

Master of Science in Nursing – Education Concentration (online)

For more information:

Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

Coordinator:

Kara Platt
Department of Nursing
301.687.4791
knplatt@frostburg.edu

The Nursing Education concentration provides graduates with competence in applying teaching/learning principles to patients and/or students across the continuum of care in a variety of settings. Nurse Educator graduates require preparation across all nine AACN Essential areas linking graduate-level clinical practice content and experiences. In addition, the program prepares students for nursing education roles in curriculum design and development, teaching methodology, educational needs assessment, and learner-centered theories and methods (AACN, 2011).

Certification

The Education concentration does not lead to advanced certification. The M.S. in Nursing program provides professional nurses from various practice settings the opportunity for advanced study.

Program Objectives

Objectives parallel to AACN's The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (2011).

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Integrate critical thinking and creativity to provide higher levels of leadership and practice in nursing and healthcare systems.
- Synthesize the impact of relationships between organizational and systems leadership as it relates to the implementation of quality and safe patient care delivery.
- Apply evidence based methods, tools, performance measures, and standards that relate to the integration of quality principles within complex care settings.
- Advocate at the system level for policy transformation to improve health and health systems.
- Develop advanced nursing practice interventions that influence both direct and indirect care components to improve healthcare outcomes for individuals, populations, and systems.

Admission Requirements

- Minimum of 3.0 GPA (4.00 scale) in the BSN
- Satisfy FSU requirements for admission to graduate study
- Hold a current, unrestricted RN license in at least one state
- Hold the degree of BSN from a nursing program accredited by CCNE or ACEN
- Have completed 3 credits of undergraduate statistics
- Submit three letters of reference
- Submit an essay describing how the MSN meets student's professional goal

Program Curriculum (40-41 credits)

MSN Core Requirements	13 credits
Education Specialty Core	7 credits
Education Concentration Courses	18-19 credits
Capstone	2 credits
Total	40-41

MSN Core Courses (13 credits)

NURS	504	Nursing Informatics
NURS	602	Research and Systematic Analysis
NURS	603	Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing
NURS	605	Health Systems and Populations

Education Specialty Core Requirements (7 credits)

NURS	507	Health Finance
NURS	601	Advanced Health, Physiology, and Pharmacology

Education Concentration courses (15 credits)

NURS	613	Curriculum Development and Design
NURS	614	Teaching & Learning Strategies
NURS	615	Evaluation and Assessment of Clinical Education
NURS	692	Current Trends in Nursing Education
NURS	694	Graduate Nursing Practicum

Students must also choose one of the following electives: (3-4 credits)

NURS	660	Adult and Geriatric Primary Care Theory
NURS	665	Pediatrics in Primary Care
NURS	668	Women's Health in Primary Care across the Lifespan
NURS	670	Mental Health in Primary Care across the Lifespan

Capstone (2 credits)

NURS	700	Capstone
------	-----	----------

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of all coursework required for the M.S. in Nursing within 5 years from semester of initial enrollment
- Completion of all coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Completion of all courses with a grade of "C" or better to count toward the MS in Nursing
- A total of two different nursing courses may be repeated during the program; a single course can be attempted no more than twice.

Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration (blended)

For more information:
Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

FNP Coordinator:
Jill Buterbaugh
Department of Nursing
301.687.3417
jsbuterbaugh@frostburg.edu

Program Purpose

The Master of Science, Nurse Practitioner program at Frostburg State University provides a comprehensive experiential program to prepare experienced RNs to expand their role in the health care paradigm. This program provides the necessary education for a holistic approach using science and evidenced based practices to assume positions with the complexity of primary care or mental health care to meet the needs of the people in communities impacted by the growing health care shortage. The focus of the program is to facilitate academic knowledge and expert clinical skills necessary for health promotion, disease prevention, advanced assessment, accurate diagnosis and evidenced based management of acute and chronic illness. Upon completion of this program, the NP will be prepared to assume a leadership position, manage complex clinical care and take responsibility and accountability for primary health care or mental health care within communities across the nation

Program Overview

The curriculum for the NP program is based on the AACN's *Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing* and the *National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) 2016 Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs* (5th ed.).

FSU's MSN FNP program admits students each fall. Deadlines for application are as follows:

March 1 – Deadline for completed applications (no elements missing)

The program is intended to be a cohort model program where students enter and move through the sequence of courses with their peers. Admission to the program is competitive and completed applications **MUST** be received by the above deadlines. Applications will be accepted and considered on a rolling basis and interviews will be held monthly. However, admission decisions will not be made until after the deadline and all interviews have been completed. Admission decisions will be communicated no later than April 1.

Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration

The FNP concentration requires 55 credits to include 585 practicum hours to complete the degree. Upon completion, graduates will be eligible to sit for national certification as a family nurse practitioner (FNP). Family nurse practitioners provide a wide range of primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services to patients across the lifespan in a wide variety of healthcare settings.

Delivery Model (Blended)

The program is delivered in a Blended format with 90-95% of the coursework delivered online and the other 5-10% requiring on campus residency. The residency expectation varies by semester depending on the coursework; however, students can expect an average of 2 times a semester for 2-3 days each per visit.

The program is offered in both a part-time and full-time format. Student attending full-time can complete the program in 2 to 2.5 years, while those attending part-time can complete in 3 to 4.5 years. Time to completion is dependent upon the concentration, credits taken each semester and continuous registration.

Program Goal

The goal of each concentration is to prepare experienced baccalaureate nurses for the complexities of providing primary care or mental health care in today's contemporary rural care environment (but will not exclude urban populations) with a broad understanding of the discipline of nursing and the expanding role of the NP. The ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing is also essential to transmit the outcomes of these processes (MHEC, 2006).

Program Objectives

Objectives parallel AACN's *The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing* (2011).

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Integrate multi-disciplinary evidence-based outcomes into clinical practice to provide expert care across the life span.
- Synthesize the impact of relationships between organizational and systems leadership to promote critical decision-making to ensure ethical, quality care delivery.
- Adapt practice standards to reflect current evidence-based methods, tools, and performance measures to ensure safe patient care.
- Advocate at the system level for policy transformation to enhance health and care delivery.
- Implement advanced nursing practice interventions reflecting a multi-disciplinary approach to facilitate improvements at the individual, population, and system level.

Admission Requirements

- Unencumbered Registered Nursing license
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing
 - From an Accredited Nursing Program
 - GPA of 3.0 on the last 60 hours of course work
- Official transcripts for all prior undergraduate study, regardless of whether a degree was earned
- Successfully completed a 3 credit undergraduate statistics course with a minimum grade of "B".
- Current Curriculum Vitae

- Essay pertaining to personal career objectives, what it means to be a Nurse Practitioner and why they feel that they will succeed as a Nurse Practitioner
- Three professional recommendations
- Personal, face-to-face interview
- Criminal background check
- Child abuse clearance
- Two years minimum of clinical experience
- Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration
- Acute care setting preferred but not required
- Clinical experience evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration
- One year in medical-surgical setting
- One year in a mental health setting

- NURS 662 Adult and Geriatric Primary Care Practicum I
- NURS 663 Adult and Geriatric Primary Care Practicum II
- NURS 664 Primary Care Management across the Lifespan
- NURS 666 Pediatrics in Primary Care Practicum
- NURS 669 Women’s Health in Primary Care Across the Lifespan Practicum
- NURS 671 Mental Health in Primary Care across the Lifespan Lab

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of all coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Completion of all courses with a grade of “B” or better to count towards the M.S. in Nursing
- A total of two different nursing courses may be repeated during the program; a single course can be attempted no more than twice.
- Students receiving an F grade in any course will be dismissed from the program based on the graduate academic dismissal policy. Students may appeal the dismissal for reinstatement. If the appeal is successful, the student will be required to repeat the failed course and it will count toward the above two course repeat limitation.

Program Curriculum (55 credits)

MSN Core Credits	13 credits
Nurse Practitioner Specialty Clinical Core Courses	15 credits
FNP Concentration Credits	13 credits
FNP Clinical Practicum Experiences	14 credits
Total Credit Hours Required	55 credits

MSN Core Requirements (13 credits)

- NURS 504 Nursing Informatics
- NURS 602 Research and Systematic Analysis
- NURS 603 Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing
- NURS 605 Health Systems and Populations

Nurse Practitioner Specialty Clinical Core Courses (15 credits)

- NURS 650 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology across the Lifespan
- NURS 651 Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning across the Lifespan –Theory
- NURS 653 Advanced Pharmacology: Essential Concepts across the Lifespan
- NURS 675 Quality Improvement in Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 701 Transitional Role Course for the Nurse Practitioner

Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration (13 credits)

- NURS 660 Adult and Geriatric Primary Care Theory
- NURS 665 Pediatrics in Primary Care
- NURS 668 Women’s Health in Primary Care Across the Lifespan
- NURS 670 Mental Health in Primary Care across the Lifespan

Family Nurse Practitioner Clinical Practicum Experience (14 credits)

- NURS 652 Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning

Master of Science in Nursing – Leadership & Management Concentration (online)

The Nursing Administration concentration prepares graduates to pursue new and innovative direct and indirect leadership roles in an evolving and global healthcare system. The AACN Master's Essentials (2011) expect that each graduate will have had additional coursework in areas of practice and functional role.

Certification

The Leadership and Management concentration does not lead to advanced certification. The M.S. in Nursing program provides professional nurses from various practice settings the opportunity for advanced study.

Program Objectives

- Integrate critical thinking and creativity to provide higher levels of leadership and practice in nursing and healthcare systems.
- Synthesize the impact of relationships between organizational and systems leadership as it relates to the implementation of quality and safe patient care delivery.
- Apply evidence-based methods, tools, performance measures, and standards that relate to the integration of quality principles within complex care settings.
- Advocate at the system level for policy transformation to improve health and health systems.
- Develop advanced nursing practice interventions that influence both direct and indirect care components to improve healthcare outcomes for individuals, populations, and systems.

Admission Requirements

- Minimum of 3.0 GPA (4.00 scale) in the BSN
- Satisfy FSU requirements for admission to graduate study
- Hold a current, unrestricted RN license in at least one state
- Hold the degree of BSN from a nursing program accredited by CCNE or ACEN
- Have completed 3 credits of undergraduate statistics
- Submit three letters of reference
- Submit an essay describing how the MSN meets student's professional goal

Program Curriculum (37 credits)

MSN Core Requirement	13 credits
Leadership & Management Specialty Core	7 credits
Leadership & Management Concentration Courses	15 credits
Capstone	2 credits
Total	37 credits

MSN Core Requirements (13 credits)

NURS	504	Nursing Informatics
NURS	602	Research and Systematic Analysis
NURS	603	Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing
NURS	605	Health Systems and Populations

Leadership & Management Specialty Core Requirements (7 credits)

NURS	507	Health Finance
NURS	601	Advanced Health, Physiology, and Pharmacology

Leadership & Management Concentration Courses (15 credits)

NURS	610	Administration of Healthcare Organizations
NURS	611	Organizational Theory
NURS	612	Health Policy
NURS	691	Current Trends in Nursing Administration
NURS	694	Graduate Nursing Practicum

Capstone (2 credits)

NURS	700	Capstone
------	-----	----------

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of all coursework required for the M.S. in Nursing within 5 years from semester of initial enrollment
- Completion of all coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Completion of all courses with a grade of "C" or better to count toward the MS in Nursing
- A total of two different nursing courses may be repeated during the program; a single course can be attempted no more than twice.

Master of Science in Nursing – Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration (blended)

For more information:

Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

PMHNP Coordinator:

Audra Houser
Department of Nursing
301.687.3029

Program Purpose

The Master of Science, Nurse Practitioner program at Frostburg State University provides a comprehensive experiential program to prepare experienced RNs to expand their role in the health care paradigm. This program provides the necessary education for a holistic approach using science and evidenced based practices to assume positions with the complexity of primary care or mental health care to meet the needs of the people in communities impacted by the growing health care shortage. The focus of the program is to facilitate academic knowledge and expert clinical skills necessary for health promotion, disease prevention, advanced assessment, accurate diagnosis and evidenced based management of acute and chronic illness. Upon completion of this program, the NP will be prepared to assume a leadership position, manage complex clinical care and take responsibility and accountability for primary health care or mental health care within communities across the nation

Program Overview

The curriculum for the NP program is based on the AACN's *Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing* and the *National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) 2016 Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs* (5th ed.).

FSU's MSN PMHNP program admits students each fall. Deadlines for application are as follows:

March 1 – Deadline for completed applications (no elements missing)

The program is intended to be a cohort model program where students enter and move through the sequence of courses with their peers. Admission to the program is competitive and completed applications **MUST** be received by the above deadlines. Applications will be accepted and considered on a rolling basis and interviews will be held monthly. However, admission decisions will not be made until after the deadline and all interviews have been completed. Admission decisions will be communicated no later than April 1.

Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration

The PMHNP concentration requires 61 credits to include 630 practicum hours to complete the degree. Upon successful completion, graduates will be eligible to sit for national certification as a psychiatric & mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP). Psychiatric & mental health nurse practitioners provide a wide range of psychiatric & mental health services to patients across the lifespan in a wide variety of healthcare settings

Delivery Model (Blended)

The program is delivered in a blended format with 90-95% of the coursework delivered online and the other 5-10% requiring on campus residency. The residency expectation varies by semester depending on the coursework; however, students can expect an average of 2 times a semester for 2-3 days each per visit.

The program is offered in both a part-time and full-time format. Student attending full-time can complete the program in 2 to 2.5 years, while those attending part-time can complete in 3 to 4.5 years. Time to completion is dependent upon the concentration, credits taken each semester and continuous registration.

Program Goal

The goal of each concentration is to prepare experienced baccalaureate nurses for the complexities of providing primary care or mental health care in today's contemporary rural care environment (but will not exclude urban populations) with a broad understanding of the discipline of nursing and the expanding role of the NP. The ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing is also essential to transmit the outcomes of these processes (MHEC, 2006).

Program Objectives

Objectives parallel AACN's *The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing* (2011).

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Integrate multi-disciplinary evidence-based outcomes into clinical practice to provide expert care across the life span.
2. Synthesize the impact of relationships between organizational and systems leadership to promote critical decision-making to ensure ethical, quality care delivery.
3. Adapt practice standards to reflect current evidence-based methods, tools, and performance measures to ensure safe patient care.
4. Advocate at the system level for policy transformation to enhance health and care delivery.
5. Implement advanced nursing practice interventions reflecting a multi-disciplinary approach to facilitate improvements at the individual, population, and system level.

Admission Requirements

- Unencumbered Registered Nursing license
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing
- From an Accredited Nursing Program
- GPA of 3.0 on the last 60 hours of course work
- Official transcripts for all prior undergraduate study, regardless of whether a degree was earned
- Successfully completed a 3 credit undergraduate statistics course with a minimum grade of "B".
- Current Curriculum Vitae

- Essay pertaining to personal career objectives, what it means to be a Nurse Practitioner and why they feel that they will succeed as a Nurse Practitioner
- Three professional recommendations
- Personal, face-to-face interview
- Criminal background check
- Child abuse clearance
- Two years minimum of clinical experience
- Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration
- Acute care setting preferred but not required
- Clinical experience evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration
- One year in medical-surgical setting
- One year in a mental health setting

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of all coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Completion of all courses with a grade of "B" or better to count towards the M.S. in Nursing
- A total of two different nursing courses may be repeated during the program; a single course can be attempted no more than twice.

Transfer/Proficiency Credit:

If you have successfully completed (grade of B or better) graduate courses at another accredited institution, you may apply for transfer credit for up to 9 credits in this program. If, upon faculty assessment, the courses are deemed essentially comparable to courses in this program, you will be awarded credit toward completion of your degree. All courses considered for transfer credit must meet the graduate transfer credit policy requirement, including the six-year limit. No proficiency credits (credit by exam) are permitted in the Recreation, Parks and Sport Management Master's Program.

- NURS 675 Quality Improvement in Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 701 Transitional Role Course for the Nurse Practitioner

Psychiatric and Mental Health NP Concentration (18 credits)

- NURS 625 Neurobiology of Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan
 NURS 626 Psychopharmacology Across the Lifespan
 NURS 627 Psychiatric Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Lifespan – Theory
 NURS 629 Physical Health Issues Common in Psychiatric Disorders across the Lifespan
 NURS 630 Therapeutic Management of Adult/Geriatric Psychopathology I – Theory
 NURS 632 Adult/Geriatric Focused Brief Individual and Group Psychotherapy for the Psychiatric NP – Theory
 NURS 634 Therapeutic Management of Child/Adolescent Psychopathology II – Theory
 NURS 636 Child/Adolescent Focused Brief Individual and Family Psychotherapy for the Psychiatric NP – Theory
 NURS 638 Therapeutic Management of Vulnerable Populations III – Theory

Psychiatric and Mental Health NP Clinical Practicum Experiences (14 credits)

- NURS 628 Psychiatric Diagnostic Reasoning Across Lifespan – Practicum
 NURS 631 Therapeutic Management of Adult/Geriatric Psychopathology I – Practicum
 NURS 633 Adult/Geriatric Focused Brief Individual and Group Psychotherapy for the Psychiatric NP – Practicum
 NURS 635 Therapeutic Management of Child/Adolescent Psychopathology Practicum
 NURS 637 Child/Adolescent Focused Brief Individual and Family Psychotherapy for the Psychiatric NP – Practicum
 NURS 639 Therapeutic Management of Vulnerable Populations Psychopathology III – Practicum

Program Curriculum (60 credits)

MSN Core Credits	13 credits
Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Specialty Core	15 credits
Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Concentration	18 credits
Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Clinical Practicum Experiences	14 credits
Total Credit Hours Required	60 credits

MSN Core Requirements (13 credits)

- NURS 504 Nursing Informatics
 NURS 602 Research and Systematic Analysis
 NURS 603 Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing
 NURS 605 Health Systems and Populations

Psychiatric and Mental Health NP Specialty Core (15 credits)

- NURS 650 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology across the Lifespan
 NURS 651 Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Lifespan – Theory
 NURS 653 Advanced Pharmacology: Essential Concepts Across the Lifespan

Combined B.S. in Nursing/M.S. in Nursing (online)

Concentrations

- **EDUCATION (ONLINE)**
- **LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT (ONLINE)**

The combined BS in Nursing/MS in Nursing program enables students to complete FSU's RN-BSN and MS in Nursing degree with a concentration in Education or Leadership and Management with 151 to 155 credit hours of academic credit. Separate pursuit of these degrees would require a minimum of 157 to 159 credit hours of course work. This program is available to students that have graduated or will be graduating from FSU with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Current undergraduate students should apply in the final semester of their senior year by March 1 for fall and Oct. 1 for spring admission to the program. Application should be submitted to the Office of Graduate Services.

Eligibility requirements for the combined BS/MS:

- Declared RN-BSN major at FSU or FSU RN-BSN graduate
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) or better in BSN courses completed at FSU at the time of application
- Application for admission to the 63/151 hour program approved by the Nursing Department
- Satisfy FSU requirements for admission to graduate study
- Hold a current, unrestricted U.S. RN license
- Have completed 3 credits of undergraduate statistics
- Submit three letters of reference
- Submit an essay describing how the MSN meets student's professional goals

Summary of Requirements for Combined B.S.N./M.S.N Option

1. Undergraduate Requirements for RN-BSN degree. See the FSU Undergraduate Catalog.
2. Complete the following additional MS in Nursing courses :

BSN/MSN Education Concentration (34-35 credits)

MSN Core (10 credits)

NURS 602 Research and Systematic Analysis
 NURS 603 Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing
 NURS 605 Healthcare Systems and Population

MSN Specialty Core (4 credits)

NURS 601 Advanced Health, Physiology and Pharmacology

Education Concentration Courses (15-16 credits)

NURS 613 Curriculum Development and Design
 NURS 614 Teaching and Learning Strategies
 NURS 615 Evaluation and Assessment of Clinical Education
 NURS 692 Current Trends in Nursing Education
 NURS XXX Clinical Specialty Elective (3 -4 credits)

Practicum (3 credits)

NURS 694 Graduate Nursing Practicum

Capstone (2 credits)

NURS 700 Capstone

BSN/MSN Leadership & Management Concentration (31 credits)

MSN Core (10 credits)

NURS 602 Research and Systematic Analysis
 NURS 603 Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing
 NURS 605 Healthcare Systems and Population

MSN Specialty Core (4 credits)

NURS 601 Advanced Health, Physiology and Pharmacology

Leadership & Management Concentration (12 credits)

NURS 610 Administration of Healthcare Organizations
 NURS 611 Organizational Theory
 NURS 612 Health Policy
 NURS 691 Current Trends in Nursing Administration

Practicum (3 credits)

NURS 694 Graduate Nursing Practicum

Capstone (2 credits)

NURS 700 Capstone

Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies

For more information:

Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

Coordinator:

Dr. Beth Smolko
Department of Physician Assistant Studies
University System of Maryland at Hagerstown
240.527.2752
fsupa@frostburg.edu

Program Overview

The Master of Medical Science (MMS) in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies Program at Frostburg State University (FSU) is delivered at FSU's satellite site located at the University System of Maryland Hagerstown Regional Education Center in the heart of downtown Hagerstown, MD. The program is located on the third floor of the USMH Agnita Stine Schreiber Health Sciences Center located at 24 N. Walnut Street, Hagerstown, MD.

The MMS in PA Studies is a graduate degree program intended to prepare students academically and professionally for responsibilities, services, and leadership as a Physician Assistant. This program consists of two phases spanning 24 months to include intersessions and summers with a total of 117 credits. Phase I (didactic phase) represents the pre-clinical year and spans the first 13 months, representing 74 program credits. Phase II (clinical field education phase) represents 43 program credits, including ten diverse supervised clinical field experiences (Supervised Clinical Practice Experience or SCPEs) and a four-credit summative capstone course, over a period of 11 months. Categorical learning domains include human anatomy, basic medical sciences, clinical medicine, clinical assessment and diagnostics, clinical patient care skills and interventions, professional development, research, and multiple field practice experiences.

The program admits a cohort of 25 each summer, with an application **deadline of November 1. Applications are accepted via the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)** www.caspaonline.org. All documents should be submitted to CASPA by November 1 to assure that CASPA is able to verify the application no later than November 1.

Program Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision

Frostburg State University's Physician Assistant Studies program will educate a Physician Assistant workforce committed to excellence, compassion, and patient-centered care to serve rural and medically underserved areas in Maryland and beyond.

Mission

The mission of the Frostburg State University's Physician Assistant Program is to educate students in compassionate patient-centered care. Students will learn best practices, use innovative technology, and work in interprofessional teams to deliver quality care, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas in Maryland and beyond. Frostburg State University Physician Assistant graduates will have a commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and community service.

Goals

Goal 1: Prepare Physician Assistant students with the core medical knowledge and skills to deliver quality healthcare, achieving first time PANCE scores at or above the national average and aggregate scores at 100%.

Goal 2: Prepare students in the use of technology and interprofessional education opportunities to improve access to care and physical exam and diagnostic skills in all clinical setting.

Goal 3: Prepare graduates to evaluate clinical data and research and make evidence based decisions to provide safe, quality care for all patients.

Goal 4: Prepare graduates to meet the healthcare needs of rural and medically underserved populations

Program Accreditation

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Frostburg State University Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program sponsored by Frostburg State University.

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher as calculated by the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)
- Completion of all prerequisites with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher as calculated by CASPA. No grade lower than a "C" will be accepted for any prerequisite. All prerequisites with the exception of those noted below must be completed within ten years. All repeated course grades are counted in the CASPA GPA calculation. For information on how CASPA calculates GPAs, please go to their Frequently Asked Questions on the Web page at <https://portal.caspaonline.org/caspaHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/>

Prerequisites include:

- Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab (8 credits) (must be completed within 5 years of application. Waiver may be considered if evidence of using content in daily work)
- Microbiology (3 credits) (must be completed within 5 years of application)
- Medical Terminology
- General Chemistry (4 credits)— may be completed as AP courses in high school with score of 4 or 5 on AP exam; also blended General Chemistry courses will be considered depending on course description
- Biochemistry or Organic Chemistry (this should not be an introductory course, should be upper level course) Biochemistry preferred.
- Abnormal or Developmental Psychology (3 credits)

- Introduction to Statistics - may be completed as AP courses in high school with score of 4 or 5 on AP exam
- Recommended but not required – Genetics, Physics
- GRE test score submission (scores must be within 5 years). Submit test scores directly to CASPA using GRE code 4798. There is no minimum score for this test but a score in the 40th percentile or higher is recommended. MCAT will be accepted in lieu of the GRE test. Students who hold a graduate degree will be waived from this test requirement.
- Health Care Experience Hours (minimum of 500 hours paid or volunteer with 8 hours of shadowing a Physician Assistant strongly recommended. Recommended experiences include PA, NP or MD shadowing, CAN, EMT, Scribe, Medical Assistant, Respiratory Therapist, Radiology Technician, Military Medical Corpsman, Paramedic, RN or other related experiences which provide exposure to the medical care environment where there is significant interaction with patient care, preferably hands-on.
- Community Service – Applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to community service will be viewed favorably in the holistic review process.
- Leadership – Applicants who have demonstrated leadership via participation in their academic, personal or professional lives will be viewed favorably in the holistic review process.
- 3 letters of recommendations (acceptable references include: MD, PA, NP, academic advisors or faculty, employment managers and supervisors) from individuals who can verify your potential for academic success and who can attest to your commitment to leadership and service.
- Short essay response
- Personal Statement
- Ability to meet the program’s technical standards.
- Interview – please note that not all qualified applicants are invited for interview due to the competitive nature of this program.
- Once selected for admission, students must satisfactorily complete a background check, drug screen and documentation of required immunizations.
- Students are also required to carry health insurance and personal malpractice via <https://www.cmfgroup.com/professional-liability-insurance/physician-assistant-student-insurance/> (offered free to PA students).

Foreign Medical Graduates

International Student Information:

Please note that students seeking F1 visa cannot be considered for this program. Currently, FSU does not have SEVP approval for programs delivered at USM Hagerstown, the site where this program is delivered.

All foreign-educated applicants must have transcripts of all higher education institutions attended evaluated by World Education Services (WES) or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) prior to submitting the CASPA application. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated (course-by-course with GPA evaluation is required) by one of these organizations listed above; no other evaluation services will be accepted. Please be advised that this process may take several months and must be submitted with the completed CASPA application by the application deadline. All prerequisite courses must be taken in the US.

The following prerequisite courses must be taken in the US: Anatomy and Physiology, Biochemistry or Organic Chemistry, Microbiology, and Abnormal or Developmental Psychology.

English Fluency:

International students who have not graduated from an accredited college or university in the United States, and whose native language is not English, must achieve satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) of

100 iBit or IELTS test 7.5. Scores must be current within two years from the time of application.

Application Process

- Completed CASPA application (www.caspaonline.org) received by the deadline date of November 1. CASPA verification by November 1.
- **Completion of the GRE.** Send GRE from ETS directly to FSU using code (5402). Do NOT send scores directly to CASPA. MCAT tests will be accepted in lieu of GRE. GRE scores must be current within five years of the date of application and received by the application deadline. Students who hold a master’s degree or higher will be waived from this requirement. There is no minimum score required; however, a score in the 40th percentile or higher in both the quantitative and the verbal portion of the GRE is recommended and will be given preference when evaluating applications.
- **After completion of the application and receipt of all documents, CASPA will verify your application and forward it to FSU for screening.** All students who meet minimum admission requirements will be forwarded to the Admissions committee for review and those selected will be offered an interview. Please note that not all students who meet minimum qualifications will receive an interview due to the competitive nature of this program.
- FSU will review applications on a rolling basis and interviews will be conducted each month beginning as early as May and ending no later than January. As a result, we encourage early application to provide CASPA adequate time for review and verification of your application.
- All admission decisions will be completed by the end February.

Program Curriculum (117 credit hours)

Core Courses (74 credits)

DPAM	601	Human Anatomy I
DPAM	602	Human Anatomy II
DPAM	603	Human Anatomy III
DPAM	610	Clinical Medicine I
DPAM	611	Clinical Medicine II
DPAM	612	Clinical Medicine III
DPAM	621	Basic Sciences I
DPAM	622	Basic Sciences II
DPAM	623	Basic Sciences III
DPAM	631	Developing the PA Professional I
DPAM	632	Developing the PA Professional II
DPAM	633	Developing the PA Professional III
DPAM	641	Patient Assessment and Diagnostic Methods I
DPAM	642	Patient Assessment and Diagnostic Methods II
DPAM	643	Patient Assessment and Diagnostic Methods III
DPAM	651	Pharmacology I
DPAM	652	Pharmacology II
DPAM	653	Pharmacology III
DPAM	660	Population Health
DPAM	665	Research and Evidence-Based Medicine
DPAM	670	Functional and Preventive Medicine
DPAM	675	Geriatrics
DPAM	680	Pediatrics
DPAM	685	Foundations of Surgery
DPAM	690	Emergency Medicine Intensive
DPAM	695	Transition to Clinical Practice

Supervised Clinical Site Placements (40 credits)

DPAM	700	Family Medicine: Supervised Clinical Practice Experience
DPAM	701	Internal Medicine: Supervised Clinical Practice Experience
DPAM	702	Pediatrics: Supervised Clinical Practice Experience

DPAM	703	General Surgery: Supervised Clinical Practice Experience
DPAM	704	Psychiatry: Supervised Clinical Practice Experience
DPAM	705	Women's Health: Supervised Clinical Practice Experience
DPAM	706	Emergency Medicine: Supervised Clinical Practical Experience
DPAM	707	Elective: Supervised Clinical Practice Experience

Capstone (4 credits)

DPAM	709	Summative
------	-----	-----------

Program Progression and Dismissal

Due to the sequential nature of the curriculum, students must successfully complete all courses for a given semester before becoming eligible to take courses in the subsequent semester.

Students must successfully complete all courses in the didactic phase before they may progress into the clinical phase of the program. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Academic Performance and Professionalism Progress Review Committee.

Progression in Supervised Clinical Site Placement Experiences - due to timing, as well as complexity of evaluative measures incorporated, student performance is assessed by the Clinical Coordinator at the completion of each Supervised Clinical Practice Experience to determine progression to the next rotation.

At the conclusion of each semester, in both the didactic and clinical year, the Academic and Professionalism Progress Review Committee reviews each student's academic and professional performance. Students must be recommended for progression by the Academic and Professionalism Progress Review Committee to be eligible to take courses in the subsequent semester and continue their progression through the program. In the event a student is identified to be at risk for Academic/Professionalism probation or dismissal at any time during the program, including Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences, the Academic and Professionalism Progress Review Committee may convene more frequently to determine appropriate academic/professionalism intervention.

Guidelines used to determine progression from semester to semester include the following:**Semester to Semester Progression - Didactic Phase:**

- Achieve a minimum overall 3.0 GPA
- No more than one (1) course grade below a "B" within the semester
- No course grades below "C"
- Obtain established minimal grades for Observed Standardized Clinical Examinations/OSCEs
- Achieve minimum established score for all formative and summative evaluations/examinations
- Documented demonstration of professionalism

Progression from Didactic Phase to Clinical Phase:

- Achieve a minimum overall 3.0 GPA
- No more than two (2) course grades below a "B"
- No course grade below "C"
- Obtain established minimal grades for Observed Standardized Clinical Examinations/OSCEs
- Achieve minimum established score for all formative and summative evaluations/examinations
- Documented demonstration of professionalism

Please note any grade below "C" and more than two (2) grades below the level of "B" within the didactic phase will trigger dismissal from the program. See dismissal section below.

Clinical Phase to Completion:

- Achieve a minimum overall 3.0 GPA
- Successfully complete all Supervised Clinical Practical Experiences/SCPEs
- No more than one (1) course below the level of "B"
- No course grade below the level of "C"
- Obtain passing grades on all end of SCPE examinations
- Achieve minimum established score for all formative and summative evaluations/examinations
- Documentation of professionalism

Please note any grade below "C" and more than one (1) grade below the level of "B" within the clinical phase, including the summative course will trigger a dismissal from the program. See dismissal section below.

In the event that a student does not meet the above criteria, is remediating a course or course component, or may be on academic or professionalism probation, the student may progress to the subsequent semester at the discretion of the Academic and Professionalism Progress Committee.

Transfer/Proficiency Credit:

This program does not consider courses for transfer or credit by exam.