal verbal or written warning. This is

even more likely in situations where a student has been notified about a behavior (such as discussion after class, by email, etc., but not issued a “formal” verbal or written warning that it could result in Professional Probation) but failed to correct the behavior. Please note – issuance of a formal verbal or written warning could occur prior to a student being placed on Professional Probation, however, this is not a requirement (case-by-case based on severity of behavior/activity).

- 7.0 Dismissal: Students partaking in unprofessional activity of a severe enough nature (deemed as such by the PA program, including clinical year preceptors) will be dismissed from the program. As a professional program preparing its graduates to work in healthcare, reasons for dismissal from the program may be more stringent than those of the University in general. Please note that if the infraction is deemed to be severe enough by the Program, no official warning is required to be provided to the student prior to a dismissal and the decision can be made solely by the Program Director without consultation with any other Program member or committee.
- 8.0 Unprofessional communication not representative of a future physician assistant or current UF PA program student in any format (i.e., social media comments, conversations, etc.) may be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program (professional probation at a minimum) and/or lowering of the course grade if occurring in a course (up to and including having a failing grade recorded for the course).
- 9.0 UF Suspension (see UF Graduate Catalog)

9.01 If a student is on probation and his/her session GPA is below a 3.0 he/she will be placed on suspension. Suspension from the University lasts for a period of one semester. Readmission after the first University suspension is handled through the Office of Academic Affairs and the student’s specific graduate program. A student who is suspended more than once must appeal for readmission to the Graduate Student Academic Standards Committee and also his/her specific graduate program. Students returning from suspension are automatically placed on probation. In order to graduate, a student MUST have a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0.

*9.02 The above suspension policy is for general UF graduate students and does not apply to the “PA program” in most instances as the program policies are more stringent. Students with semester GPAs falling below a 3.0 are dismissed from the program. The policy above does, however, permit students to remain registered at UF (i.e., a student on suspension/dismissed from the PA program could still attend UF and take other graduate coursework).

F. Grading Policies and Standards

Standards of acceptable performance (cognitive, psychomotor, and professionalism) for courses are communicated to students in writing via the syllabus and reviewed at course introduction. Performance in didactic programs is commonly assessed by, but not limited to, written (cognitive) exams, oral presentations, research papers, final exams, and, in designated courses, by targeted skill competency exams. Performance in the clinical phase of the program is assessed using a combination of evaluations conducted by the SCPE preceptor, written critical-thinking assignments, patient logging, and online examinations.

- 1.0 Student Grade Point Average (GPA): Student academic performance in the PA Program is measured by computation of the GPA. The GPA is calculated by dividing the accumulated number of grade points earned by the accumulated number of credit hours attempted.

2.0 Various Assessment Metrics

LETTER GRADE	GPA	% SCALE	PROGRESS ASSESSMENT	COMPETENCY PERFORMANCE
A	4.0	93-100	Proficient	Pass
A-	3.67	90-92	Competent	
B/B+	3.0/3.33	83-89		Advanced Beginner
C+/B-	2.33/2.67	77-82	Novice	
C	2.0	73-76	At Risk/	
C-/D	1.0/1.67	60-72	Non-Pass/Fail	
D-/F	0/0.67	Under 59		

3.0 A student must complete the program within a time period of three calendar years or less unless due to a medical leave or leave of absence and approved by the PA program. Therefore, a student will only be permitted to sit out and repeat a course (courses) one time.

Students should note the designated course sequencing required of the didactic curriculum and understand that courses may not be taken out of sequence.

4.0 Students may only receive one failing grade/non-pass for an SCPE in the clinical year and may repeat that particular SCPE only once with the stipulation that a passing grade must be earned to continue. Any failing clinical/SCPE course must be sequenced immediately (or as soon as possible if unable to be scheduled as the next immediate rotation due to currently scheduled SCPEs) in the student's individual program. A second failure of any SCPE (including a repeated SCPE) during the clinical year will result in dismissal from the program.

5.0 Any grade of "C" or below in any number of courses will result in dismissal from the program.

6.0 Students will not be permitted to drop below a 3.0 in a semester/session GPA nor the overall GPA unless due to failure of an SCPE for academic reasons (does not apply to professional issues and clinical performance). Dropping below a 3.0 will result in dismissal from the program without the opportunity for re-entry. One exception exists: a student whose semester/session GPA falls below a 3.0 during the clinical year due to having to repeat a SCPE/clinical rotation will be permitted to continue in the program to repeat that given SCPE. Any subsequent semester during the clinical year with a semester/session GPA below a 3.0 will result in dismissal from the PA program.

7.0 Individual Performance Records

7.01 Students can access their course grades each semester via their academic record through the University website.

7.02 Grades will not be released over the telephone or email, but by way of Canvas or distribution in class.

7.03 To remain in good academic standing, all PA students must maintain a minimum session/semester GPA (grade point average) of 3.0 and a "P" (pass) in all performance-grade rated courses. This may mean that a student could receive a "C+" or better in a letter-grade rated course which when added to higher letter grades still average out to 3.0 and/or may have engaged in a remediated skill and converted one NP to a P. Any student unable to convert a "NP" (non-pass) to a "P" (pass) after one attempt in a didactic a course will have a failing grade of "F" recorded for that course and be required to repeat it at its next offering. Only one course grade of "C+" is permitted during the didactic phase of the program. Earning an initial "NP" grade may result in a reduction of points from the course depending on the course (see individual course syllabi).

7.03 If a student earns less than an 82% ($\leq 81.4\%$), they are required to undergo a remediation plan as outlined in number 11 below. If a student earns less than a 73% ($\leq 72.4\%$) on a written exam,

they will be required to take a repeat examination, the format of which will be at the discretion of the instructor, in addition to the required remediation plan completion. No official change of grade will be recorded from the repeat exam, however, the student must earn an 82% ($\geq 81.5\%$) or higher on the repeat exam to pass the course. Failure to successfully complete the remediation (and earn a 82% on a repeat exam if one is required) will result in a failure of the course. A final *comprehensive* exam remediation and repeat exam threshold is 73% (72.4% and below). If a module/content exam is given in place of a comprehensive final exam (i.e., the final exam is not comprehensive), the threshold for remediation remains at 82% with repeat exam additionally required remediation if below 73%.

8.0 Examination Process

- 8.01 Students who meet ADA requirements must notify The Office of Accommodation and Inclusion as discussed in the current UF Graduate Catalog. Please note that some accommodations do not apply to every setting (e.g. (include, but are not limited to) – time and a half for exams does not apply to timed competencies; flexible attendance does not apply to competencies, exams, and required events).
 - 8.02 To support compliance with UF Honor code, students may not comment on any test question during the time of the examination/competency.
 - 8.03 Students arriving late to an examination during the didactic or clinical year will not be given extra time to complete the examination. They will only have what is left in the established examination period.
 - 8.04 Examinations will cover all content areas in the course including handouts, videos, readings, lecture material, and guest lectures.
 - 8.05 Students will be permitted to leave the examination room for only two purposes: a) upon completion of the examination, and b) an emergency situation (the need to use the restroom is not considered an emergency situation unless it is necessitated by an acute medical condition).
 - 8.05.a Once a student has completed the examination and left the examination room, no other students still taking the examination will be allowed to leave the examination room and return to complete their examination.
 - 8.05.b If a student has to leave the examination room as the result of an illness or emergency, he or she may be allowed to finish the examination at the sole discretion of the course instructor. The time, place, and form of completion of the examination will be determined by the instructor.
 - 8.06 Examinations must be returned in their entirety.
 - 8.07 Students will remain in their seats during the examination. No student will be allowed to obtain or consume food or beverages during the examination unless cleared by the course instructor.
 - 8.08 Exams may be administered online in Canvas utilizing “Proctorio” (or a similar proctoring software). Students must maintain working computers and have reliable internet access when exams occur off of campus.
- 9.0 Examination Review - There will be no review of individual written examinations as part of the testing process.
- 10.0 Absence /Make-Up Exams
- 10.01 Make-up exams will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and scheduling will be at the discretion of the instructor.
 - 10.02 There will be no make-up exams provided for unexcused absences.

- 11.0 Remediation of Substandard Exam and Competency Outcomes
 - 11.01 Remediation is a limited process that enables students to attempt to correct a deficiency noted on a targeted competency/examination and may take the form of directed or self-directed learning.
 - 11.02 Remediation may be available to students who experience a student-perceived or faculty-perceived substandard outcome on any written or competency exam.
 - 11.03 Students receiving a grade less than 82% (81.4% and below) on an examination and 90% on a competency will be required to undergo a remediation plan as designed by the Course Instructor. This may range from an informal review of the examination and discussion of missed topics to a more extensive plan.
 - 11.03.a No retake examinations for grade replacement will be permitted.
 - 11.03.b A student who does not successfully fulfill all requirements of a remediation plan designed by the Course Instructor after a student has received a grade requiring remediation on a written examination/competency will fail the course.
 - 11.03.c A student who fails a course because of an unsuccessful remediation attempt will be dismissed from the PA program without possibility of readmission to the program. All remediation plans must be completed by the instructor-assigned deadline prior to the final examination.
 - 11.04 Substandard performance (non-pass/NP) on skill competency exams (e.g., physical assessment, patient care skills) due to major technique errors or major omissions may be repeated one time to convert a “Non-Pass” to “Pass”.
 - 11.04.a If a student fails their attempt to convert a “Non-Pass” to a “Pass” grade for any competency, he/she will fail the course.
 - 11.04.b A student who fails a course because of an unsuccessful remediation attempt will be dismissed from the PA program without possibility of readmission to the program.

*See section XI for dismissal from the program

IX. STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The PA Program in The College of Health Professions at The University of Findlay requires students to meet certain health and immunization requirements as a condition of enrollment. Physician assistant students are required to have a complete physical examination by a licensed health care provider and designated laboratory tests.

Failure to comply with these health requirements will result in dismissal from the program as a new matriculating student and/or rising clinical student.

Students should be aware that some series of immunizations require several weeks/months for completion.

Student physical examination and health screening data are confidential documents and are not kept in student or program files. All physical examinations results and immunization records are maintained at the Cosiano Health Center. A summary sheet acknowledging your immunizations are completed is maintained electronically and accessed by the PA program and sent to clinical year preceptors as well as a general form that you are up to date with your annual physical exam.

Under ARC-PA accreditation *Standards* the program is permitted to keep immunization records of students in the program office.

Students are advised to maintain a personal copy of all elements of the program health requirements and a copy of the report regarding the outcomes of their screenings.

Some clinical affiliation placement sites may require additional health information and immunizations/testing and if so, the student will be informed by the Clinical Coordinator before the supervised clinical practice experience begins.

Principle faculty, the program chair/director, and the medical director must not participate as health care providers for students in the program, except in an emergency situation (*Standard A3.09*).

The student must comply with all clinical affiliation health requirements in order to gain entry to the clinical field setting.

A. Matriculation and Pre-Clinical Health Requirements

To assure the matriculating student meets Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for immunizations and health surveillance, the following are PA program health documentation requirements:

- Complete physical examination
- Immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella as indicated by documentation of 2 doses of live vaccine or positive titers, even if born before 1957
- Varicella (chicken pox) having had the disease, a positive titer or documentation of 2 doses of Varivax vaccine (one month apart) if the titer was negative
- Hepatitis B immunization series of three and an antibody titer
- Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) booster in the last ten years
- Primary series of three doses of polio immunizations
- 2 Step Mantoux PPD skin test (within the last 2 months) or two yearly consecutive negative PPD tests.
 - QuantiFERON[®]-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) or T-SPOT[®] (T-Spot) are acceptable CDC-approved alternatives
 - If PPD conversion has been documented or a person has a positive QFT-GIT or T-spot, a chest x-ray or a statement from the treating physician regarding evaluation for INH therapy is required
- COVID vaccine
- Seasonal influenza vaccine and additional vaccines for high-risk categories (i.e. (including, but not limited to), H1N1 vaccine, COVID-19 vaccination, meningococcal vaccination, HPV vaccination).
 - Failure to be vaccinated with those listed above in parentheses in addition to the definitively required vaccinations may result in prolongation of the clinical year as some clinical sites require some, or all, of the vaccines. The program recommends being vaccinated for all conditions listed above in parentheses, in addition to the required vaccinations, and is not responsible for any delay in graduation due to inability to locate clinical placements (or having to reschedule/change placements due to a student's vaccination status). It is also possible that a student may not be able to complete the program if they refuse to be vaccinated for optional vaccines (those listed in parentheses) if they, at some point, become mandatory by clinical sites/preceptors.

Students entering the clinical phase of the program are required to have a current PPD prior to beginning SCPEs. Students who had a previous conversion must convey that through a medical provider's statement and forward it to the Cosiano Health Center Nurse.

Students who do not complete the above requirements will not be permitted to participate in direct patient care activities or enter the clinical phase of the program until all of the requirements have been met and confirmed by the PA program.

Students who fail to complete these requirements in a timely manner will be placed on Professional Probation and must meet with the PA Program chair/director to discuss further actions that could include not being allowed to enter into the clinical phase of the program or dismissal from the PA program. A delay in beginning the clinical phase of the program will result in a delay in the student obtaining his/her diploma.

B. Student Health Services

The Cosiano Health Center is a free, walk-in clinic for students, faculty and staff. Any student, regardless of insurance status, may use these services. The Health Center can provide general health assessments, numerous diagnostic tests, wound care, first aid, physicals, as well as referrals to specialists in the area.

The Health Center is staffed daily by three registered nurses and a physician. Physician hours are by appointment. The health center telephone number is 419-434-4550.

C. Health Insurance Policy

Full-time matriculated students of the PA Program must have medical/surgical and major medical (hospitalization) coverage. Students must provide the program evidence of current health insurance in the form of a photocopy of a current health insurance card with provider name, identification numbers, expiration date of hospitalization and medical/surgical plan in which the student is enrolled. This information is to be submitted to the PA program. Students must show proof of health insurance coverage annually and an absence of coverage will prohibit participation in supervised clinical activities. In the event of hardship leading to absence of health insurance, supplemental insurance may be available through the University upon request, although it is currently not available at this time; inquiries should be directed to The University of Findlay, Business Office, at 419-434-4690.

D. Health Status

A significant change in health requiring medical or surgical interventions may render a student unable to undertake the program demands, and as a result a leave of absence or a medical leave may be necessary. Refer to the section discussing leaves of absence.

Students must report any condition which might endanger the health and well-being of other students, patients, program staff, or program related personnel to the Cosiano Health Center or their personal health care provider immediately.

A student with a significant change in health will not be allowed to return without being cleared by either the Cosiano Health Center or their personal health care provider.

Students who have an immunodeficiency such as HIV/AIDS or other syndromes associated with immune-compromised states are encouraged to seek counseling from their private health care provider and/or the medical staff at the Cosiano Health Center regarding potential risks associated with exposure to or taking care of patients with transmissible infections and should continue to strictly follow infection control procedures to minimize their risk of exposure to infectious agents.

E. General Student Bloodborne and Airborne Exposure Policy

It is impossible to eliminate exposure risks and still provide students with a quality medical education. Students will receive proper training in universal precautions and other risk reduction behaviors before entering the patient care environment. If a student is exposed, such as by a needlestick, this policy outlines the procedures which should be followed by the student and the Program.

1.0 Training

- 1.01 The PA Program will present a training session on universal precautions, and the students will be given a written document for future reference. OSHA guidelines will be used as a basis for this information.

- 1.02 All students will sign a document acknowledging that they have received and understand this training before being allowed to interact with patients.
 - 1.03 These documents will be kept on file in the PA program for as long as the student remains in the program.
- 2.0 Prevention
- 2.01 Students will obtain physical examinations by a qualified medical practitioner (who is not a member of the Program Faculty) prior to beginning clinical rotations to ensure that the student is free of infectious diseases.
 - 2.02 Students will provide the PA program with proof of standard immunizations, including immunization against Hepatitis B and tuberculosis (TB) screening prior to matriculation into the PA program and again prior to entering SCPEs.
 - 2.03 In the event that a student has not been properly immunized, that student will not be allowed to participate in his or her SCPE until such immunizations have been initiated which will result in a delay in program completion. Students may contact their own physician/health care provider, the city or county health departments, or the Cosiano Health Center on campus for assistance with obtaining these immunizations.
 - 2.04 Proof of immunization will be provided to the sites of the student's SCPE prior to the student's arrival.
- 3.0 Post-Exposure Guidelines
- 3.01 Any student who is exposed to blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) should alert his/her preceptor immediately. Such exposures may include but are not limited to: needlesticks, splashing of fluid into the eyes, or contact of fluids with an open wound on the student's body.
 - 3.02 Once the preceptor has been notified, the student should follow the guidelines of the medical center where the exposure occurs. This usually entails reporting to the emergency room where the wound or eyes can be irrigated, and the student can receive information and counseling regarding proper treatment. Depending on the type of exposure, the student may be advised to receive one or several pharmacologic agents that may reduce the risk of contracting a disease.
 - 3.03 Should the medical center where the exposure occurred not have a policy for treatment of these exposures for students, the student should proceed to the nearest emergency room for proper evaluation and treatment.
 - 3.04 Airborne exposure should be reported in the same fashion as above.
- 4.0 Financial Responsibility
- 4.01 When a physician assistant student is exposed to a potentially infectious agent during the course of regular educational activities for the PA program, the University will not be responsible for costs incurred by the student for treatment and follow-up of this exposure. Any financial obligations incurred by an exposure are the student's responsibility.
- 5.0 Follow-up Procedures
- 5.01 Continue medical treatment and counseling at the rotation site or with their primary care physician for the prescribed amount of time. Follow-up for evaluation of reported illnesses post-exposure.
 - 5.02 The clinical coordinator will maintain contact with the student within 48 hours and repeat contact at one week, 4-6 weeks at 3 months and finally at 6 months to document compliance with the post-exposure guidelines.
- 6.0 For more detail, refer to section F below to explain exposure policies and procedures in detail.

F. Student Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Policy

Updated April 2019, Effective August 2012

Note: If you have just sustained an exposure incident, please refer to "Steps to Follow After Exposure" and the "Record of Accidental Exposure" form immediately!

The Physician Assistant Program recognizes that as students begin to interact with patients as part of their medical education, they encounter the risk of exposure to infectious diseases.

There is no way to eliminate these risks and still provide students with a quality medical education.

The best way to avoid the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials is for the student to learn all they can about how to protect themselves and their patients and to use Universal Precautions in all situations in which exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials may occur.

The Program provides information on access to mandatory training in Universal Precautions and other risk reduction behaviors including the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard training before entering program. This training is kept updated on an annual basis while the student is in the pa program.

Despite sufficient knowledge about the risks and methods of transmission of infection and the proper use of Universal Precautions 100% of the time, exposure is still a possibility.

It is the responsibility of the student to become knowledgeable about the methods to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials and most importantly, to thoroughly understand the steps needed to be taken in the event of a possible exposure before such an event occurs.

If a student is possibly exposed to a bloodborne pathogen by way of a needle stick injury, mucous membrane exposure, or some other exposure, this policy outlines the procedures, which must be followed by the student and the Program.

The PA Program Responsibility:

- **Provide access to knowledge and training**

The Student's Responsibility:

- **Learn the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves and their patients**
- **Learn the steps necessary in the case of a potential exposure and follow them correctly**

This partnership between the student and the PA Program will work together to create as safe of an environment as possible for the students in the clinical arena while recognizing that it is impossible to prevent all exposures.

The methods used to achieve these goals will be training the students in what they need to know to protect themselves and their patients, prevention strategies provided to the students to include immunizations when available, training and knowledge about how to prevent exposures, a clear set of instructions about what to do once a potential exposure occurs, an understanding of which individuals are responsible for what specific actions, and a clearly defined policy for follow-up once a potential exposure has occurred.

1) Training

- a) The PA Program will provide access instructions to a mandatory training session on the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard that includes instruction on Universal Precautions
- b) A written handout will be provided for future reference
- c) All students will sign a document acknowledging that they have received, reviewed, and understand this training before being allowed to interact with patients
- d) These documents will be kept on file in the PA Department for as long as the student remains in the program

2) Prevention

- a) Students will obtain physical examinations by a qualified medical practitioner (who is not a member of the Program Faculty) prior to beginning clinical rotations to ensure that the student is free of infectious diseases.

- i) Students will provide the program with verification of proof of standard immunizations, including immunization against Hepatitis B and TB screening prior to beginning clinical rotations.
 - (1) Documentation of immunization status shall be provided to the Cosiano Health Center who will notify the PA Program of the student's compliance with this requirement.
 - ii) In the event that a student has not been properly immunized, that student will not be allowed to participate in his or her clinical rotation until such immunizations have been initiated.
 - (1) Students may contact their own physician/health care provider, the city or county health departments, or the Cosiano Health Center on campus for assistance with obtaining these immunizations.
 - iii) Proof of verification of immunization will be provided to the sites of the student's clinical rotation prior to the student's arrival.
- b) Students must comply with the OSHA Standard concerning bloodborne pathogen exposure (including Universal Precautions and the use of personal protection gear) at all times while in a clinical environment in which an exposure to a bloodborne pathogen or other potentially infectious material could occur.

3) **Student Responsibilities and Actions in Case of Exposure**

- a) Any student who is exposed to blood or OPIM should immediately follow the procedures explained in Appendix A of this document.
- b) Any student who is exposed to blood or OPIM should immediately alert their supervising physician or preceptor.
- c) Such exposures may include:
 - i) Needlestick injuries
 - ii) Splashing of fluid into the eyes
 - iii) Contact of fluids with an open wound on the student's body
- d) Once the supervising physician has been notified, the student should follow the guidelines of the medical center where the exposure occurs.
 - i) This usually entails reporting to the emergency room where the wound or eyes can be irrigated, and the student will receive information and counseling regarding proper treatment.
- e) Depending on the type of exposure, the student may be advised to receive one or several pharmacologic agents that may reduce the risk of contracting a disease.
- f) **Should the medical center where the exposure occurred not have a policy for treatment of these exposures OR the preceptor informs the student that the institutional policy does not cover the student, the student MUST IMMEDIATELY (within 1 hour) proceed to the nearest emergency room for proper evaluation and treatment.**

4) **Financial Responsibility**

- a) When a physician assistant student is exposed to a potentially infectious agent during the course of regular educational activities for the Program, the University will not be responsible for costs incurred by the student for treatment and follow-up of this exposure.
- b) Any financial obligation incurred by an exposure is the student's responsibility.

5) **Follow-up Procedures**

- a) After an exposure has occurred, the student is strongly advised to continue medical treatment and counseling at the rotation site or with their primary care physician for the prescribed amount of time.
- b) The student is also strongly advised to obtain follow-up for evaluation of any reported illnesses post-exposure.
- c) The clinical coordinator will maintain contact with the student after being informed of the possible exposure.
 - i) The clinical coordinator will contact the student at the following times:
 - (1) Within 48 hours of the student's notification of the incident
 - (2) One week after the report is made to the Program
 - (3) Four to six weeks after the report is made to the Program

- (4) Three months after the report is made to the Program
- (5) Six months after the report is made to the Program
- ii) This contact is to document compliance with the procedures required or recommended by this policy.
- ii) The clinical coordinator will keep a written record of the required follow-up.

Steps to Follow After Exposure

1) Initial actions following exposure:

- a) The initial response to any exposure of a PA student to blood or other potentially infectious material should be immediate cleansing of the exposed site
 - i) Skin exposures:
 - (1) The area should be washed with soap and water
 - ii) Small wounds and punctures may be cleansed with an antiseptic such as an alcohol-based hand hygiene agent
 - (1) Alcohol is virucidal to HIV, HBV, and HCV
 - (2) Other antiseptics also inactivate HIV:
 - (a) Iodophors
 - (b) Chloroxylenol (PCMX)
 - (c) Chlorhexidine (CHG)
 - iii) Mucosal surface exposure
 - (1) Exposed mucus membranes should be flushed with copious amounts of water
 - iv) Eyes should be irrigated with saline or water
 - v) There is no evidence that expressing fluid by squeezing the wound will further reduce the risk of bloodborne pathogen transmission
 - b) Guidelines for hand washing and infection control can be accessed through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website (www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/Guidelines.html *valid 7/07/2021*)

2) Documentation of the exposure

- a) Clinical information should be documented on the source patient for the exposure and the recipient healthcare worker including:
 - b) Risk factors and serologic tests for HIV, and hepatitis B and C
 - c) The nature and time of the exposure
 - i) Definition of exposure
 - (1) The US CDC has defined "exposure" to blood, tissue, or other body fluids that may place a health care worker at risk for HIV infection and therefore requires consideration of post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as:
 - (a) A percutaneous injury (e.g., a needlestick or cut with a sharp object)
 - (b) Contact of mucous membrane or nonintact skin
 - (i) e.g., exposed skin that is chapped, abraded, or afflicted with dermatitis)
 - ii) Body fluids of concern include:
 - (1) Implicated in the transmission of HIV:
 - (a) Semen
 - (b) Vaginal secretions
 - (c) Other body fluids contaminated with visible blood
 - (2) Potentially infectious (undetermined risk for transmitting HIV) include cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, and amniotic fluids
 - (3) Fluids that are not considered infectious unless they contain blood include feces, nasal secretions, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, and vomitus

3) Determine the need for prophylaxis

- a) The need for post-exposure prophylaxis is determined by the type of injury and the status of the patient.
 - i) All students should be protected from hepatitis B from prior immunization

- ii) There is no vaccine for hepatitis C although there is pharmaceutical treatment
- iii) Most students are concerned about the risk of HIV
- b) The CDC has recommendations for the need for post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV
<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/pep/pep-workplace.html>

See the “**Steps to Follow After Exposure**” form in the forms section at the end of this handbook for reporting exposures or refer to the Blackboard website.

G. Tuberculosis Screening

To prevent fellow students, faculty, staff, and patients from exposure to active TB (tuberculosis), screening must be conducted prior to matriculating in to the program.

- 1.0 In order to protect PA students, faculty, staff, and patients from being exposed to active TB, it is important to identify those students with TB infection without evidence of current (active) disease. All incoming and continuing PA students are required to provide annual proof that they are not infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB). Any CDC-approved screening methodology may be submitted as evidence. A two-step Mantoux PPD skin test (within the last two months) or two yearly consecutive negative PPD tests. If PPD conversion has been documented, a chest x-ray and a statement from the treating physician regarding evaluation for therapy are required.
- 2.0 Those with a history of Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccination also must have baseline screening performed.
- 3.0 Individuals who have a documented history of a positive PPD test, adequate treatment for disease, or adequate preventive therapy for infection, should be exempt from further PPD screening unless they develop signs and symptoms suggestive of TB. The decision to screen in this situation will be made by the student’s primary care provider.
- 4.0 PPD test results should be read by designated, trained employees between 48 - 72 hours after injection. Student self-reading of PPD test results will not be accepted.
- 5.0 Pregnancy should not exclude female students from being skin-tested as part of a contact investigation or part of the regular skin-testing program.
- 6.0 Should a student have a positive TB screening test, he or she must undergo a complete medical evaluation to rule out the possibility of current (active) disease and obtain an initial chest x-ray.

H. Counseling/Mental Health Services

Counseling and mental health services are provided free of charge to students and employees of The University of Findlay by the Counseling Services Office (419-434-4526). UF Counseling Services Staff are trained, licensed professionals and services are confidential. Students may set up an appointment with no referral necessary. (*Standard A3.10*)

X. SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM STANDARDS

Following the successful completion of semesters I-IV of the didactic year, students will advance into the clinical education phase of the program. UF PA students are required to complete eight “Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences” (SCPEs). Supervised Clinical Practice represents clinical education opportunities (field placement) that enable students to actively participate in the evaluation and management of diverse patient populations with medical, surgical, and traumatic problems in ambulatory and tertiary care centers. Each PA student will complete their SCPEs in their entirety which includes the required seven sequential six week SCPEs in each core discipline and one six-week clinical elective discipline. Electives can include primary care

settings as well as specialty disciplines. Note: each SCPE is five weeks and two days – the last three days take place on the UF main campus unless otherwise noted.

A. Clinical Setting Behavioral Standard

1.0 Attendance

- 1.01 Students will abide by the Physician Assistant Program SCPE calendar rather than the PA didactic calendar or university calendar while in the clinical education phase of the program unless otherwise designated by the program.

- 1.02 Students will be present a minimum of 40 hours per week (average) with a maximum of 80 hours per week (average) at each SCPE unless stipulated by the Clinical Coordinator to fully earn course credits (absences, both excused and unexcused, will be recorded and tallied). Students must accurately record their clinical hours in EValue Time Logs for each day of each SCPE. The PA program reserves the right to verify EValue Time Log entries with the clinical preceptor. Students failing to be present for a minimum of 40 hours per week (average) will have that recorded as an unexcused absence unless approval is obtained from the PA program.

Each student must be present at the clinical site (“working”) for a minimum of 216 hours total (preferably >240 when possible) and have these hours logged in eValue. This results in a total of 1,728 hours for the entire clinical year. If unable to obtain 216 hours or more, future SCPE placements (including the elective SCPE) may be changed/modified to allow for additional contact time. Under the rare circumstance that the total number of hours/contact time is too limited, a delay in graduation may occur with the insertion of an additional clinical placement at the discretion of the program to allow for additional hours to be earned. Students are placed at clinical rotation sites after the clinical coordinator has been informed during the initial setup with the site that the required minimum number of hours will be able to be met. It is the responsibility of the student to track their hours and ensure they are meeting the minimum numbers of hours (216 hours). It is the student’s responsibility to notify the program if they will not meet the minimum number of hours so other arrangements can be made (typically, this will be noted in the first week of the SCPE). If a student delays and waits until too late in the program when additional arrangements cannot be made, it may result in a delay in graduation due to additional hours/etc. needing to be obtained (possibly repeating the rotation at the cost of the student). Students may additionally be placed on Professional Probation pending the circumstances of the situation.

Required hours may be modified depending on changes to the format of rotations that may occur during the clinical year.

For rotations occurring in the Spring Semester during the time of the AAPA conference: The SCPE during which the AAPA conference occurs is one week longer (7 weeks instead of 6) than the other rotations. Students either have the opportunity to attend the AAPA conference during this time period (at the student’s expense) or must remain in attendance at their given SCPE. The number of hours required for the SCPE during which the AAPA conference takes place is 256 hours (40 additional hours at the SCPE for the extra week, or the AAPA conference will fulfill these hours if attended).

- 1.03 Any unexcused absence is grounds for dismissal from the program (i.e., including abandonment of a SCPE).
 - 1.03.a: Abandonment of a SCPE is defined as a student leaving a rotation site or failure to attend a site without the prior notification of and approval from the preceptor to leave that site for any reason. Any absence from the clinical site must be approved by the Clinical Coordinator and an Absentee Form completed. Exceptions may be granted for an excused absence, a leave of absence, or permission of the Clinical

Coordinator (CC). If unable to contact the CC, attempt must be made to contact either the Program chair/director or other program faculty. If not dismissed from the PA program, the student will be required to make up the SCPE at the discretion of the program and will be responsible for the additional cost.

- 1.03.b: Unexcused absences will result in a required meeting with the Program chair/director and the CC who will review the circumstances and determine the student's status regarding continued participation in the PA program and remediation.
- 1.03.c: The remediation plan may require repeating the SCPE which will increase tuition and fee costs and may result in a delay in graduation.
- 1.04 Students are required to be present day, evening, nights and/or weekends as required by the SCPE site and assigned schedule by the preceptor. This includes taking call and making rounds as applicable. However, no student shall be required to be present for more than 80 hours/week (average) on any given SCPE.
- 1.05 In the event of an illness or emergency necessitating absence from the clinical education site, students MUST personally (or through an authorized representative) notify the clinical site first as soon as possible and then contact the PA Program Office immediately to report an absence (students must notify both the clinical coordinator and the program faculty member for that SCPE). If the clinical coordinator and faculty member are not reachable by phone, email (to both) is an acceptable modality for notification. An absentee form must still be completed in addition to the immediate notification to the program.
 - 1.05.a If the nature of the emergency is such that immediate notification is not possible, the student or her/his authorized representative must notify both the clinical site and the PA program office at the earliest possible time after the ability to communicate has been reestablished.
 - 1.05.b The validity of the student's authorized representative must be verifiable, and the student will be held responsible for any deception or the knowing transmission of false information to the clinical site or the program.
 - 1.05.c If the authorized representative is another student, that student will be held to the same professional standards of truthfulness about the circumstances surrounding the absence.
- 1.06 Students who are absent from an SCPE for more than three consecutive days due to a reported illness will require a written medical note for the record (student file) stating that she or he is medically able to resume her/his duties at the clinical site. The note must not identify the diagnosis. It must only state that the student is medically able to resume clinical duties.
- 1.07 Students are permitted to have a total of five excused absences during the clinical education year.
 - 1.07.a Any student who is absent (excused absences only) greater than five days will be required to make up the absences >5 days unless specifically exempted by the PA Program chair/director.
 - 1.07.b Any absences can jeopardize program progression and completion.
 - 1.07.c The placement and timing for make-up days will be at the discretion of the CC.

- 1.08 Students who have greater than five reported absences during a single SCPE (either excused or unexcused) must meet with the Program chair/director/CC regarding continued participation in the program. If greater than five days (40 hours) are missed during any one SCPE (i.e., missing due to surgery, a funeral, etc.), the SCPE must be made up in its entirety – the student is responsible for the full cost of repeating an SCPE. Only a maximum of three days' worth of hours (24 hours) can be made up with CaseFiles (or whatever product/resource the program is using in its place) for excused absences when hours are deficient. Students will not be required to make up hours for excused absences past 216 hours. CaseFiles (or whatever product/resource the program is using in its place) can only be used if hours are not able
- 1.09 Students may be excused from an SCPE to perform research, meet with a Research Advisor at a scheduled appointment, to meet with a program faculty member, and/or to participate in a program event, but only with prior approval from the CC and confirmed by the Research Advisor or appropriate faculty member. Time spent on program-sanctioned activities (meetings/etc.) can be used to count towards the minimum 216 hours.
- 1.10 Students will attend all assigned learning activities assigned by the Clinical Preceptor or PA program faculty in correlation with targeted learning objectives and/or as a component of a remediation plan.
- 1.11 Students who wish to attend professional conferences, seminars, etc. must submit a written request to the CC and send a copy to the Program chair/director and PA program SCPE faculty mentor no later than 30 working days prior to the first day of the event. Timeliness of submission of the request and student academic status in the program will be factors considered in granting time away from the site. Also considered is the impact of time away from the site on the student's ability to successfully achieve the objectives of the SCPE. If possible, the student will be notified no later than 20 working days prior to the first day of the event whether their request has been approved or denied. The program will evaluate the type of activity/ conference on a case-by-case basis and determine if it is relevant and applicable to the practice of a physician assistant at that point in the student's education.
- 1.12 The program is not obligated to provide additional clinical experience assignments or times to those students who elect to attend approved extracurricular educational activities and remain responsible for any and all standard targeted PA learning and objectives of the SCPE.
- 1.13 Students will be required to attend any/all activities as designated by the PA program/faculty during the clinical year. These will count as excused absences from the SCPE and will not count towards the five permitted absences.
- 1.14 Students may not request days off/vacation from the preceptor and are expected to be present while the office/facility is open or as the preceptor requests (not to exceed 80 hours per week).
- 1.15 Inability to meet the minimum number of hours (216 hours) required for a clinical rotation (256 hours for the SCPE during which the AAPA conference takes place):
 - 1.15a. In the rare instance that a student is unable to meet the minimum number of required hours for a rotation due to a holiday and/or closure of the office (e.g., preceptor closes the office on a day of the rotation) or due to an excused absence (such as a funeral) CaseFiles (or whatever product/resource the program is using in its place) may be used to supplement/replace missing hours up to a maximum of 24 hours missed/short for the rotation.

1.15b. A minimum of five CaseFiles (or whatever product/resource the program is using in its place) must be completed for every eight-hour block of time that is being made up/supplemented.

1.15c. Students must have the “Inability to obtain minimum required clinical hours” form completed/signed by their clinical preceptor, the student, and the UF clinical coordinator. This form documents that there is no other way for the student to obtain additional in-person clinical hours. If additional in-person hours are available (such as evenings, weekends, etc.), the hours must first be made up that way.

1.15d. Students must submit their calendar/schedule for the days/times that are planned for them to be present for the clinical rotation during the first week of the SCPE. At the earliest indication (such as a change in the schedule) that the minimum hours will not be reached, the student *must* let the clinical coordinator and faculty mentor know. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor their hours for a minimum of 40 hours per week on average/216 hours minimum for the rotation. No requests for using CaseFiles (or whatever product/resource the program is using in its place) will be accepted after completion of the fourth week of the rotation and any deficient hours must be made up at a time and location at the discretion of the clinical coordinator pending availability (preferably prior to the next rotation starting, even if this occurs over a weekend). An exception exists if the circumstance is out of the control of the student such that it appeared that the minimum number of hours would be reached but a change occurred due to the clinical preceptor/site (form will need to be completed and signed by the preceptor acknowledging the change and no other options were available).

1.15e. Students who are required to quarantine due to COVID-19 will be permitted to use virtual cases (CaseFiles or whatever product/resource the program assigns in its place) to make up two calendar weeks of the SCPE.

1.15f. Instructions and any necessary rubrics for completion of CaseFiles or whatever product/resource the program assigns in its place will be provided to students by a program faculty member. Failure to adequately complete the cases will result in feedback to the student with one opportunity to correct the deficiency/-ies. If not satisfactorily corrected, the final course grade will be decreased by a minimum of 2%.

2.0 Student Identification

2.01 Students will wear identification pins and/or badges bearing their name and UF PA student status on their short white lab coat (pocket or sleeve location). This must include the PA program ID badge as well as any identification required by the clinical site/rotation.

2.02 Students will verbally identify themselves as a Physician Assistant student from the UF PA Program during all patient and professional encounters at the preceptor site or when representing the profession or the program.

3.0 Confidentiality

3.01 Students will respect patient confidentiality at all times. Patient information is to be discussed only in the context of professional discussion with health care providers at the clinical site. Great caution is advised in discussing patients by name, by case, by diagnosis, and/or by outcomes in any place or any medium other than point of service and authorized forms of documentation. Any violation of patient privacy under the federal regulation of HIPAA jeopardizes the preceptor’s practice and positions the student for dismissal from the program.

3.02 Students will delete/omit identifying personal patient information (“protected health information” as defined in HIPAA training) during oral patient reviews and on any write-ups submitted for academic evaluation.

4.0 Documentation

4.01 Students will confer with the preceptor regarding general policies and practices of chart entries, electronic medical records use, and/or dictation procedures of the clinical site.

4.02 Students must receive permission from the preceptor prior to making written and/or electronic/computer-based entries into the patient records.

4.02.a If students are unable/not allowed to record entries into the patient’s chart, they must keep a notebook of their own with these entries and should have the clinical preceptor review them.

4.02.b No entries should be removed from the facility with protected health information.

4.02.c Students must abide by HIPAA policies and procedures when creating their own notes/records.

4.03 Student entries in records must include student status, e.g. Your Name, PA-S or Your Name, PA-Student.

4.04 All student entries on patient records must be countersigned by the Clinical Preceptor.

4.05 Documents submitted as part of coursework must demonstrate respect for patient’s, providers, and institution’s confidentiality and be submitted in compliance with course requirements.

4.06 Falsification of any patient information/medical records, intentional or unintentional, as well as improper citing/referencing (intentional or unintentional), is grounds for dismissal from the program (professional probation at a minimum). Clinical year course assignments are viewed as being equal to that of the medical record. Therefore, any construed false information will result in disciplinary action including following the University policy on reporting academic dishonesty. This may result in a failure of the assignment in question, failure of the course in which the assignment takes place, dismissal from the PA program, and/or dismissal from the University depending on the severity of the infraction and past history of infractions in addition to being placed on professional probation.

5.0 eValue Documentation for SCPEs

eValue provides each student and the program with a record of the student’s experiences throughout his/her clinical year. The information entered into this database is a critical component of the program’s documentation of its compliance with ARC-PA accreditation standards. The student will document in the database that the program is using at that time for his/her cohort.

At the completion of the program, the student will be required to submit a portfolio of their clinical experiences generated by the eValue database that will be used as part of assessing the student’s successful completion of the program as well as assessing the program’s ability to provide clinical educational experiences.

It also allows the student to generate the same portfolio containing tables, graphs, and reports of what they have done for potential employers.

5.01 Each student is responsible for his/her online documentation using the eValue Database.

5.01.a Each student will receive instructions on the use of the eValue Database as part of their orientation to the clinical year.

- 5.01.b eValue recording should be completed daily.
- 5.01.c eValue documentation must be complete and thorough.
- 5.02 eValue logging or its equivalent (if the program should change the program used) is a **MANDATORY ACTIVITY** and must be completed within three days of each patient encounter for each SCPE.
- 5.02.a The expectation is daily logging and it is recommended that logging occur during breaks and prior to leaving the clinical site if at all possible.
- 5.02.b eValue logging is mandatory for the Elective SCPE as well.
- 5.03 **IMPORTANT**In order to receive the final grade for each SCPE, eValue entries MUST be completed within the time allotted. Failure to do so will result in an INCOMPLETE or EC grade until entries have been completed. Students will have points deducted from the final SCPE grade for inefficient eValue recording.**
- Even if the time has expired for logging data and points will be lost, the data must still be logged in order to earn the final course grade. Failure to do so will result in a failing course grade (F) replacing the incomplete or EC course grade which results in dismissal of the program/inability of graduate until the SCPE is repeated in its entirety.
- 5.04 The Clinical Coordinator, the Experiential Educator, or the UF course faculty member will be monitoring eValue logging activities. Items being monitored include (items monitored may be changed by the program):
1. Number of patients seen per day
 2. Ages of patients seen
 3. Gender of patients seen
 4. Ethnicity of patients seen
 5. CPT codes for Evaluation and Management (E and M codes) as well as procedures performed and the level of student involvement in those procedures
 6. Number and types of specific competencies as defined within the EValue Database
 7. ICD-10 diagnosis codes assigned to the patients seen
 8. Number and types of drugs prescribed
 9. Number and types of referrals made for patients
 10. Participation in surgeries
 11. Participation in deliveries
- 5.05 Academic Credit and Policies for eValue Database Logging:
- 5.05.a If a student is deemed to be entering fraudulent data it will result in a failing grade for the rotation and the student will be placed on professional probation by the program (see “Professional Probation”).
- i. Evidence of fraud includes, but is not limited to:
 - Entering identical data for multiple patients
 - Fabricating data on patients
 - Entering fictitious patients, diagnoses, competencies, or procedures
- 5.05.b If a student fails to enter data on patients within three days of each patient encounter (including the date of the encounter), the student will receive a warning when it is discovered as well as a loss of points from the SCPE grade.

- i. A repetition of the behavior after the first warning will result in the student being placed on professional probation by the program with additional points lost from the SCPE grade.
 - ii. Examples of logging requirements:
 - For patients seen on a Monday, all eValue logging must be completed by 11:59pm on the Wednesday immediately following that Monday. For patients seen on a Thursday, all eValue logging must be completed by 11:59pm on the Saturday immediately following that Thursday.
- 5.05.c If the student fails to appropriately log patient eValue information after being placed on professional probation (for the two previous violations of this policy), the student will immediately be assigned a failing grade for the current rotation, will withdraw from the site, and will be required to repeat the rotation unless this infraction requires expulsion from the PA Program because of other professionalism or academic issues. (Example: Student on SCPE I receives a written warning for failure to comply with eValue logging. Same student is placed on probation while on SCPE III for a repeat infraction. Student successfully remediates the professional probation but has a third infraction while on SCPE VII. The student would then fail SCPE VII.)
- 5.05d Students are required to “clock in and out” when on all SCPEs. These time logs are used to verify the student’s presence at the site when they should be (compared to the calendar submitted by the student) and that the student obtains a minimum required number of hours (should be exceeded) for each SCPE. Time logs must be correct/current and must correlate with eValue patient logging (e.g., no patients should be logged for days when the student is not clocked in and vice versa). Tardiness will not be accepted (one minute late constitutes a tardy) and demonstrates unprofessionalism. Students are permitted only one tardy per SCPE and points will be deducted beginning with the second tardy.
- No more than two occurrences asking to be punched in/out (time adjusted) will be permitted per rotation without penalty (i.e., student forgets and punches in late or doesn’t clock out and requests the time to be adjusted). Any requests after two will result in a 1% deduction from the final SCPE course grade per occurrence. If more than 10 occurrences of requests to have times adjusted occur, the student will be placed on Professional Probation in addition to the deduction in points for the final course grade.

In addition, if a student has 20 occurrences overall across any rotations completed to date, they will be placed on Professional Probation and may incur grade reductions for occurrences on subsequent rotations as a part of the Professional Probation.

B. Supervised Clinical Practice Professional Compartment Standards

- 1.0 Technical Standards apply for didactic and clinical year students.
- 2.0 Students will engage in SCPEs in a professional manner with compartment that is patient-centered and reflective of the Code of Ethics of the PA profession.
- 3.0 Students will confer with the preceptor regarding all clinical findings, written notes, interventions and patient management plans and participate as delegated.
- 4.0 Students will immediately report any potential medical liability incident regarding their activities to the preceptor and the CC as well as the SCPE mentor/faculty.

- 5.0 Students will not release a patient from their care who has not been evaluated by the preceptor or their designee.
- 6.0 Students will complete the appropriate UF and site incident/reporting forms for encounters with all reportable diseases and exposures and submit them to the proper offices and/or personnel as designated.
- 7.0 Students are to discuss concerns that arise and difficulties encountered at the site only with their assigned preceptor, CC, PA program SCPE mentor/faculty, and/or PA Program chair/director.
- 8.0 Communication with preceptors or prospective preceptors:
 - 8.01 Students will contact scheduled preceptors/sites as required by the Clinical Coordinator to confirm scheduled placements, receive instructions, etc.
 - 8.02 Under no circumstance is a student to contact a potential, prospective, or current preceptor without the approval of the Clinical Coordinator first. Failure to follow this policy will result in professional probation at a minimum to dismissal from the program if clinical year placements are compromised. Some facilities/organizations expressly prohibit any students from contacting their providers (i.e., Cleveland Clinic Foundation) and it may not be clear to the student what those organizations are or who the providers are.
- 9.0 Failure of a student to comply with the above may result in the student being placed on Professional Probation or dismissed from the program dependent upon the severity of the infraction at the discretion of the program chair/director.

C. Communication with Program and Program Personnel

- 1.0 Students must provide the clinical coordinator with a phone number and a “best time” to be reached/visited during the SCPE within the first 48 hours of the SCPE.
 - 1.01 Students **MUST** be able to be reached by the program at any time, day or night, in the event there is an emergency or the student needs to be contacted for any program-related reason.
 - 1.02 Students must update their personal and emergency contact information as needed at the start of each SCPE and this will be completed through the students’ EValue student accounts.
 - 1.03 All changes must be recorded in eValue immediately.
- 2.0 Students will receive information from the PA program via UF e-mail accounts and must maintain and regularly (daily) check their **UF e-mail address**. The program is not responsible for a student missing valuable information, assignments, scheduled/required events, or deadlines due to failure to check their **UF e-mail accounts**.
- 3.0 Students are encouraged to retain all written, hand-delivered or electronic correspondence sent to or received from the PA Program during each SCPE which can, as necessary, be used to resolve any discrepancies that may arise.
- 4.0 Students may contact the core faculty or staff by telephone (419-434-4529) or e-mail at any time. Depending upon the time the email is sent or message left, faculty/staff will respond within 24 hours or by Monday if the message is sent/left during the weekend unless they are unavailable.

- 5.0 Students may make appointments with the clinical coordinator, program chair/director, faculty, and mentor/adviser as needed with approved absences from site if warranted.
- 6.0 Students with concerns regarding their ability to accomplish the objectives on the SCPE must contact the faculty mentor for that SCPE and the clinical coordinator **as soon as they develop the concern.**
- 7.0 Failure of a student to comply with IX.C1.0 – C6.0 may result in the student being placed on Professional Probation or dismissed from the program dependent upon the severity of the infraction at the discretion of the program chair.

D. SCPE Site Placement

- 1.0 Students are not responsible for identifying clinical sites, but they may submit a recommendation for a one-time or on-going program affiliation. Students may participate in site development by completing a “Student Generated Preceptor Contact Form” (SGPC) if they are in good academic standing and has no history of being on professional probation.
 - 1.01 This form serves as a prompt to the PA program that the student has a preceptor/site in mind where they would like to complete an SCPE. It is not a guarantee for placement.
 - 1.02 Based on the information provided by the student, the PA program initiates the formal contact representing the PA program with the preceptor/site from the program.
 - 1.03 Students are not guaranteed to be placed at sites which they identify/request.**
 - 1.04 Such sites must meet all of the established educational goals for the clinical experience and must agree to become legally affiliated with The University of Findlay PA Program during the time the student is attending the site.
 - 1.05 It is up to the discretion of the PA Program as to which sites to utilize.
 - 1.06 Students may submit an unlimited number of SGPCs.
- 2.0 Students can be placed anywhere in the area and at distant affiliates including out of the state.
- 3.0 **Students are responsible for their own housing and transportation including all costs incurred at all SCPEs.** Students should expect to need/find alternate housing for at least one (or more) SCPEs.
-It is advised that students plan on having to obtain housing/transportation outside of the commuting distance from Findlay for at least one SCPE and possibly several.
- 4.0 When possible, for sites greater than two hours away from the Findlay area, students will be notified at least eight weeks in advance of the planned assignment.
- 5.0 **Assignment to specific SCPE sites is primarily dependent on availability and is at the discretion of the clinical coordinator.**
- 6.0 Final decisions regarding assignment to individual sites are made by the clinical coordinator and program director/chair with collective input from the PA program when necessary.

- 7.0 The decision for SCPE placement is commonly based on but not limited to the following:
- Ability of the clinical site to fulfill the educational requirements
 - Availability of the site
 - Preceptor/site requests
 - Individual student characteristics
 - Sequencing of SCPEs for each student
 - Academic challenge presented by site characteristics
 - Student past performance in areas critical to success at the site
 - SCPEs completed by student to date
- 8.0 Once a site/placement has been confirmed, it will not be rescheduled except under extenuating circumstances as deemed necessary by the clinical coordinator.

E. Sequencing of the Clinical Year

- 1.0 Sequencing of the clinical courses is subject to change without notice.
- 2.0 Untimely changes in site availability can create a “ripple effect” throughout the entire class and may result in a change in the sequence of SCPE disciplines for some students.
- 3.0 All students will enroll in and complete eight supervised clinical practice opportunities, one research related course, and three seminar format courses during the clinical year of the PA Program.

F. SCPE Performance Evaluation Standard

- 1.0 To evaluate the successful transfer of learning to clinical settings, individual student evaluations will be conducted in various ways during each SCPE and recorded on student transcripts.
- 1.01 SCPE Performance Outcome is based on a composite of attitudes, skills, and knowledge derived from the following elements:
- Post-SCPE evaluation of the student by the preceptor
 - Achievement of targeted learning objectives
 - Cognitive assessments including general medicine quizzes and discipline specific rotation exams
- 1.02 PA program academic policies and all academic policies of The University of Findlay will remain in effect during the clinical education component of the curriculum.
- 2.0 The SCPE Assessment Tool forms will be completed by the primary clinical preceptor to assess the learning that takes place at the clinical setting.
- 3.0 It is the responsibility of the student to review the learning objectives at the start of each SCPE.
- 4.0 Student clinical education performance at the SCPE site is continually assessed by the preceptor(s). The mid-SCPE evaluation should be done at week 3 to identify strengths and weaknesses that can be further improved upon during the remainder of the SCPE.
- 5.0 Students must achieve a “Novice” level or higher in all categories of the Clinical Competency Assessment and the Professionalism Assessment of the SCPE Assessment Tool completed by the primary preceptor at the conclusion of the SCPE. Failure to earn a

“Novice” level or higher will result in a failing grade for the SCPE regardless of the score earned from assignments and testing.

- 5.01 The student is to bring the completed “Supervised Clinical Practice Assessment Tool” form with them in a signed and sealed envelope to his/her faculty mentor/instructor for that rotation, or, the form may be mailed/faxed to the program within one week, in the rare instances where preceptors are unable to complete them online. These forms can also be completed electronically via eValue, which is the preferred method.

Failure to submit the forms as outlined above will result in a delay in grade submission for the course and may result in a delay in beginning subsequent SCPEs.

- 5.02 If additional information is discovered after the completion of a SCPE but prior to graduation that would have resulted in a student failing that SCPE had it been discovered by the program during the SCPE, the course grade will be changed to a grade of “F.” Examples include, but are not limited to, additional feedback obtained from additional preceptors from the site, feedback/concerns received from patients, discovery of academic dishonesty, etc. Depending upon the severity of the infraction, the student may be placed on Professional Probation or dismissed from the program at the discretion of the PA program department chair.

- 6.0 Targeted learning competency assignments will be assessed by the SCPE mentor/faculty.

- 7.0 When at a clinical site, the clinical preceptor is responsible for assigning the mid-SCPE and end-SCPE grade (passing grades from the clinical preceptor are necessary to successfully pass the course). If the clinical preceptor advises the student to spend time with other preceptors/providers, it is the student’s responsibility to discuss this with the preceptor at the time of this recommendation to ensure that the preceptor will have adequate time with the student to observe their performance or confer with the individuals they have the student work with. If a final SCPE evaluation form is returned to the program and the preceptor was unable to fully evaluate the student, A grade of EC will be recorded for the SCPE and it will need to be repeated in its entirety (full rotation with a preceptor) at the expense of the student (\$500 stipend). Submitted and graded assignments will not need to be repeated. Repeating the clinical portion of the rotation (five weeks and two days) with a preceptor will result in a delay in graduation with the diploma not being conferred until the next available conferral date (May or December of that year). This will result in a delay in obtaining state licensure.

G. Performance Evaluation Outcomes

- 1.0 Students who do not pass an SCPE will have the opportunity to repeat that SCPE at their own cost during their clinical education which must be completed during the next SCPE time period if possible (or as soon as possible/can be scheduled).
 - 1.01 If a repeated SCPE is failed the student will be dismissed from the PA Program.
- 2.0 Any student who receives a second failing grade for any SCPE (either a repeated attempt or fails a second additional SCPE) will be dismissed from the PA Program.
- 3.0 Any student who is unable to complete an SCPE due to medical or personal reasons will receive a grade of incomplete (“X”) if appropriate.
 - 3.01 Written notification must be submitted to the program chair/director and the clinical coordinator by the student.
 - 3.02 Contingencies for completing the SCPE will be planned by the program chair/director and the clinical coordinator.

- 3.03 A student who withdraws from a course under these circumstances may be subject to conversion of “X” to an “F” if the mutually agreed upon contingency plan is not successfully completed. See Student Leave of Absence Policy
- 4.0 A student must meet the following criteria in order to receive a passing grade for each SCPE:
- “Novice” level or higher is earned on all portions of the “SCPE Assessment Tool”
- AND
- 82% or higher is earned as the numerical total composite score on assignments, eValue, and ExamMaster
- AND
- A passing grade on the EOR exam

The software program through which the PAEA end of rotation examinations are administered monitors attempts made by students to access websites/the internet outside of the testing software. These attempts raise a flag for the proctor that the student has “lost focus.” *Any* attempts to access the internet *outside* of the testing software, regardless of the reason why the attempt was made, will result in failure of the EOR exam, failure of the SCPE, and subsequent dismissal from the Program.

- 5.0 The SCPE faculty mentor will review the “SCPE Assessment Tools” (if received by the program by the meeting date) and assignments and submit the grade/points earned to the CC. The CC will review and release post-SCPE exam results. The CC will allow time for students to review the Post-SCPE computer-based exams immediately following the exam.
- 6.0 The CC will notify students of exam scores earned on the SCPE in a timely manner and faculty will notify students of the SCPE grade earned.

H. SCPE Discipline-Specific and General Medicine Quizzes

- 1.0 The SCPE discipline-specific exam focuses on (but is not limited to) questions related to the most common diagnoses/problems likely to be encountered during that particular SCPE. This is created by the PAEA and a “blueprint” is included in each SCPE syllabus.
- 2.0 The SCPE general medicine quizzes will cover ALL TOPICS relative to patient care in all disciplines. Students must earn an 80% on each quiz to receive credit. Multiple attempts will be permitted.

I. Non-pass/Failing SCPE Grades

- 1.0 A student will receive a failing grade for an SCPE if they receive a/n:
- “At Risk” (non-pass) on the SCPE Assessment Tool
- AND/OR**
- Total composite numerical score of SCPE assignments, e/Value, and ExamMaster \leq 82%
- AND/OR**
- Score less than the minimal passing score on the PAEA EOR exam.
- 2.0 The CC will notify the failed student no later than three days after the final date of the SCPE grade is assessed OR within three days of receipt of a failed preceptor evaluation (whichever applies or comes first).
- 3.0 Students who fail any SCPE must make an appointment to meet with the CC and PD within three days of notification of the SCPE Outcome. Remediation plans, written by the program, will address the following areas:

- 3.01 During this meeting, the PD, CC, and the SCPE faculty mentor will assess eligibility for remediation and develop and review a plan for remediation. Students will be permitted to repeat only one SCPE during the clinical portion of the PA Program.
- 3.02 Clinical preceptor comments on areas of weakness in performance outcomes as documented on their SCPE Assessment Tool by preceptor reflecting unprofessional and/or unethical behaviors, or decision making that puts patients at risk will be reviewed for grounds for dismissal from the program.
- 3.03 Remediation for a failed SCPE (any component) is as follows: the student will be required to repeat the failed SCPE in its entirety as his/her own expense (tuition plus any placement costs/fees/etc.). The student will review the syllabus and study any weak areas as noted on the EOR exam and review all assignments with his/her SCPE program faculty member.
- 3.04 A student is permitted to repeat only one SCPE during the clinical portion of the PA program; a second failed SCPE (either a repeat of an initially failed SCPE, or a failed SCPE in another discipline) will result in the student's immediate dismissal from the PA program.

J. Appealing the Clinical Portion of a Grade

1.0 A student wishing to appeal the clinical portion of the clinical grade must follow the policies and procedures of the University as outlined in the Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Graduate-Catalog/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities-Statement/IX-Policies-Regulating-Experiential-Learning>). This policy is also found below (*in italics*) directly copied and pasted from the link to the UF Graduate Catalog.

Below – UF Graduate Catalog excerpt - policy

IX. Policies Regulating Experiential Learning

*Students who are representing The University of Findlay in any off-campus experience are governed by this policy. This may include internships, service-learning opportunities, clinical/field work, student teaching, observations, etc. Students of The University of Findlay are expected to act in a professional, responsible, accountable, and honest manner at all times and should abide by the Code of Ethics which regulates his/her profession as well as The University of Findlay's honor code. In addition, the student is expected to be compliant with program policies, procedures, and standards and those of the clinical training site. During experiential learning, all state and federal laws and regulations must be followed. If there is a breach in maintaining these expectations, the following level of action may occur. **Please note that outside parties may not represent, be present, or participate in any part of this process.***

Level One: *A verbal notice will be used to call a student's attention to non-compliance with program policies, procedures, and/or program standards as well as those established by the learning site. The verbal notice will be documented in the student's record. If there is a breach in maintaining expectations, one or more of the following levels of actions may occur in any order.*

Level Two Probation: *A formal, written document will be composed and delivered to a student regarding the incident of continued non-compliance to the issue prompting a level one action. The student is considered to be on probation and will be closely monitored for academic and/or professional misconduct. The student should closely examine his/her behavior and follow a program-prescribed resolution plan to correct the behavior and/or academic performance.*

Level Three Suspension: *Suspension will result in the termination of the student's status and participation in program-related activities for a defined period of time with reinstatement possible, provided all specific conditions for reinstatement were met. The student has the right to due process and is invited to engage in the University appeal process as outlined in "**Process to be followed After an Experiential Learning Event**" provided below.*

Level Four Dismissal: Dismissal of a student terminates a student's status in a program and ends all participation in learning activities. The student does not have the opportunity for readmission to the program. The student has the right to due process and is invited to engage in the University appeal process as outlined in "**Process to be followed After an Experiential Learning Event**" provided below.

Removal from the Learning Site

When a student's conduct or health endangers the well-being of others, creates disruption in the experiential learning site, or makes it inadvisable for him/her to remain in the program's field experiences, the faculty reserves the right to remove him/her from the learning site. If the student supervisor or another representative of the learning site asks to have a student removed from the field experience, the student may be placed in an alternate site with a possible repetition of the rotation. The student's performance at the new site will be closely monitored to ensure the student's conduct is consistent with professional standards.

Request to be Removed from a Learning Site

If a student encounters individuals within a learning site who are not professional in their conduct or inconsistent with an appropriate code of ethics, he/she may request to be reassigned to an alternate site. If inappropriate behavior occurs at the site, the student should report the incident immediately to the learning coordinator. A new placement may require the student to repeat the entire rotation.

Background Check

A background check may be completed prior to field experiences. Students must use the program-designated agency for obtaining the background check and release the results to their program. Clinical sites may require additional background checks in an alternate format or time sequence. Full disclosure of any charges and/or convictions of a misdemeanor or felony must be reported prior to the off-campus portion of the program, regardless of how long ago they occurred. The only exceptions are: offenses committed while a juvenile, traffic violations which did not involve drugs or alcohol, or charges which were dismissed. Disclosure of charges and/or convictions will not automatically disqualify your progression in the program.

A student whose background check indicates a felony violation may not be able to obtain a license through his/her state or be eligible to sit for national certification. It is the student's responsibility to initiate an investigation with the appropriate agency for the purpose of gathering data about obtaining a license or certification. Results of this investigation must be shared with the student's faculty adviser for informed career planning purposes. Program progression will be decided by the faculty members and/or the clinical site based on the seriousness of the felony, date of occurrence, and the action of the state or certifying agency.

A student with a misdemeanor violation involving drugs, alcohol, or sexual misconduct may not be able to obtain a license through his/her state or be eligible to sit for the national certification. It is the student's responsibility to initiate an investigation with the appropriate agency for the purpose of gathering data about obtaining a license or certification. Results of this investigation must be shared with the student's faculty adviser for informed career planning purposes. Students must use the designated agency for obtaining the background check and release the results to their program. Program progression will be decided by the faculty members and/or the clinical site based on the seriousness of the misdemeanor violation involving drugs, alcohol, or sexual misconduct, date of occurrence, and the action of the state or certifying agency.

Students having other misdemeanors in their background should consult with the program director and/or chair about the implications for program progression. Individual decisions will be made about the student's progression.

Process to Be Followed After an Experiential Learning Event

1. *When a learning agency contacts The University of Findlay program about a student's progress, complete written information will be collected concerning the event.*
2. *The learning coordinator of the program may visit the site to gather additional information.*
3. *A review of the situation will occur.*
4. *A decision about the event will be reached by the faculty member, adviser, and program director and/or department chair. The student will be notified in writing of the decision.*
5. *The student has the right to appeal the decision to the Experiential Education Committee. This committee will be convened by the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled. The members of the committee shall include: a faculty representative of the College of Health Professions, College of Education, and College of Business as well as two at-large faculty members. In addition, the faculty member of the course in which the student is registered, the student's adviser, and the program director and/or department chair of the student's major will attend the meeting. The committee will listen to the student's appeal as well as the faculty member's comments and then reach a decision.*
6. *The program director and/or department chair will notify the student of the Experiential Education Committee's decision.*
7. *The student has the right to appeal the decision to the vice president for academic affairs. In such a case, the following process shall be followed:*
 - a. *The student may file a written application for permission to appeal to the vice president for academic affairs. Such application shall identify the matter and contain a concise statement of the reason for the appeal (e.g., a claim that the finding of responsibility is contrary to the manifest weight of the information presented at the hearing; that the sanction assessed exceeds that prescribed for the violation for which the student was cited; other substantial errors in the original proceeding) and shall be filed within 72 hours from the pronouncement of the decision.*
 - b. *The vice president for academic affairs shall consider the application as promptly as possible and may call the appellant to appear to make a further statement or explanation in support of the application before deciding whether to grant the application. If it is decided that the application is not merely frivolous and does present a substantial question whether real injustice has been done, the application shall be granted and the matter reviewed. Once the review is completed, the vice president for academic affairs may sustain, reverse, or modify the decision and orders made based on the original decision.*
 - c. *The judgment and final orders of the vice president for academic affairs, including orders denying applications to appeal, shall not be subject to review by or appeal to any higher authority.*

XI. STUDENT RESEARCH STANDARDS

A. Research Conduct Standards

- 1.0 Physician assistant students engaged in research related endeavors will apply appropriate knowledge, skills and medical research ethics while conducting research.
- 2.0 Physician assistant students may engage in only pre-approved research activities.
- 3.0 Once a research timeline has been established, requests for extended time or modifications must be submitted in writing to the student's designated Research Advisor at least 4 weeks in advance.
- 4.0 Physician assistant students are responsible for scheduling meetings with their Research Advisor as set by the program and/or Research Advisor. These appointments are to be made through the Research Advisor with notification given to the CC if the appointments occur outside of the allotted times and during the clinical year.
- 5.0 Students will notify their Research Advisor of any obstacles encountered with research efforts and any anticipated need for change in prior approved protocol. Documentation of the obstacle/change must be recorded in the student record.
- 6.0 Failure of a student to comply with A1.0 – A 5.0 may result in the student being placed on Professional Probation, deduction in appropriate course grade, and/or delay in completion of the program dependent upon the severity of the infraction at the discretion of the program chair.

B. Evaluation of Research

- 1.0 Course grades Leadership Symposium (PHAS606) and courses containing research - All Research Advisors will utilize the same grade criteria (rubric) to evaluate student research thereby ensuring inter-rater reliability. The course syllabi contain the evaluation methods used for the research.
- 2.0 The culmination of research efforts will be presented as a component of the course PHAS606 Leadership Symposium.

XII. Dismissal from the PA Program

A. Poor Ethical Conduct and/or Poor Professionalism

- 1.0 A student responsible for breaches of professional ethics or any behavior that might pose a threat to a patient, University officials or faculty members, the general public, or himself/herself will be dismissed from the PA program unless it is the result of a self-limiting or treatable mental or medical condition.

1.01 Reinstatement into the PA program in this situation (due to a self-limiting or treatable mental or medical condition) will only be possible after clearance from the treating licensed medical professional.

B. Failure to Meet Minimum Academic Standards

- 1.0 Failure of a course in the PA program is defined as earning a grade *less than* "C+" (defined as "C"/75.5% or below).

- 2.0 Any student who fails any course (grade of “C”/75.5% or below) in the didactic phase of the program will be dismissed from the PA program.
- 3.0 Any student who earns more than one grade of “C+” (76.5%-79.4%) in the didactic phase of the program will be dismissed from the program.
- 4.0 Any student who requires more than four remediations in any semester *after* being placed on Academic Probation within the program.
- 5.0 Failure of a second SCPE (or the failure of the repeat of a failed SCPE).
- 6.0 Failure to successfully pass/complete the summative evaluations/activities required to complete the program (see section XIII).

C. Failure to Comply with the Attendance Policy

- 1.0 Students who habitually disrupt the classroom with tardiness or who are chronically absent from class may be subject to dismissal from the PA program. At a minimum, the instructor is permitted to bar them (the student must leave) any session at which they are tardy.

D. Cases of Academic or Professional Misconduct

-see Academic and Professional Probation

E. Suspension

- 1.0 Any student placed on suspension from the University due to academic or any other reasons will be dismissed from the PA program with no option of re-entry.

Any of the above (A through E) can result in dismissal from the program.

XIII. Completion of the PA Program

To graduate from the UF PA program, all students must fulfill the following requirements:

A. Course Completion

- 1.0 Each student is required to successfully pass each course in the UF PA Program curriculum with no more than one grade of “C+” and no grades of “C” or below (excluding one failed/non-pass SCPE). This includes the completion and presentation of the student’s research.

B. Summative Evaluations

- 1.0 Each student is required to take and pass a comprehensive summative written examination within the last four months of the program.
 - 1.01 Any student earning a grade of 73% or higher (all sections combined) shall be considered to have successfully passed the comprehensive summative written examination.
 - 1.02 Any student who fails the comprehensive summative written examination will be required to undergo a remediation plan designed by the PA program and retake a comprehensive summative written examination once the remediation plan has been successfully completed.

- 1.03 If a student fails the retake comprehensive summative written examination after completion of the remediation plan, they will meet with the Program chair/director, Academic Coordinator, and the Dean of the College of Health Professions to determine the next action. The purpose of the meeting shall be to determine whether the student should remain in the program undergoing further remedial work or be dismissed from the program.
- 2.0 Each student will be required to demonstrate competence with an OSCE that includes an evaluation of an adult patient as well as the performance of several skills/competencies taught in the PA program. This will occur within the last 4 months of the program.
 - 2.01 Any student who fails a component of the OSCE/skills assessment will be required to undergo a remediation plan and/or review as designed by a program faculty member.
 - 2.02 If a student fails the repeat OSCE/skills assessment after completion of the remediation plan, they will meet with the Program chair/director, Academic Coordinator, and the Dean of the College of Health Professions to determine the next action. The purpose of the meeting shall be to determine whether the student should remain in the program undergoing further remedial work or be dismissed from the program.
- 3.0 Each student will be required to satisfactorily complete their eValue and assignment portfolio and submit it to the program academic coordinator at the completion of SCPE VIII. Failure to do so will result in a grade of “incomplete” being recorded for SCPE VIII resulting in a delay in graduation.
 - Students will be required to update their portfolios with corrected assignments (include originals) and bring them to each EOR day to be assessed by the faculty mentor.
- 4.0 Students are supplied a list of **required** procedures that must be completed and documented during the clinical year. These procedures are required to successfully complete the PA program. Students must assist or perform the minimum number of required procedures throughout the clinical year. Each student is responsible for maintaining the checklist and providing an updated version at the end of each SCPE rotation for instructor review. Any student that does not complete the required competencies to fulfill the requirements will be assigned additional preceptors and sites to fulfill the requirements or they will not graduate. In any case when a student has fulfilled many or most of the competencies but not all required, but has demonstrated above and beyond procedures in EValue logging, exceptions may be made on a case by case situation at the discretion of the faculty and program director. A hard copy required procedures signature form is printed separately at the end of the syllabus.
- 5.0 Professionalism:
 1. Student professionalism will be assessed while completing the physical examination/OSCEs.
 2. Students will complete a self-evaluation pertaining to professionalism which will be reviewed by the program.
 3. Student professionalism is assessed by clinical preceptors during the clinical phase of the program.
- 6.0 Interpersonal Skills:
 1. Student interpersonal skills will be assessed during OSCE/skills performance.

C. Declaration of Graduation

To graduate, each student must declare his or her intention to graduate and show the approval of the faculty advisor by completing an application for graduation and submitting

it in to the Office of the Registrar and MUST have this completed six months prior to the expected graduation date.

D. Grade Point Average

To graduate, each student must have maintained a PA program curriculum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.

E. Professional Probation

No student will be permitted to graduate from the UF PA program while he or she is on Professional Probation unless the terms and conditions of the remediation include remaining on probation *until* graduation.

F. University Requirements

All students must satisfy all University requirements for graduation. Refer to the University of Findlay Graduate Catalog.

G. Remediation of “at-risk” Students

Students deemed by the program to be “at-risk” or “struggling” academically or professionally, either by formal or informal evaluative means, must successfully complete a remediation plan, project, or activity as assigned by the PA program faculty, program director, and/or the clinical coordinator. Failure to complete will result in the lowering of the course grade for the appropriate Developing a Reflective Practitioner course (dependent upon semester) for each occurrence during the clinical year or failure to matriculate into the clinical year if it occurs during the didactic phase of the program. An example of this policy: students that score a 130 or below on the PACKRAT prior to the clinical year will be assigned a “Challenger” license and required to complete a specified number of modules (individual instructions will be provided). Failure to complete this exercise will result in a lowering of the Developing a Reflective Practitioner course grade by one letter grade for each occurrence while failure to complete it on time (completed late) will result in a 3% point decrease in the final grade per occurrence in the DARP course occurring that clinical semester. If deadlines are not met with remediation plans, they will result in a 3% decrease in the course grade of which they are a part per occurrence.

XIV. STUDENT/PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. AAPA

The American Academy of Physician Assistants is the national organization for physician assistants. The AAPA has an elected board and can be a source of information on a wide span of topics.

1.0 Students are required to obtain membership in the AAPA by the end of the first semester as a reflection of their commitment to developing an understanding of the universal issues and compartment of the profession to which they aspire. Student membership is available at a discounted fee. Failure to join by the end of the first semester will result in a grade of incomplete being recorded for PHAS 507 and the student will be unable to matriculate to semester II. The AAPA website is a valuable source of information: <http://www.aapa.org/>

B. SAAAPA

The Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA) is the national organization for students in enrolled in physician assistant programs and is a “subset” of the AAPA. SAAAPA has an elected board and participates in many capacities including subcommittees within the

AAPA. This organization can be a source of information on a wide span of topics. Students are encouraged to visit website: <https://aapa.org/saapa>

1.0 All students accepted into the PA program are required to become members of The University of Findlay Physician Assistant Student Society (PASS), the UF PA program's chapter of SAAAPA, and participate in the activities within PASS. This demonstrates students' commitment to service as well as developing professionalism.

C. OAPA

The state association representing practicing physician assistants in the state of Ohio is the Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA) and student membership is required.

- The OAPA website is located at <http://www.ohiopa.com/>

1.0 All students accepted into the PA program are required to become members of the OAPA by the end of the first semester. Student membership is available at a discounted fee. Failure to join by the end of the first semester will result in a grade of incomplete being recorded for PHAS 507 and the student will be unable to matriculate to semester II.

D. NCCPA

The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants is dedicated to serving the interest of the public. They do so with a passionate belief that certified physician assistants are essential members of the health care delivery team who provide millions access to more affordable, high quality health care.

The mission of the NCCPA is to assure that those certified physician assistants meet professional standards of knowledge and skills.

- The NCCPA website is located at <http://www.nccpa.net/>

E. ARC-PA

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) is the accrediting agency that protects the interests of the public and PA profession by defining the standards for PA education and evaluating PA educational programs within the territorial United States to ensure their compliance with those standards. The ARC-PA website is located at <http://www.arc-pa.org/>.

XV. PROGRAM AND STUDENT RESOURCES

A. Program Personnel:

The Physician Assistant Program staff consists of a Department Chair/Program chair/director, Academic Coordinator, three core fulltime faculty, adjunct faculty, a Program Medical Director, a Clinical Coordinator, an Experiential Education Specialist and the Administrative Assistant/Enrollment Coordinator.

B. Physical Resources:

The PA Program has both dedicated administrative and student learning areas on campus. Faculty and staff administrative offices are located in the Pavilion on College Street. Learning Labs (LL) for students are located in the Village. Overview of the PA Program Resources available to students follows (please note, the physical resources are not limited to these areas):

USE	RESOURCE	LOCATION
Didactic small groups or lecture	Dedicated space \geq 24 seats	VILL Classroom A and Classroom B
Physical Assessment	Dedicated space with 15 tables and seating capacity for 30; formal and or informal OSCEs as scheduled	VILL 1149; Off-campus; specified locations
Patient and Laboratory Skills	Scrub sink, multiple mannequins for skills	VILL 1143A, Scrub room, OR
Cadaver Anatomy	Multiple Cadavers	BCHS B006
Technological Support	web-access, etc.	PA VILL classrooms and 1149/1143
Classroom Library /Learning Support	Textbooks, reference books, CDs, simulators, etc.	VILL classrooms and 1149/1143
Schafer Library	Institution and Program specific	Campus building
Computer Lab	Laptops required of students; BCHS Computer Lab, Old Main computer labs	BCHS 107, Old Main
PA Administration	Faculty and Staff Offices (7) and Conference Room	Village Pavilion
Copy Machines		Shafer library
Printing Station		BCHS basement, Shafer library, computer labs
Bookstore		CBSL building
Meals/Cafeteria	Full-service cafeteria; snack bar	Henderson; Cave; CBSL bldg

XVI. QUICK LIST DIRECTORY

When dialing from a UF phone, just dial the last four numbers which is the extension number (i.e., if the phone number is 419-434-4529, just dial the extension which is 4529 and may be seen written as X4529).

A. University Administration

Katherine Fell, Ph.D. President Office location: 107 Old Main Office phone number: 419-434-4530 Email: fell@findlay.edu	Darin Fields, Ph.D. Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Office location: Old Main 2 nd floor Office phone number: 419-434-4633 Email: fieldsd2@findlay.edu	Richard States, D.H.Sc Dean, College of Health Professions Office location: Morey Hall Office phone number: 419-434-4677 Email: states@findlay.edu
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B. PA Program Personnel

Richard Hopkins, DMSc, PA-C

Chair/ Program chair/director and Faculty
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Donald Emmert, MBA

Experiential Educator
Office Location: UF Pavilion 125
Office phone number: 419-434-5626
Email: emmerd1@findlay.edu

C. Adjunct PA Program Faculty

Other adjunct faculty may include practicing physician assistants, physicians, and university faculty among others in support of achieving targeted learning objectives.

D. Support Services

Financial Aid Services

Office Location: Old Main, First floor
Office phone number: 419-434-4792

Health Services

Office Location: Cosiano Health Center,
Office phone number: 419-434-4550

Human Resources

Office Location: Croy Physical Education Center #215
Office phone number: 419-434-6964

Library

Shafer Library

Phone number: 419-434-4627

Security Campus Office

Location: Lovett Hall, first floor

Phone number: 419-434-4799 for emergencies, otherwise 419-434-4601

XVII. STANDARD PA PROGRAM FORMS

The following pages contain forms commonly used for the PA program. Copies can be made of these forms and submitted when needed and the forms are also available in the PA Program Office.

Student Handbook Acknowledgement and Academic Integrity Form

The University of Findlay Physician Assistant Program



My signature below serves two purposes: First, it acknowledges my receipt of The University of Findlay Physician Assistant Student Handbook, and that I was given ample time to read as well as discuss any questions regarding its content with the program faculty and administration.

Second, it confirms my willingness to adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in the program's physician assistant student handbook. I understand that failure to adhere to the policies and procedures, whether intentionally or unintentionally, will result in sanctions that could range from a warning to dismissal from the program depending on the policy/procedure and the infraction.

"I will not knowingly engage in any dishonorable behavior, cheat, steal, lie or commit any act of plagiarism during my academic work, course, or endeavor. If I observe an act which I believe violates the University's Honor Code, I may, in my discretion, report it to the appropriate personnel. I acknowledge that any assignments/papers I submit may be put through a software program which detects plagiarism."

Student name (printed)

Student Signature

Date

Received by:

ABSENTEE FORM

Student Name: _____

Date _____

Reason for Absence:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Illness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death in Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Appointment | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accident | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Date(s) of Absence: _____

Notice Received From: Student Relative Other (Name: _____)

Please mark classes you were absent from.

PHAS 507 Orientation to the PA Prgm/Profession	PHAS 535 Evidence Based Case Management
PHAS 500 Mechanisms of Health & Disease	PHAS 541 Clinical Pharmacology II
PHAS 501 Clinical Anatomy	PHAS 551 Clinical Pharmacology III
PHAS 502 Physical Assessment I	PHAS 601 Developing a Reflective Practitioner I
PHAS 505 Clinical Inquiry & Communication	
PHAS 508 Medical Ethics	PHAS 603 Developing a Reflective Practitioner II
PHAS 510 Clinical Medicine I	PHAS 605 Developing a Reflective Practitioner III
PHAS 511 Clinical Pharmacology I	PHAS 606 Leadership Symposium
PHAS 512 Physical Assessment II	PHAS 611 SCPE in Family Practice
PHAS 513 Health Care Systems, Policy, & Practice	PHAS 612 SCPE in General Internal Medicine
PHAS 514 Clinical Patient Care I	PHAS 613 SCPE in General Pediatrics
PHAS 520 Clinical Medicine II	PHAS 614 SCPE in Women's Health
PHAS 521 Clinical Pharmacology I	PHAS 615 SCPE in General Surgery
PHAS 522 Clinical Patient Care II	PHAS 616 SCPE in Emergency Medicine
PHAS 523 Clinical Heuristics and Decision Making	PHAS 617 SCPE in Psychiatry/Mental Health
	PHAS 618 SCPE in Elective I
PHAS 530 Clinical Medicine III	PHAS _____
PHAS 531 Fundamentals of Emergency Care	PHAS _____
PHAS 532 Fundamentals of Surgical Patient Care	PHAS _____
PHAS 533 Behavioral Medicine	PHAS _____
PHAS 534 Community and Individual Wellness	ADDC 500 Fd & Cx Aprches to Tx of Sbs Use
	ADDC 600 Fd & Cx Aprches to Tx of Sbs Use

Comments: _____

ALL CLASSES BEING MISSED MUST HAVE A FACULTY SIGNATURE BELOW:

Faculty Signature: _____

Date _____

Record of Accidental Exposure Form

**The University of Findlay
Master of Physician Assistant Program**



Record of Exposure to Potentially Infectious Materials

Student Name: _____ PA-S

SCPE Discipline/Setting:

Name of Site:

Date and time of exposure (as precise as possible):

Type of exposure (check): Needlestick Mucous membrane Eye
 Other (please specify: _____)

Review The University of Findlay Physician Assistant Program Exposure Policy in the Student Handbook

REQUIRED Notifications:			
	Date and Time	Person Contacted	When to contact
1.		Rotation preceptor/Health service (NAME: _____)	Immediately!
2.		PA Program Clinical Coordinator or Program chair/director	Immediately!
3		Others as needed	

Details (provide the following details of the incident):

Work area/location of incident:

Circumstances of incident:

Personal protective equipment worn:

Describe any unsafe conditions:

Describe first-aid/medical treatment received:

List witnesses:

Exposure source individual known?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Source HIV known positive?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Source Hep B known positive?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Source Hep C known positive?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Did source CONSENT to blood draw and testing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Please provide any additional information about this incident. Please use additional pages if necessary.

The PA Program will use this information for tracking purposes only. This information will remain **confidential**.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Received by Clinical Coordinator/Faculty Member: _____ Date: _____

Clinical Coordinator/Faculty Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Record of Program Follow-up of Student Exposure to PIM3 Form

This form is to be utilized to document the follow-up required after a PA student has an exposure to potentially infectious materials such as bloodborne pathogens. This is to be completed by the clinical coordinator or responsible faculty member.

Student Name: _____ PA-S

SCPE Discipline:

Name of Site:

Date and time of exposure (as precise as possible):

Type of exposure (check): Needlestick Mucous membrane Eye

Other (please specify: _____)

MANDATORY FOLLOW-UPS:

MANDATORY FOLLOW-UPS:				
	Event	Initial Date	Time	Faculty Signature Receiving Report
1.	Initial Exposure			
		Scheduled	Actual	
	Follow-Up:	Date:	Date/Time:	Faculty Signature Making Contact
2.	48 hour contact			
3.	1 week contact			
4.	4 – 6 wk. contact			
5.	3 month contact			
6.	6 month contact			

Instructions: After a report is received from a student, the clinical coordinator/responsible faculty member will calculate and enter the dates for the required follow-up contacts with the student and enter those dates in the “Scheduled Date” column for all 5 contacts (48 hr, 1 week, 4-6 week, 3 month, and 6 month). This form shall be kept in a separate binder/folder with all other active follow-up cases until all contacts have been made.

6 month outcome: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

3

PIM = Potentially Infectious Material, specifically bloodborne pathogens

Academic Dishonesty Form
The University of Findlay



Student Name: _____

Student I.D. Number: _____

Course Department and Number: _____

Course Title: _____

Course Session and Year: _____ Course Hours: _____

Instructor Name: _____

Date academic dishonesty discovered: _____

Brief description of dishonest action: _____

Course of Action: (Please select one.)

_____ Student will receive a zero on the associated assignment

_____ Student will receive a reduction in possible point for the course. **

_____ Student will receive a grade of "F" for the course.

_____ Other: _____

** Explanation of reduction in points _____

The student may appeal in writing the charge of academic dishonesty to the Student Academic Standards Committee within 5 working days of the receipt of the letter of notification from the Dean of Undergraduate Education or Graduate Studies.

Instructor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cc: College Dean, Area Director, Registrar, Student

The University of Findlay
Physician Assistant Program
1000 North Main Street
Findlay, OH 45840
419-434-5607

Student Generated Preceptor Contact Form

If you have a potential preceptor, please contact his/her office to determine if that person is willing to serve as your preceptor. If he/she is willing to do so, then submit the following information to the clinical coordinator.

Please print all information.

Student Name: _____

Provider Name: _____ MD DO PA Other
(circle one)

Specialty: _____ E-mail address: _____

Preferred Date of Rotation: _____

Office Name: _____

Office Address: _____

Office Phone: _____

Office Contact Name: _____

Office Contact's Phone: _____

Office Contact's Email _____

Hospital Affiliations: 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Use other side of paper to list additional affiliations.

Submit to:

The University of Findlay
Physician Assistant Program
Nancy Moody-Russo,
RN, BSN, JD
Clinical Coordinator
1000 North Main Street
Findlay, OH 45840
419-434-5607

AAPA IMPACT

***This time may be assigned as excused absences for attendance at this event or as otherwise directed by program personnel. Students may choose to either attend the conference or attend their SCPE. The conference is an educational opportunity and those choosing not to attend must attend their SCPE.**

Inability to Obtain the Minimum Number of Required Clinical Hours Form



I certify that _____ is unable to obtain the required minimum number of clinical hours (216 hours, average of 40 hours/week) on this supervised clinical practice experience by working with me directly during regular hours, coming in on weekends and evenings (if available), or working with other providers (all PA students are required to earn a minimum of 216 hours, avg of 40 hours/week, not to exceed 80 hours/week).

Below, please check all that apply regarding inability for the PA student to meet the minimum number of hours for the clinical rotation.

_____ Closed/unavailable due to holiday

_____ Low patient census or not "open"/available 40 hours/week

_____ Student not permitted/unable to be with another provider to obtain the minimum number of hours (216 hours, avg of 40 hours/week)

Clinical Preceptor Signature

Date

UF Physician Assistant Student Signature

Date

UF Clinical Coordinator Signature

Date

*It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that this form is submitted as early in the rotation as possible (no later than the end of week 3 of the rotation unless there are extenuating circumstances). Failure to submit in a timely manner so arrangements can be made to compensate for less hours may result in the lowering of the final course grade for the rotation (a partial letter grade for each 8-hr increment; e.g., B+ to a B).

*One 8-hour grace period will be permitted if the practice is closed/preceptor unavailable due to a holiday (you will need to submit proof/complete the form). E.g. – If a practice is closed on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving, you will only be required to submit evidence of 208 hours for the rotation and need to make up 8 hours, not 16 hours.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The University of Findlay

Master of Physician Assistant Program Technical Standards Acknowledgement Form

The abilities and skills which candidates and students should possess in order to complete the education and training associated with physician assistant education and subsequently enter clinical practice as a physician assistant are referred to as technical standards. These standards are prerequisites for entrance, continuation, and graduation from the MPA Program at The University of Findlay.

The technical standards listed reflect five categorical areas: observation, communication, critical reasoning (intellectual), motor and sensory, and behavioral/social and represent minimum competence levels. Each standard is defined below and is followed by examples of indicators of minimum competence in that area.

Standard 1: Demonstrate sufficient attention and accuracy in **observation skills** (visual, auditory, and tactile) in the lecture hall, the laboratory, the patient's bedside and in the ambulatory care setting.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Accurate observation of a patient near and at a distance; recognizing non-verbal and verbal signs.
- Accurate identification of changes in color of fluids, skin, culture media, labs/diagnostic studies, and patient visual acuity.

Standard 2: Demonstrate effective **communication skills** with all ages of patients, and various degrees and types of infirmities and of varying cultures as well as others.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Clear, efficient and intelligible articulation of verbal language.
- Legible, efficient and intelligible written English language.

Standard 3: Demonstrate **critical reasoning skills** including but not limited to intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Demonstrate ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information.
- Demonstrate the ability to acquire, retain, and apply new and learned information.

Standard 4: Demonstrate sufficient **motor and sensory function** to perform typical functions of physician assistants including but not limited to physical examinations, treatment interventions, and general care of patients.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Functional and sufficient sensory capacity (visual, auditory, and tactile) to adequately perform a complete physical examination and elicit information gained from proper use of examination tools and procedures.
- Execute the physical capabilities, strength, and stamina to sit, stand, and move within classroom, laboratory, and clinical areas including, but not limited to, examination rooms, treatment rooms, and surgical suites for long periods of time. This may involve pushing,

pulling, and or lifting greater than 50 pounds and sitting and/or standing for 12 or more hours at a time.

Standard 5: Demonstrate the **behavioral and social attributes** vital to participation in a professional graduate level program and service as a practicing professional physician assistant.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of mental faculties (judgment, orientation, affect and cognition).
- Possess the ability to develop mature and effective professional relationships with patients, other members of the health care team, and the public.
- Recognize and assess patient changes in mood, activity, cognition, and verbal and non-verbal communication.

My signature below denotes that I have read and understand all of the technical standards listed above that are required of all UF PA students to be able to perform and I acknowledge that I am capable of performing them. The inability to perform/follow the technical standards above will result in dismissal (or not beginning the PA program) unless due to a temporary treatable medical condition that falls within the leave of absence policy if needed.

Legible printed name

Signature

Date

XVIII. Guidelines for Ethical Conduct For The Physician Assistant Profession Policy Of The American Academy Of Physician Assistants

Introduction

The physician assistant profession has revised its code of ethics several times since the profession began. Although the fundamental principles underlying the ethical care of patients have not changed, the societal framework in which those principles are applied has. Economic pressures of the health care system, social pressures of church and state, technological advances, and changing patient demographics continually transform the landscape in which PAs practice.

Previous codes of the profession were brief lists of tenets for PAs to live by in their professional lives. This document departs from that format by attempting to describe ways in which those tenets apply. Each situation is unique. Individual PAs must use their best judgment in a given situation while considering the preferences of the patient and the supervising physician, clinical information, ethical concepts, and legal obligations.

Four main bioethical principles broadly guided the development of these guidelines: autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice.

Autonomy, strictly speaking, means self-rule. Patients have the right to make autonomous decisions and choices, and physician assistants should respect these decisions and choices.

Beneficence means that PAs should act in the patient's best interest. In certain cases, respecting the patient's autonomy and acting in their best interests may be difficult to balance.

Nonmaleficence means to do no harm, to impose no unnecessary or unacceptable burden upon the patient.

Justice means that patients in similar circumstances should receive similar care. Justice also applies to norms for the fair distribution of resources, risks, and costs.

Physician assistants are expected to behave both legally and morally. They should know and understand the laws governing their practice. Likewise, they should understand the ethical responsibilities of being a health care professional. Legal requirements and ethical expectations will not always be in agreement. Generally speaking, the law describes minimum standards of acceptable behavior, and ethical principles delineate the highest moral standards of behavior.

When faced with an ethical dilemma, PAs may find the guidance they need in this document. If not, they may wish to seek guidance elsewhere – possibly from a supervising physician, a hospital ethics committee, an ethicist, trusted colleagues, or other AAPA policies. PAs should seek legal counsel when they are concerned about the potential legal consequences of their decisions.

The following sections discuss ethical conduct of PAs in their professional interactions with patients, physicians, colleagues, other health professionals, and the public. The "Statement of Values" within this document defines the fundamental values that the PA profession strives to uphold. These values provide the foundation upon which the guidelines rest. The guidelines were written with the understanding that no document can encompass all actual and potential ethical responsibilities, and PAs should not regard them as comprehensive.

Statement of Values of the Physician Assistant Profession

- Physician assistants hold as their primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all human beings.
- Physician assistants uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice.
- Physician assistants recognize and promote the value of diversity.
- Physician assistants treat equally all persons who seek their care.
- Physician assistants hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.

- Physician assistants assess their personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve their medical practice.
- Physician assistants actively seek to expand their knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.
- Physician assistants work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.
- Physician assistants use their knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.
- Physician assistants respect their professional relationship with physicians.
- Physician assistants share and expand knowledge within the profession.

The PA and Patient

PA Role and Responsibilities

Physician assistant practice flows out of a unique relationship that involves the PA, the physician, and the patient. The individual patient–PA relationship is based on mutual respect and an agreement to work together regarding medical care. In addition, PAs practice medicine with physician supervision; therefore, the care that a PA provides is an extension of the care of the supervising physician. The patient–PA relationship is also a patient–PA–physician relationship.

The principal value of the physician assistant profession is to respect the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all human beings. This concept is the foundation of the patient–PA relationship. Physician assistants have an ethical obligation to see that each of their patients receives appropriate care. PAs should be sensitive to the beliefs and expectations of the patient. PAs should recognize that each patient is unique and has an ethical right to self-determination.

While PAs are not expected to ignore their own personal values, scientific or ethical standards, or the law, they should not allow their personal beliefs to restrict patient access to care. A PA has an ethical duty to offer each patient the full range of information on relevant options for their health care. If personal moral, religious, or ethical beliefs prevent a PA from offering the full range of treatments available or care the patient desires, the PA has an ethical duty to refer a patient to another qualified provider. That referral should not restrict a patient’s access to care. PAs are obligated to care for patients in emergency situations and to responsibly transfer patients if they cannot care for them.

Cost Containment

Cost containment and resource allocation policies can present particular ethical challenges to clinicians. Physician assistants should always act in the best interests of their patients and as advocates when necessary. PAs should actively resist policies that restrict free exchange of medical information. For example, a PA should not withhold information about treatment options simply because the option is not covered by insurance. PAs should inform patients of financial incentives to limit care, use resources in a fair and efficient way, and avoid arrangements or financial incentives that conflict with the patient’s best interests.

The PA and Diversity

The physician assistant should respect the culture, values, beliefs, and expectations of the patient.

Non-discrimination

Physician assistants should not discriminate against classes or categories of patients in the delivery of needed health care. Such classes and categories include gender, color, creed, race, religion, age, ethnic or national origin, political beliefs, nature of illness, disability, socioeconomic status, physical stature, body size, gender identity, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Initiation and Discontinuation of Care

In the absence of a preexisting patient–PA relationship, the physician assistant is under no ethical obligation to care for a person unless no other provider is available. A PA is morally bound to provide care in emergency situations and to arrange proper follow-up. PAs should keep in mind that contracts with health insurance plans might define a legal obligation to provide care to certain patients.

A physician assistant and supervising physician may discontinue their professional relationship with an established patient as long as proper procedures are followed. The PA and physician should provide the patient with adequate notice, offer to transfer records, and arrange for continuity of care if the patient has an ongoing medical condition. Discontinuation of the professional relationship should be undertaken only after a serious attempt has been made to clarify and understand the expectations and concerns of all involved parties.

If the patient decides to terminate the relationship, they are entitled to access appropriate information contained within their medical record.

Informed Consent

Physician assistants have a duty to protect and foster an individual patient’s free and informed choices. The doctrine of informed consent means that a PA provides adequate information that is comprehensible to a competent patient or patient surrogate. At a minimum, this should include the nature of the medical condition, the objectives of the proposed treatment, treatment options, possible outcomes, and the risks involved. PAs should be committed to the concept of shared decision making, which involves assisting patients in making decisions that account for medical, situational, and personal factors.

In caring for adolescents, the PA should understand all of the laws and regulations in his or her jurisdiction that are related to the ability of minors to consent to or refuse health care. Adolescents should be encouraged to involve their families in health care decision making. The PA should also understand consent laws pertaining to emancipated or mature minors. (See the section on *Confidentiality*.)

When the person giving consent is a patient’s surrogate, a family member, or other legally authorized representative, the PA should take reasonable care to assure that the decisions made are consistent with the patient’s best interests and personal preferences, if known. If the PA believes the surrogate’s choices do not reflect the patient’s wishes or best interests, the PA should work to resolve the conflict. This may require the use of additional resources, such as an ethics committee.

Confidentiality

Physician assistants should maintain confidentiality. By maintaining confidentiality, PAs respect patient privacy and help to prevent discrimination based on medical conditions. If patients are confident that their privacy is protected, they are more likely to seek medical care and more likely to discuss their problems candidly.

In cases of adolescent patients, family support is important but should be balanced with the patient’s need for confidentiality and the PA’s obligation to respect their emerging autonomy. Adolescents may not be of age to make independent decisions about their health, but providers should respect that they soon will be. To the extent they can, PAs should allow these emerging adults to participate as fully as possible in decisions about their care. It is important that PAs be familiar with and understand the laws and regulations in their jurisdictions that relate to the confidentiality rights of adolescent patients. (See the section on *Informed Consent*.)

Any communication about a patient conducted in a manner that violates confidentiality is unethical. Because written, electronic, and verbal information may be intercepted or overheard, the PA should always be aware of anyone who might be monitoring communication about a patient.

PAs should choose methods of storage and transmission of patient information that minimize the likelihood of data becoming available to unauthorized persons or organizations. Computerized record keeping and electronic data

transmission present unique challenges that can make the maintenance of patient confidentiality difficult. PAs should advocate for policies and procedures that secure the confidentiality of patient information.

The Patient and the Medical Record

Physician assistants have an obligation to keep information in the patient's medical record confidential. Information should be released only with the written permission of the patient or the patient's legally authorized representative. Specific exceptions to this general rule may exist (e.g., workers compensation, communicable disease, HIV, knife/gunshot wounds, abuse, substance abuse). It is important that a PA be familiar with and understand the laws and regulations in his or her jurisdiction that relate to the release of information. For example, stringent legal restrictions on release of genetic test results and mental health records often exist.

Both ethically and legally, a patient has certain rights to know the information contained in his or her medical record. While the chart is legally the property of the practice or the institution, the information in the chart is the property of the patient. Most states have laws that provide patients access to their medical records. The PA should know the laws and facilitate patient access to the information.

Disclosure

A physician assistant should disclose to his or her supervising physician information about errors made in the course of caring for a patient. The supervising physician and PA should disclose the error to the patient if such information is significant to the patient's interests and well being. Errors do not always constitute improper, negligent, or unethical behavior, but failure to disclose them may.

Care of Family Members and Co-workers

Treating oneself, co-workers, close friends, family members, or students whom the physician assistant supervises or teaches may be unethical or create conflicts of interest. For example, it might be ethically acceptable to treat one's own child for a case of otitis media but it probably is not acceptable to treat one's spouse for depression. PAs should be aware that their judgment might be less than objective in cases involving friends, family members, students, and colleagues and that providing "curbside" care might sway the individual from establishing an ongoing relationship with a provider. If it becomes necessary to treat a family member or close associate, a formal patient-provider relationship should be established, and the PA should consider transferring the patient's care to another provider as soon as it is practical. If a close associate requests care, the PA may wish to assist by helping them find an appropriate provider.

There may be exceptions to this guideline, for example, when a PA runs an employee health center or works in occupational medicine. Even in those situations, the PA should be sure they do not provide informal treatment, but provide appropriate medical care in a formally established patient-provider relationship.

Genetic Testing

Evaluating the risk of disease and performing diagnostic genetic tests raise significant ethical concerns. Physician assistants should be informed about the benefits and risks of genetic tests. Testing should be undertaken only after proper informed consent is obtained. If PAs order or conduct the tests, they should assure that appropriate pre- and post-test counseling is provided.

PAs should be sure that patients understand the potential consequences of undergoing genetic tests – from impact on patients themselves, possible implications for other family members, and potential use of the information by insurance companies or others who might have access to the information. Because of the potential for discrimination by insurers, employers, or others, PAs should be particularly aware of the need for confidentiality concerning genetic test results.

Reproductive Decision Making

Patients have a right to access the full range of reproductive health care services, including fertility treatments, contraception, sterilization, and abortion. Physician assistants have an ethical obligation to provide balanced and unbiased clinical information about reproductive health care.

When the PA's personal values conflict with providing full disclosure or providing certain services such as sterilization or abortion, the PA need not become involved in that aspect of the patient's care. By referring the patient to a qualified provider who is willing to discuss and facilitate all treatment options, the PA fulfills their ethical obligation to ensure the patient's access to all legal options.

End of Life

Among the ethical principles that are fundamental to providing compassionate care at the end of life, the most essential is recognizing that dying is a personal experience and part of the life cycle.

Physician assistants should provide patients with the opportunity to plan for end of life care. Advance directives, living wills, durable power of attorney, and organ donation should be discussed during routine patient visits. PAs should assure terminally-ill patients that their dignity is a priority and that relief of physical and mental suffering is paramount. PAs should exhibit non-judgmental attitudes and should assure their terminally-ill patients that they will not be abandoned. To the extent possible, patient or surrogate preferences should be honored, using the most appropriate measures consistent with their choices, including alternative and non-traditional treatments.

PAs should explain palliative and hospice care and facilitate patient access to those services. End of life care should include assessment and management of psychological, social, and spiritual or religious needs.

While respecting patients' wishes for particular treatments when possible, PAs also must weigh their ethical responsibility, in consultation with supervising physicians, to withhold futile treatments and to help patients understand such medical decisions.

PAs should involve the physician in all near-death planning. The PA should only withdraw life support with the supervising physician's agreement and in accordance with the policies of the health care institution.

The PA and Individual Professionalism

Conflict of Interest

Physician assistants should place service to patients before personal material gain and should avoid undue influence on their clinical judgment. Trust can be undermined by even the appearance of improper influence. Examples of excessive or undue influence on clinical judgment can take several forms. These may include financial incentives, pharmaceutical or other industry gifts, and business arrangements involving referrals. PAs should disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest to their patients.

Acceptance of gifts, trips, hospitality, or other items is discouraged. Before accepting a gift or financial arrangement, PAs might consider the guidelines of the Royal College of Physicians, "Would I be willing to have this arrangement generally known?" or of the American College of Physicians, "What would the public or my patients think of this arrangement?"

Professional Identity

Physician assistants should not misrepresent directly or indirectly, their skills, training, professional credentials, or identity. Physician assistants should uphold the dignity of the PA profession and accept its ethical values.

Competency

Physician assistants should commit themselves to providing competent medical care and extend to each patient the full measure of their professional ability as dedicated, empathetic health care providers. PAs should also strive to maintain and increase the quality of their health care knowledge, cultural sensitivity, and cultural competence through individual study and continuing education.

Sexual Relationships

It is unethical for physician assistants to become sexually involved with patients. It also may be unethical for PAs to become sexually involved with former patients or key third parties. Key third parties are individuals who have influence over the patient. These might include spouses or partners, parents, guardians, or surrogates.

Such relationships generally are unethical because of the PA's position of authority and the inherent imbalance of knowledge, expertise, and status. Issues such as dependence, trust, transference, and inequalities of power may lead to increased vulnerability on the part of the current or former patients or key third parties.

Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

It is unethical for physician assistants to engage in or condone any form of gender discrimination. Gender discrimination is defined as any behavior, action, or policy that adversely affects an individual or group of individuals due to disparate treatment, disparate impact, or the creation of a hostile or intimidating work or learning environment.

It is unethical for PAs to engage in or condone any form of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or academic environment, or
- Accepting or rejecting such conduct affects or may be perceived to affect professional decisions concerning an individual, or
- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's training or professional position.

The PA and Other Professionals

Team Practice

Physician assistants should be committed to working collegially with other members of the health care team to assure integrated, well-managed, and effective care of patients. PAs should strive to maintain a spirit of cooperation with other health care professionals, their organizations, and the general public.

Illegal and Unethical Conduct

Physician assistants should not participate in or conceal any activity that will bring discredit or dishonor to the PA profession. They should report illegal or unethical conduct by health care professionals to the appropriate authorities.

Impairment

Physician assistants have an ethical responsibility to protect patients and the public by identifying and assisting impaired colleagues. "Impaired" means being unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety because of physical or mental illness, loss of motor skills, or excessive use or abuse of drugs and alcohol. PAs should be able to recognize impairment in physician supervisors, PAs, and other health care providers and should seek assistance from appropriate resources to encourage these individuals to obtain treatment.

PA–Physician Relationship

Supervision should include ongoing communication between the physician and the physician assistant regarding patient care. The PA should consult the supervising physician whenever it will safeguard or advance the welfare of the patient. This includes seeking assistance in situations of conflict with a patient or another health care professional.

Complementary and Alternative Medicine

When a patient asks about an alternative therapy, the PA has an ethical obligation to gain a basic understanding of the alternative therapy being considered or being used and how the treatment will affect the patient. If the treatment would harm the patient, the PA should work diligently to dissuade the patient from using it, advise other treatment, and perhaps consider transferring the patient to another provider.

The PA and the Health Care System

Workplace Actions

Physician assistants may face difficult personal decisions to withhold medical services when workplace actions (e.g., strikes, sick-outs, slowdowns, etc.) occur. The potential harm to patients should be carefully weighed against the potential improvements to working conditions and, ultimately, patient care that could result. In general, PAs should individually and collectively work to find alternatives to such actions in addressing workplace concerns.

PAs as Educators

All physician assistants have a responsibility to share knowledge and information with patients, other health professionals, students, and the public. The ethical duty to teach includes effective communication with patients so that they will have the information necessary to participate in their health care and wellness.

PAs and Research

The most important ethical principle in research is honesty. This includes assuring subjects' informed consent, following treatment protocols, and accurately reporting findings. Fraud and dishonesty in research should be reported so that the appropriate authorities can take action.

Physician assistants involved in research must be aware of potential conflicts of interest. The patient's welfare takes precedence over the desired research outcome. Any conflict of interest should be disclosed.

In scientific writing, PAs should report information honestly and accurately. Sources of funding for the research must be included in the published reports.

Plagiarism is unethical. Incorporating the words of others, either verbatim or by paraphrasing, without appropriate attribution is unethical and may have legal consequences. When submitting a document for publication, any previous publication of any portion of the document must be fully disclosed.

PAs as Expert Witnesses

The physician assistant expert witness should testify to what he or she believes to be the truth. The PA's review of medical facts should be thorough, fair, and impartial.

The PA expert witness should be fairly compensated for time spent preparing, appearing, and testifying. The PA should not accept a contingency fee based on the outcome of a case in which testimony is given or derive personal, financial, or professional favor in addition to compensation.

The PA and Society

Lawfulness

Physician assistants have the dual duty to respect the law and to work for positive change to laws that will enhance the health and well-being of the community.

Executions

Physician assistants, as health care professionals, should not participate in executions because to do so would violate the ethical principle of beneficence.

Access to Care / Resource Allocation

Physician assistants have a responsibility to use health care resources in an appropriate and efficient manner so that all patients have access to needed health care. Resource allocation should be based on societal needs and policies, not the circumstances of an individual patient-PA encounter. PAs participating in policy decisions about resource allocation should consider medical need, cost-effectiveness, efficacy, and equitable distribution of benefits and burdens in society.

Community Well Being

Physician assistants should work for the health, well-being, and the best interest of both the patient and the community. Sometimes there is a dynamic moral tension between the well-being of the community in general and the individual patient. Conflict between an individual patient's best interest and the common good is not always easily resolved. In general, PAs should be committed to upholding and enhancing community values, be aware of the needs of the community, and use the knowledge and experience acquired as professionals to contribute to an improved community.

Conclusion

The American Academy of Physician Assistants recognizes its responsibility to aid the PA profession as it strives to provide high quality, accessible health care. Physician assistants wrote these guidelines for themselves and other physician assistants. The ultimate goal is to honor patients and earn their trust while providing the best and most appropriate care possible. At the same time, PAs must understand their personal values and beliefs and recognize the ways in which those values and beliefs can impact the care they provide.

XIX. Anatomy Lab Procedures

A. Gross Anatomy Laboratory Guidelines

Introduction

Gross anatomy is the study of anatomical structures, their relationships, and their functions. A functional knowledge of the structures of the body cannot be obtained from lectures, books, and software alone, although these can be essential guides. Through the gross anatomy laboratory, the student can obtain first-hand information from seeing and handling anatomical specimens and appreciating interrelationships. This is accomplished by dissection, the art of removing surface coverings exposing body parts and separating them from one another. Dissection requires careful, accurate, and meticulous work.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to inform you of the hazardous chemicals and conditions to which you may be exposed to in the Gross Anatomy laboratory and to define expectations of behavior during laboratory. Exposure is defined as personal contact with hazardous or potentially hazardous chemicals at levels with an average eight hour time-weighted average, set forth by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists and OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) when used in a manner consistent with usual laboratory procedures. This includes both inhalation of the ambient laboratory air and incidental skin contact as the anatomical specimens are handled.

Hazardous Chemicals

The hazardous or potentially hazardous chemicals to which you are exposed in the Gross Anatomy Laboratories are the components of the embalming fluid and the wetting solution. A list of these components follows. The SDS sheets are available to you pursuant to 29 CFR, 1910.1200, the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard and are housed in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory as well as on individual Course sites.

Embalming Fluid- The fluid contains formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, glycerin, alcohol, and water. Formaldehyde is a suspected carcinogen and respiratory irritant. In addition, skin irritation may occur with prolonged exposure.

1. Phenol- This chemical is used on occasions for fungicidal purposes, and is a respiratory and skin irritant.
2. Mold-X- This detergent is used for fungicidal purposes and the active ingredients are formaldehyde and methanol.

Student Personal Protective Equipment and Procedures (PPE)

Skin: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as protective clothing such as hospital scrubs or a laboratory coat is required for work in the laboratory. The use of non-latex gloves is required for handling of the cadaver structures. A student who has or develops a skin sensitivity should also wear long sleeved garments at all times. Additionally, the student should notify the instructor and physician so that appropriate procedures can be implemented. Students exhibiting contact sensitivity should consult a physician regarding type of gloves, garments, or other items that may cause irritability.

Wounds: Minor cuts and abrasions from laboratory cutting instruments or bone edges should be washed thoroughly with soap and water. Antiseptic and dressing materials are found in the first-aid kit in the laboratory. Any serious wound should be treated by a physician immediately. Any time a student receives a minor cut or abrasion from laboratory cutting instruments or bone edges in the gross anatomy lab, he/she must complete an incident report form under the supervision of the course instructor. The student is required to report the incident to the course instructor and request the incident report form from the course instructor.

Eyes: Accidental fluid splashed into the eyes should be flushed immediately using the eye wash station located in the laboratory, and a physician consulted. For the safety of the student, contact lenses are not permitted to be worn in the gross anatomy lab at any time.

Respiratory: Individual students may have or develop sensitivity to any of the chemicals used in the laboratory, in particular formaldehyde or phenol. In order to obtain a respiratory protective device (respirator), a student must have a respiratory evaluation by a physician, after which s/he is fitted and trained in its proper care by their physician. A particle filter mask provides no protection for formaldehyde or phenol sensitivity.

Pregnancy: Students who are or who learn they are pregnant or who are nursing newborn infants while using Gross Anatomy Laboratories should consult their obstetrician immediately regarding recommended precautions.

Visitors

Only students enrolled in the Gross Anatomy course are authorized to enter a Gross Anatomy Laboratory (BCHS #09). The no visitor rule is designed to prevent exposure of visitors to hazardous or potentially hazardous chemicals, as well as donor respect and public relations. Infants, minor-age children, and pets are not permitted in the laboratory at any time.

Food, Beverages, Smoking

Food and beverages are not permitted in the gross anatomy laboratory at any time. This area is also designated as a no smoking area.

Observed Violations

Students observing violations or deviations from these guidelines and other laboratory policies are expected to report these violations to laboratory staff or faculty member at their discretion, and without penalty. This responsibility is considered part of your professional development as a health care provider. Failure to report will result in disciplinary action as determined by the course instructor. This may include, but is not limited to, individual counseling by instructor regarding safety practices.

Specific Guidelines for the Use of the Gross Anatomy Laboratory at The University of Findlay

- 1.** Through collaboration with medical universities and the Ohio Donor Program, the University of Findlay has obtained cadavers for anatomic study. These were unselfish and concerned individuals that had foresight to contribute to educate clinicians. **The anatomical specimens studied must be handled with respect and dignity at all times. Violation of this policy will result in immediate and permanent removal from the laboratory.**
- 2.** No cell-phone or camera, photos or video recording of a specimen is allowed at any time.
- 3.** No cadaver tissues, models, bones, radiologic films, etc. are to be taken outside of the laboratory at any time.
- 4.** Eating or drinking is not permitted in the laboratory. The Brewer Center for Health Sciences is a smoke free building.
- 5.** If there is a suspicion that a donor may be a relative or acquaintance of a student, the student should contact the course instructor. If the suspicion is confirmed, the cadaver will be returned to the medical university.
- 6.** The cadavers are identified by numbers and those numbers correspond to their dissection table. The anatomical specimens should never be removed from their corresponding tables, except for study. If organs are removed for study, trays should be labeled with table number to identify those specimens until they are returned to the donor table. The specimens are initially brought to the university in bags and those bags remain with the cadaver throughout the course of study.
- 7.** Anatomical structures can be pointed to or moved using dissecting instruments provided by the laboratory or purchased through the university bookstore. Instruments such as pens, pencils, or markers are not permitted. In addition, there should be no dissection equipment left on the dissection tables when the specimen is not in use. All instruments will be cleaned with soap and water following a laboratory session, or if the instruments are dropped onto the floor.
- 8.** Paper toweling, used gloves, and disposable pointing instruments are to be deposited in the appropriate trash containers, not left in the specimen trays or bins. The used dissection blades should be placed in the biohazard container and never deposited into trash containers.
- 9.** Instruments dropped on the floor must be washed immediately with soap and water before being used for further dissection work.
- 10.** Anatomical tissue is susceptible to mold growth if the above sanitary procedures are not followed, and this may lead to withdrawal of specimens as study resources. Students are requested to bring to the attention of the course instructor, any unusual or suspicious conditions on a specimen.
- 11.** The anatomical specimens should be covered when not in use. The students are requested to clean the area surrounding the bin and to cover the specimen at the end of laboratory sessions, evenings, and weekend open lab hours.
- 12.** Fluid must be drained from the dissecting tables as it accumulates. Please wipe up any spills on the floor immediately, as this fluid makes the floor very slippery and hazardous, and housekeeping is not permitted to perform this task.
- 13.** Students are not permitted to wear "street clothes" in the laboratory. In an attempt to limit exposure of others to the potentially hazardous chemicals present in the gross laboratory, students are required to

wear surgical “scrubs” or similar garments at all times while in the lab. Garments worn in the laboratory must be washed at frequent intervals. Shoes worn in the lab must adequately protect the top of the foot. All persons handling cadavers are required to wear gloves and protective eyewear. For the safety of the student, contact lenses are not permitted to be worn in the gross anatomy lab at any time.

14. Report immediately any injuries incurred in the laboratory to the course instructor, and if necessary, seek medical treatment from the university student health center, an urgent care center or a hospital Emergency Room for proper treatment.
15. Anatomical models are not to be removed from BCHS 09 unless permission has been granted by the instructor.
16. No radios are allowed in the lab during class hours.

Open Lab Policy

1. At the beginning of each semester, the programs will provide a list of current students with ID numbers to Security. Open labs will occur include each Friday 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. and each Thursday 6:00-10:00 p.m., during both standard semesters and weekend college sessions.
2. UF will provide a working phone in the BCHS09 Cadaver lab and the basement and first floor hallways for any emergencies which may occur.
3. Access is by entrance code. This code will be given to you during orientation.
4. Students are not given permission to work alone in the lab. There must be at least 2 students in the lab during any open lab use.
5. If current students wish to use the lab during designated times, they will enter the access code into the key pad and use the lab. The access codes are not to be shared with anyone not enrolled in laboratory courses for that term.
6. When students are finished using the facilities, all equipment should be stored in its proper place, lights turned out, and the door locked. Students will be able to use all equipment that is not secured in the lab. If any equipment is damaged or broken during the open lab, the students engaged in the open lab are responsible for contacting the program office or laboratory instructor to report the incident.
7. Only activities that are currently being explored within the students’ coursework or activities which they have had in previous courses can be practiced in the lab. Students are not to engage in activities they have learned off campus or think they may learn in future coursework.
8. Any OT, PT,PA or AT student may use this space for practice with peers enrolled in courses utilizing the laboratory during normal operation time of BCHS *when courses are not in session in the laboratory*. If a course is in session, the student will approach the course instructor to ask permission to use the lab for studying during these times. If exams are being given, no outside studying will be allowed.

NOTE: BCHS will be accessible to students between 6am and 12am. In between the hours of 12am and 6am the building will be closed.

University of Findlay
Gross Anatomy Laboratory
Student Safety Agreement

The anatomical specimens found in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory do contain hazardous or potentially hazardous chemicals within the embalming fluids which may potentially expose a person to the risk of injury and illness. The risks associated with study of anatomical specimens in Brewer Center for Health Science have been explained to my satisfaction and I have had an opportunity to ask questions about them.

While regulations and guidelines are essential for operation of a gross anatomy laboratory, they may not be sufficient to achieve safe laboratory practice. It is the skill, knowledge, and common sense of the individual student that is essential for a safe program. Thus, each student using a laboratory assumes the following responsibilities:

1. To familiarize themselves with all the rules and regulations concerning laboratory use; noting especially the information provided regarding hazardous or potentially hazardous chemicals used for embalming. Should any hazardous condition come to his/her attention, these should be communicated to a Health Science faculty or the laboratory staff members at once.
2. To comply fully with all established rules and regulations, and to consult with faculty and laboratory personnel for advice in circumstances where safe practice is in doubt.
3. To limit laboratory use to study only in approved University courses.
4. To refrain from bringing visitors to the laboratory and thus exposing them to hazardous materials.

I have read and understand and the above responsibilities and agree to observe them in my use of the Gross Anatomy Laboratory. I understand that if I fail to comply with any of the above regulations and guidelines that I am subject to the following disciplinary actions. First offense: I will receive a verbal warning from the course instructor or lab coordinator; Second offense: I will receive a written warning from the course instructor or lab coordinator; Third offense: I will have my laboratory privileges revoked by the course instructor or lab coordinator. This action may have additional programmatic consequences. I recognize that I will be studying in an environment containing hazardous or potentially hazardous chemicals, and I am aware of the consent to the potential risks associated with exposure to these materials. The exposure to materials means personal contact with hazardous or potentially hazardous chemicals at levels that are within established eight hour time weighted averages.

Signing this student safety agreement is not a waiver of individual rights to redress in case of injury.

_____ Date _____ Student Signature

The above student is duly enrolled in a University of Findlay course which requires use of a Gross Anatomy laboratory, and thereby is authorized to use such facility. I have identified the hazardous or potentially hazardous chemicals to which the above student will be exposed while utilizing the laboratory for study, and have provided this student with a copy of the rules and regulations for laboratory use.

_____ Date _____ Coordinator, Gross Anatomy Laboratory

XX. Request for Clinical Accommodations

The University of Findlay
College of Health Professions

Request for Clinical Accommodations

Nondiscrimination Clause : No student shall be subject to discrimination in violation of State or Federal Law.
As a student at The University of Findlay applying for clinical experiences, please complete the following form.

Yes No

Registration at The University of Findlay's Office of Accommodation and Inclusion.

Yes No

Medical documentation supporting the health limitation or disability.

Yes No

Permission for release of information from the Office of Accommodation and Inclusion to COHP Experiential Coordinator due to a health limitation or a disability.

Yes No

Permission for the COHP Experiential Coordinator to discuss reasonable accommodations for health limitation or disability with the Site Representative at the clinical site.

Signed:

(Student name/date)

Accommodations Requested by Student:

Reasonable Accommodations Determined for the Clinical Setting:

Signed:

(Student name/date)

Signed:

COHP Experiential Coordinator: _____

Site Representative: _____

Director of Accommodation & Inclusion: _____



The University of Findlay Physician Assistant Program COVID-19 Education Recommendations

The Physician Assistant Program at The University of Findlay recognizes the unique and unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic faced by students, faculty, and our clinical partners. We also recognize our responsibility to continue to advance the training and education of the workforce of tomorrow. There is still a fundamental need to provide sufficient opportunity for students to practice, apply and demonstrate competency of entry-level performance skills prior to graduation.

Please be aware that due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, a change to fully online course/content delivery may be required. If such a change occurs, all assignments, exams, quizzes, and course information will be administered in Canvas. Changes to the schedule, with the exception of the scheduled final examination for the course, may also be required and will be communicated through Canvas and email. Please be sure to pay attention to Canvas notifications and emails from your instructor. Due to changes that may occur, a change in the format of the clinical year in addition to the didactic year may occur in addition to a possible delay to the start of the clinical year or a delay in graduation/completion of the program.

SELF-REPORTING ILLNESS

- Students will be expected to IMMEDIATELY self-report signs or symptoms of illness. Student should notify the program Director of Clinical Education (DCE), the Clinical Instructor, and the site Employee Health (or Rehab Supervisor if appropriate).
- Per CDC guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> as of 5/6/2020), COVID-19 symptoms to be monitored and reported include:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of smell

- Exposure: If student is informed that they were exposed to someone who tests positive to COVID-19 at any time during the clinical experience, either in or out of the facility, the student will immediately contact DCE, clinical instructor, and site coordinator.
- Testing considerations: If a student requires testing to be “cleared” to begin a clinical experience or because they present with symptoms, they will first seek options through their primary care provider, city- or state-sponsored testing, or university testing if available. If a student requires testing due to exposure during patient care, then the DCE will discuss testing options with the clinical partner.
- Mental health concerns: Students are to be reminded frequently that a variety of options are offered through university services to help monitor and support the emotional and mental health of our students. <https://www.findlay.edu/offices/student-affairs/counseling/> A emotional resilience video is posted for both Clinical Instructors and Students to view at the web link: <https://www.findlay.edu/health-professions/physical-therapy/resources>
- Insurance: While on clinical rotations, students maintain personal health insurance and the school maintains professional liability insurance. At this time, there is no indication for a change in this original policy.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Students will be expected to social distance in classrooms and clinical facilities when appropriate and follow state/site-specific guidelines on management of space and patient care.
- Students will also be expected to limit travel and high-exposure activities when not in the classroom and/or clinic to minimize transmission risk.
- If a student travels out of state while on a clinical experience, they will report plans and destinations to clinical instructor prior to travel if needed. Specific quarantine guidelines of that state/site are to be followed.

SITE-SPECIFIC DETERMINATIONS

- Students will follow site-specific guidance on what specific PPE should be worn when engaged in patient care and during time in the clinic. Sites are expected to provide appropriate PPE for patient care, although students may be required to bring a reusable mask and/or shield if necessary.
- It is recognized that there is an ongoing struggle with the PPE supply chain and there may be a need to preserve available PPE. This may result in limitations placed on specific patient populations that a student may treat (such as patients on isolation for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 causes).
- Students are NOT fit-tested for N-95 masks by the University. Therefore, students will not be engaging in patient care where the patient is on airborne precautions or an N-95 mask is indicated unless fitted for masks by a clinical site/preceptor and permitted to engage in care utilizing proper PPE.
- Students will be compliant with temperature checks & screens upon clinical site entry if indicated.
- The student may be asked to keep a list of patients treated if contact tracing is later needed.

- If traveling from out-of-state for a clinical experience, the student will seek guidance by the site coordinator if they are expected to self-quarantine for a period of time (typically 14-days) prior to starting clinical experience.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Student are expected to demonstrate Professional Behaviors as defined by the NCCPA and PA Profession at all times. However, when dealing with challenges caused by the current pandemic, it is particularly important to recognize the need for the following student behaviors:
 - Flexibility- Plans (e.g., settings, dates) made for clinical experiences may change abruptly and without warning. Likewise, policies and requirements for our clinical partners are continuously evolving based on new information and data. We must be flexible and adaptable to these changes.
 - Respect- Our clinical partners are facing unique and unprecedented challenges, and we must be respectful and aware of those challenges.
 - Open-mind- Students are expected to be open and adaptable to alternative learning experiences (which may include multiple clinical instructors, multiple students, simulations, etc.)
 - Problem solvers- Students are encouraged to actively engage in how our profession addresses and identifies solutions to new problems. For example, older individuals may be hard of hearing. Due to the use of masks, students may have to use alternative ways of communicating, as allowed by the clinical site. (e.g., written instructions, whiteboard)
 - Resilience – During these challenging times, students are reminded to keep in check own emotional resilience.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The University of Findlay: <https://www.findlay.edu/offices/student-affairs/safety-security/health-alerts>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

XXII. University of Findlay Non-Discrimination Policy

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

The University of Findlay strives for an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to study and work in an atmosphere which promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices and harassment based upon age, race, ethnicity, national origin, color, religion, sex, gender identity, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran or military status and physical or mental disabilities. Harassment of any kind, whether verbal, physical, or environmental, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The University does not engage in discrimination in its programs, activities and policies against students, prospective students, employees or prospective employees. The University is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The University prohibits and will not tolerate any such discrimination or harassment at its facilities, programs and activities. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, the Office of Civil Right's Assistant Secretary, or both.

The University's Non-Discrimination Policy can be found here:

<http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Copy-of-University-Policies/Non-Discrimination-and-Anti-Harassment-Policy>

The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University's Non-Discrimination Policy:

Skylar Mettert
Civil Rights Coordinator
Director for Equity and Title IX
Skylar Mettert
(419) 434-4733
metterts@findlay.edu
[Office Location: Old Main Office #45, University of Findlay, 1000 N. Main Street, Findlay, OH 45840](#)

Robert Link
Deputy Civil Rights Coordinator
Director of Human Resources
(419) 434-4528
link@findlay.edu
Office Location: Old Main Office #304

University of Findlay Harassment Hotline
(419) 434-6777

U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights
1-800-421-3481
ocr@ed.gov

Inquiries regarding non-discrimination in employment may be directed to:

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
800-669-4000

Ohio Civil Rights Commission
888-278-7101

XXIII. Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct

Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct; Designation of Title IX Coordinator

Title IX prohibits the University from discrimination on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that it operates. This prohibition extends to admission and employment. The University has adopted a policy that provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by Title IX and explains the process that the University will use for doing so. A copy of this policy is available on the University's website at: <https://www.findlay.edu/offices/student-affairs/title-ix/title-ix-policy>.

The Title IX Coordinator has been designated and authorized to coordinate the University's efforts to address concerns relating to discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person who experienced the conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), at any time including non-business hours by contacting the Title IX Coordinator as follows:

Skylar Mettert
Director for Equity & Title IX
Title IX Coordinator
Old Main Office #45
1000 N. Main Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840
Telephone: (419) 434-4733
Email: metters@findlay.edu

Inquiries about Title IX may also be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights by contacting 1-800-421-3481 or emailing ocr@ed.gov.

XXIV. UF PA Program Technical Standards

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The University of Findlay Master of Physician Assistant Program

The abilities and skills which candidates and students should possess in order to complete the education and training associated with physician assistant education and subsequently enter clinical practice as a physician assistant are referred to as technical standards. These standards are prerequisites for entrance, continuation, and graduation from the MPA Program at The University of Findlay.

The technical standards listed reflect five categorical areas: observation, communication, critical reasoning (intellectual), motor and sensory, and behavioral/social and represent minimum competence levels. Each standard is defined below and is followed by examples of indicators of minimum competence in that area.

Standard 1: Demonstrate sufficient attention and accuracy in **observation skills** (visual, auditory, and tactile) in the lecture hall, the laboratory, the patient's bedside and in the ambulatory care setting.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Accurate observation of a patient near and at a distance; recognizing non-verbal and verbal signs.
- Accurate identification of changes in color of fluids, skin, culture media, labs/diagnostic studies, and patient visual acuity.

Standard 2: Demonstrate effective **communication skills** with all ages of patients, and various degrees and types of infirmities and of varying cultures as well as others.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Clear, efficient and intelligible articulation of verbal language.
- Legible, efficient and intelligible written English language.

Standard 3: Demonstrate **critical reasoning skills** including but not limited to intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Demonstrate ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information.
- Demonstrate the ability to acquire, retain, and apply new and learned information.

Standard 4: Demonstrate sufficient **motor and sensory function** to perform typical functions of physician assistants including but not limited to physical examinations, treatment interventions, and general care of patients.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Functional and sufficient sensory capacity (visual, auditory, and tactile) to adequately perform a complete physical examination and elicit information gained from proper use of examination tools and procedures.
- Execute the physical capabilities, strength, and stamina to sit, stand, and move within classroom, laboratory, and clinical areas including, but not limited to, examination rooms, treatment rooms, and surgical suites for long periods of time. This may involve pushing, pulling, and or lifting greater than 50 pounds and sitting and/or standing for 12 or more hours at a time.

Standard 5: Demonstrate the **behavioral and social attributes** vital to participation in a professional graduate level program and service as a practicing professional physician assistant.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of mental faculties (judgment, orientation, affect and cognition).
- Possess the ability to develop mature and effective professional relationships with patients, other members of the health care team, and the public.
- Recognize and assess patient changes in mood, activity, cognition, and verbal and non-verbal communication.