



Doctor of Medical Science

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Program Description

The majority of practicing Physician Assistants (PAs) in the country have earned the current terminal degree for the profession – a Master’s degree centered around Physician Assistant Studies (such as the MPAS or MMS degree). Healthcare is changing rapidly and PAs are an essential part of the future of healthcare in this country. The Doctorate of Medical Science (DMSc) prepares and supports students to complete a clinical doctoral degree which can provide additional opportunities for leadership positions in institutions of higher education, healthcare and research clinics, hospital settings, and other healthcare venues. The vision of Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions (RMUoHP) is to become widely recognized for excellence in healthcare education. This innovative DMSc program will help RMUoHP accomplish this vision.

The DMSc curriculum is composed of four concentration tracks: 1) Advanced Clinical Practice, 2) Healthcare Leadership & Administration, 3) Healthcare Professions Education, and 4) Psychiatry. Students in these concentration tracks will complete a practicum and applied scholarly project (ASP). The concentration tracks are committed to the development of lifelong learners and scholars who can perform the following: 1) create, evaluate, publish, present, and integrate scholarly works into their daily clinical practice, leadership role, or academic agenda; 2) act in leadership roles within their discipline and community; 3) provide the highest level of

intervention to their patients; and 4) participate in undergraduate and graduate education environments to effectively teach the next generation of evidence-based PAs.

There are two curriculum models as options for completion of this program, both designed for PA practitioners and educators to continue professional work obligations while completing this degree. Completion of the program involves completion or awarding of 36 total credit hours

The ASP emphasizes the application of scientific principles related to the evaluation, intervention, and integration of clinically related issues of inquiry seen in healthcare practice. ASP committee members are known experts in the field with members of the RMUoHP faculty providing guidance and support. If post-professional students have not completed the program in the schedule provided by the selected curriculum model, they may continue enrollment for an additional semester to complete the ASP.

Degree Objectives

The DMSc Program is committed to the development of advanced Physician Assistants who can:

- Create and disseminate sound, evidence-based, ethical scholarly projects;
- Demonstrate the ability to make significant and relevant contributions to the current body of medical knowledge or application in the discipline;
- Demonstrate oral and written communication skills sufficient to publish and present scholarly work in their field;
- Develop knowledge expertise in the area of practicum and ASP interest;
- Develops skills in clinical, administrative, or education inquiry and data evaluation;
- Enhance leadership abilities, including competence in the roles of clinician, scholar, educator, and leader;
- Describe and distinguish the various theories associated with the concentration area and develop advanced evidence-based practice knowledge.

Definition of entry points

- Master's-prepared PA: A Physician Assistant (PA) who has earned a master's degree awarded by a PA program, a post-graduate master's degree in medical science (e.g., Master of Medical Science), a post-graduate master's degree in health science (e.g., Master of Science in Health Science), a master's degree in public health (e.g., Master of Public Health), or other post-graduate master's degrees of a healthcare emphasis that included comparable coursework as determined by the DMSc program director.
- Bachelor's-prepared PA: A Physician Assistant (PA) who completed a PA program awarding a bachelor's degree. This also includes those who have a post-graduate master's degree in a field not related to healthcare.

Curriculum Models:

Students are required to select a curriculum model in the DMSc program. The two curriculum models include:

- Phased Model
 - 36 Credits (master's-prepared) / 42 Credits Total (bachelor's-prepared)
 - Didactic phase:
 - 21 credits (master's-prepared)
 - 18 credits (bachelor's-prepared)
 - Practicum/Project phase: 15 credits
 - Bachelor's-prepared required courses: 9 credits
 - Five (5) consecutive semesters, over 20 months
 - Option to extend by 1 semester

- Integrated Model
 - 36 Credits Total (master's-prepared) / 42 Credits Total (bachelor's-prepared)
 - Integrated Didactic and Practicum/Project phases taken together
 - Bachelor's-prepared courses taken as offered (when required)
 - Four (4) consecutive semesters over 16 months
 - Option to extend by 1 semester
- *NOTE: if you would like to select the Integrated Model, please contact the Registrar's Office prior to the start of your first semester.*

Please refer to the Program Outline and Program Calendars sections below for more details regarding the curricular models and requirements.

Concentration Tracks:

Students are required to select a concentration track prior to their first semester in the DMSc program. Concentration courses provide further knowledge, skills, and abilities specific to clinical practice, healthcare administration, or healthcare education. Concentration tracks include:

- Advanced Clinical Practice
- Healthcare Leadership & Administration
- Healthcare Professions Education
- Psychiatry

If a student in one concentration track desires to complete all the courses offered for another concentration track, RMUoHP may offer a post-graduate certificate in that concentration. For example, if a student in the Healthcare Leadership & Administration track also completed all concentration courses offered for the clinical practice concentration track, they may be eligible to also receive a Certificate in Advanced Clinical Practice in addition to their DMSc degree. The student would need prior written approval from the program director before working towards an additional post-graduate certificate in a second concentration.

General Program Requirements

1. Complete 36 credits of coursework, as described in the program outline below, for master's-prepared students. For bachelor's-prepared students, 42 credits of coursework total is required, as outlined below.
2. Submit an article (i.e, literature review, critical appraisal, case report) for publication prior to graduating in consultation with a faculty mentor.
3. Complete the applied scholarly project and successfully present the project in a formal presentation environment.
4. Submit the applied scholarly project manuscript for publication prior to conferring degree.
5. Up to 12 credits of equivalent coursework may be transferred from master's or doctoral degree program coursework successfully completed at another accredited graduate university, upon approval of both the program director and concentration track director. Up to 18 credits of equivalent coursework completed within a different program at RMUoHP may be accepted for completed coursework within the DMSc upon approval of the Program Director and Concentration Track Director.

Admissions requirements

1. Earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a PA program (or equivalent degree as determined by the Program Director) at a regionally accredited institution, or from a foreign university based on a transcript evaluation completed by an agency from the NACES website, www.naces.org.
2. Official transcripts from the physician assistant (PA) program and any institution from which a post-graduate master's or doctoral degree was earned.

3. Proof of unencumbered licensure and/or certification as a physician assistant (PA), or for new graduates, certification or licensure must be obtained during the first semester of the DMSc program.
4. Resume or curriculum vitae detailing education, employment, volunteer service, and scholarly activity.
5. Completed online application.
6. Applicants may be asked to participate in a phone interview.
7. A \$50 non-refundable application fee is required.
8. For admitted students, a \$500 program deposit is required and will be applied to the first semester's tuition.

Program Outline

Course Code & Title		Master's- prepared PAs	Bachelor's- prepared PAs
DMSc Core Courses:			
MS 610 Evidence Based Practice*		3	--
MS 614 Professional & Scientific Writing		3	3
HLA 740 Healthcare Delivery		3	3
HLA 700 Healthcare Legal & Ethical Issues		3	3
HS 504 Research Methods		--	3
HS 506 Data & Decision Making		--	3
HS 507 Evidence-Based Practice		--	3
DMSc Core Total:		12	18
Applied Scholarly Project Courses:			
ASP 710 ASP I: Project Development & Proposal		3	3
ASP 720 ASP II: Literature Review		3	3
ASP 730 ASP III: Dissemination		3	3
ASP Total:		9	9
Concentration & Practicum Courses (students select 1 track):			
Advanced Clinical Practice Concentration	ACP 710 Lifestyle Medicine	3	3
	ACP 720 Patient Safety in Clinical Practice	3	3
	ACP 730 Population Health Issues	3	3
	ACP 790 Clinical Practicum I	3	3
	ACP 795 Clinical Practicum II	3	3
Healthcare Leadership & Administration Concentration	HLA 620 Healthcare Leadership	3	3
	HLA 670 Organizational Behavior & Management in Healthcare	3	3
	HLA 680 Strategic Change Management for Healthcare Organizations	3	3
	HLA 790 Administrative Practicum I	3	3
	HLA 795 Administrative Practicum II	3	3
Healthcare Professions Education Concentration	HPE 760 Instructional Technology: Design, Theory & Application	3	3
	HPE 740 Learning Theory & Design	3	3
	HPE 670 Learning Assessment & Evaluation	3	3
	HPE 790 Education Practicum I	3	3
	HPE 795 Education Practicum II	3	3
Psychiatry Concentration	PMH 710 Advanced Clinical Science: Psychiatry	3	3
	PMH 720 Psychiatry Diagnostics & Therapeutics I	3	3
	PMH 730 Psychiatry Diagnostics & Therapeutics II	3	3
	ACP 790 Clinical Practicum I -OR- PMH 790 Psychotherapy Practicum I	3	3
	ACP 795 Clinical Practicum II -OR- PMH 795 Psychotherapy Practicum II	3	3
Concentration & Practicum Total:		15	15
Total Program Required Credits:		36	42
Optional ASP Course:			
ASP 735 ASP Extension Course <i>Optional course; students may choose to extend their program of study by one (1) semester. Not included in total required credits or program tuition.</i>		(1)	(1)

Program Calendars *Phased Model*

Semester		Course	Master's- prepared PAs	Bachelor's -prepared PAs
Didactic Phase	Semester 1 Summer 2020 <i>May 4-Aug. 21</i>	MS 610 Evidence-Based Practice	3	--
		MS 614 Professional & Scientific Writing	3	3
		Semester Total:	6	3
	Semester 2 Fall 2020 <i>Aug. 31-Dec. 18</i>	HLA 740 Healthcare Delivery	3	3
		HLA 700 Healthcare Legal & Ethical Issues	3	3
		Semester Total:	6	6
	Semester 3 Winter 2021 <i>Jan 4- Apr. 23</i>	Concentration Course 1	3	3
		Concentration Course 2	3	3
		ASP 710 ASP I: Project Development & Proposal	3	3
		Semester Total:	9	9
Didactic Phase Total Credits:			21	18
Practicum & Project Phase	Semester 4 Summer 2021 <i>May 3-Aug. 20</i>	Concentration Course 3	3	3
		Practicum Course 1	3	3
		ASP 720 ASP II: Literature Review	3	3
		Semester Total:	9	9
	Semester 5 Fall 2021 <i>Aug. 30-Dec. 17</i>	Practicum Course 2	3	3
		ASP 730 ASP III: Dissemination	3	3
		Semester Total:	6	6
	Semester 6 Winter 2022 <i>Jan 4- Apr. 22</i>	ASP 735 ASP Extension Course <i>(Optional course/semester)**</i>	(1)	(1)
		Semester Total:	(1)	(1)
	Practicum & Project Phase Total Credits:			15
Additional Courses for bachelor's-prepared PAs: <i>Taken when taught, in addition to DMSc courses listed above.</i>	HS 504 Research Methods <i>(Fall semester)</i>	--	3	
	HS 506 Data & Decision Making <i>(Summer semester)</i>	--	3	
	HS 507 Evidence-Based Practice <i>(Winter semester)</i>	--	3	
	Required for students without earned PA Master's:	--	9	
Total Program Required Credits:			36	42
<i>Four-year deadline for program completion from start of program is May 4, 2024</i>				

*Optional semesters not included in required credits or program tuition. If a student elects to extend the ASP into additional semester, tuition for the additional course(s) will be charged.

Integrated Model

Semester	Course	Master's- prepared PAs	Bachelor's- prepared PAs
Semester 1 Summer 2020 <i>May 4–Aug. 21</i>	MS 610 Evidence-Based Practice	3	--
	MS 614 Professional & Scientific Writing	3	3
	Practicum Course 1	3	3
	Concentration Course 1	3	3
Semester Total:		12	9
Semester 2 Fall 2020 <i>Aug. 31-Dec. 18</i>	HLA 740 Healthcare Delivery	3	3
	ASP 710 ASP I: Project Development & Proposal	3	3
	Concentration Course 2	3	3
Semester Total:		9	9
Semester 3 Winter 2021 <i>Jan. 4-Apr. 23</i>	HLA 700 Healthcare Legal & Ethical Issues	3	3
	ASP 720 ASP II: Literature Review	3	3
	Practicum Course 2	3	3
Semester Total:		9	9
Semester 4 Summer 2021 <i>May 3-Aug. 20</i>	Concentration Course 3	3	3
	ASP 730 ASP III: Dissemination	3	3
Semester Total:		6	6
Semester 5 Fall 2021 <i>Aug. 30-Dec. 17</i>	ASP 735 ASP Extension Course <i>(Optional course/semester)*</i>	(1)	(1)
	Semester Total:		(1)
Additional Courses for bachelor's-prepared PAs: <i>Taken when taught, in addition to DMSc courses listed above.</i>	HS 504 Research Methods <i>(Fall semester)</i>	--	3
	HS 506 Data & Decision Making <i>(Summer semester)</i>	--	3
	HS 507 Evidence-Based Practice <i>(Winter semester)</i>	--	3
	Required for student without PA Master's:		--
Total Program Required Credits:		36	42
<i>Four-year deadline for program completion from start of program is May 4, 2024</i>			

*Optional semesters not included in required credits or program tuition. If a student elects to extend the ASP into additional semester, tuition for the additional course(s) will be charged.

Concentration Track Courses

Course Sequence	Course Code & Title	Credits	
Advanced Clinical Practice			
Concentration Courses	1	ACP 710 Lifestyle Medicine	3
	2	ACP 720 Patient Safety in Clinical Practice	3
	3	ACP 730 Population Health Issues	3
Practicum Courses	1	ACP 790 Clinical Practicum I	3
	2	ACP 795 Clinical Practicum II	3
Healthcare Leadership & Administration			
Concentration Courses	1	HLA 620 Healthcare Leadership	3
	2	HLA 670 Organizational Behavior & Management in Healthcare	3
	3	HLA 680 Strategic Change Management for Healthcare Organizations	3
Practicum Courses	1	HLA 790 Administrative Practicum I	3
	2	HLA 795 Administrative Practicum II	3
Healthcare Professions Education			
Concentration Courses	1	HPE 760 Instructional Technology: Design, Theory & Application	3
	2	HPE 740 Learning Theory & Design	3
	3	HPE 670 Learning Assessment & Evaluation	3
Practicum Courses	1	HPE 790 Education Practicum I	3
	2	HPE 795 Education Practicum II	3
Psychiatry			
Concentration Courses	1	PMH 710 Advanced Clinical Science: Psychiatry	3
	2	PMH 720 Psychiatry Diagnostics & Therapeutics I	3
	3	PMH 730 Psychiatry Diagnostics & Therapeutics II	3
Practicum Courses	1	ACP 790 Clinical Practicum I -OR- PMH 790 Psychotherapy Practicum I	3
	2	ACP 795 Clinical Practicum II -OR- PMH 795 Psychotherapy Practicum II	3

Course Descriptions

Doctor of Medical Science Core Courses:

MS 610 Evidence-Based Practice (3 credits)

Serving as a prelude to the applied scholarly project, this course focuses on concepts of evidence-based practice. Specifically, the course covers the foundational principles of research design, epidemiology, biostatistics, and searching the medical literature. Additional focus for the course includes critical evaluation of the literature and synthesis of EBP principles into realistic practice settings.

MS 614 Professional & Scientific Writing (3 credits)

This course reviews PubMed, Index Medicus, other search methodologies, American Medical Association Manual of Style editorial format, the composition of a scientific/professional manuscript, the style of scientific and professional writing, its construction and formats. Students will complete a literature review and a case report during this course, with emphasis placed on professional and scientific writing techniques, as well as proper formatting and citation.

HLA 700 Healthcare Legal & Ethical Issues (3 credits)

This course explores the legal and ethical issues and dilemmas in the delivery of healthcare. The principles and practical application of laws and regulations affecting operational decisions of healthcare providers, health plans, and third-party payers are discussed. Also addressed are social, moral, and ethical issues encountered in the balance of patient interests, needs and rights.

HLA 740 Healthcare Delivery (3 credits)

This course will train healthcare leaders to implement or teach principles of delivering better healthcare at lower costs through improving clinical and non-clinical processes. This course will introduce methods and tools for conducting quality improvement projects. Also discussed will be methods of health services research, teams and teamwork, outcome measurement, & medical informatics. A key learning experience of this course will be developing and implementing a quality improvement project.

Applied Scholarly Project Courses:

ASP 710 ASP I: Project Development & Proposal (3 credits)

During the first half of the semester, students are guided through the project development and proposal process. The latter half of the course is for students to revise and submit a proposal for their project. Approval of the project is accomplished prior to completion of this course. Students are advised to develop a proposal that is a comprehensive and in-depth study of a highly relevant issue encountered as a PA in the clinical, academic, or administrative setting. The expectation is that this project will be accomplished over multiple semesters.

ASP 720 ASP II: Literature Review (3 credits)

In this course, the approved applied scholarly project is initiated and principles of scientific inquiry will guide the investigation. Students will be searching and gathering available, recent literature and composing several aspects of their comprehensive and in-depth study of a highly relevant issue encountered as a PA in the clinical, academic, or administrative setting.

ASP 730 ASP III: Dissemination (3 credits)

In this course, students continue the investigation of the literature and composition of the final aspects of the comprehensive and in-depth study of a highly relevant issue encountered as a PA in the clinical, academic, or administrative setting. Students compile their final written product suitable for publication. The final product is compiled from segments of the proposal and project, comprising an extensive, in-depth review of the literature as it pertains to the selected issue. Students will then create an abbreviated version of the project following the submission guidelines of an appropriate peer-reviewed journal. Additionally, students will create a poster presentation that will be submitted for presentation at an appropriate professional conference of the student's choice.

ASP 735 ASP Extension Course (1 credit)

This optional 1-credit course is an extension of the applied scholarly project and may be used by a student who has not completed the full ASP by the end of ASP III. During this course, students continue to work with program faculty to complete all necessary components of the project. *(Optional course; students may choose to extend their program of study by one (1) semester. Not included in total required credits or program tuition.)*

Concentration Tracks

Advanced Clinical Practice Concentration Track

TBD

Concentration Track Director

Students in the Advanced Clinical Practice concentration track will become greater assets to clinic and hospital settings by advancing medical practice. During the DMSc program, students will develop practical skills beyond their current abilities that benefit patients and the settings they work in. PAs who complete this track will add value to their clinics by increasing access to specific procedures for their community of patients.

Advanced Clinical Practice Course Descriptions:

9 credits (3 courses) of concentration courses and 6 credits (2 courses) of practicum courses are required.

ACP 710 Lifestyle Medicine (3 credits)

This course explores the principles and practices of Lifestyle Medicine, with particular focus on the integration of Lifestyle Medicine into PA practice. An in-depth exploration of Lifestyle Medicine occurs, centering around the use of evidence-based lifestyle therapeutic approaches, such as predominantly whole food plant-based diet, exercise, sleep, tobacco cessation and alcohol moderation, stress management, emotional resilience, and other non-drug modalities. Discussion includes the utilization of Lifestyle Medicine to prevent, treat, and even reverse lifestyle-related chronic disease.

ACP 720 Patient Safety in Clinical Practice (3 credits)

This course provides an introduction to the science of safety and how it relates to problems with patient safety in the healthcare setting. Discussion includes the role of both individuals and the healthcare system in improving patient safety and reducing medical errors. The course reviews institutional responses to adverse events, including the topics of medical malpractice and risk management. The course emphasizes the importance of teamwork and good communication. Students learn models for improving safety in hospitals and other healthcare settings.

ACP 730 Population Health Issues (3 credits)

This course explores the definition of Population Health and how principles of population health integrate into clinical practice. Topics discussed include attributes and components of the population health paradigm, health promotion, elimination of health disparities, behavior change, continuity of care, information technology, decision making support, and the ethical dimension of population health. The business value of better health from a population health approach is also discussed, with some discussion of the role of health advocacy and assistance programs.

ACP 790 Clinical Practicum I (3 credits)

During this course, students will design and propose a clinical practicum that they feel will help them obtain additional exposure to and mastery of aspects of clinical practice

that are not usually considered within the scope of general PA practice. During this semester, students are expected to find a qualified clinical preceptor (such as a collaborating physician or consulting specialist) who can precept them as they learn and master the advanced skill and knowledge. The student is expected to create a plan of learning and assessment with which the preceptor is agreeable. This plan is then proposed to DMSc faculty and approval of the practicum is accomplished by the end of the course.

ACP 795 Clinical Practicum II (3 credits)

During this semester, students carry out and execute the practicum developed and approved during Clinical Practicum 1. Students collaborate with their selected preceptor and DMSc faculty as they accomplish the learning and assessment plan for their advanced skill and knowledge development. Through execution of the practicum, students apply specialized medical knowledge and increase their clinical capabilities to develop an area of clinical expertise. Prior to the end of the semester, students submit a standardized and comprehensive report on the execution and completion of this practicum.

Healthcare Leadership & Administration Concentration Track

TBD

Concentration Track Director

Students in the Healthcare Leadership & Administration concentration track will gain knowledge and skills that will prepare them to lead teams and organizations in the rapidly-changing healthcare environment. The DMSc credential will facilitate the advancement of highly-competent PAs into leadership positions to ultimately improve patient care.

Healthcare Leadership & Administration Course Descriptions:

9 credits (3 courses) of concentration courses and 6 credits (2 courses) of practicum courses are required.

HLA 620 Healthcare Leadership (3 credits)

Concepts of leadership related to current healthcare organizations are examined. Specific concepts including communications, public relations, team building, negotiation, and conflict resolution are explored. Strategic aspects such as vision, viewpoint, admission included. Managing uncertainty is discussed in relation to healthcare organizations. Contemporary leadership challenges, communication strategies and crisis communication are explored. Leadership functions and decision-making are analyzed.

HLA 670 Organizational Behavior & Management (3 credits)
in Healthcare

This course supports knowledge of the theories of organizations, the use of leadership, management processes, and organizational structures and outcomes. Specific topics include governance, strategic management and marketing, human resources management, recruiting, training, process improvement, management theory, and employee wellbeing. This course is designed for future managers and leaders of healthcare organizations and those who expect to have extensive involvement with prospective buyers, insurers, or policymakers. The course provides students with knowledge about how the best healthcare provider organizations deliver high quality, cost-effective healthcare, how they respond to their environment, and how they reach and implement decisions about future activities.

HLA 680 Strategic Change Management for (3 credits)
Healthcare Organizations

This course offers student opportunities to investigate and integrate change management practices to strategically position healthcare organizations for the future. Organization strategic position will be discussed with application to relevant theoretical models, and necessary change management practices resulting in development of organizational adaptability.

HLA 790 Administrative Practicum I (3 credits)

During this course, students will design and propose an administrative practicum that they feel will help them obtain additional exposure to and mastery of principles of healthcare administration in the hospital or clinical setting. During this semester, students are expected to find a qualified administrative mentor (such as a hospital or clinic administrator) who can mentor them as they learn and apply administrative skills and knowledge. The student is expected to create and develop a plan for an administrative project with which the mentor is agreeable. This plan is then proposed to DMSc faculty and approval of the practicum is accomplished by the end of the course.

HLA 795 Administrative Practicum II (3 credits)

During this semester, students carry out and execute the practicum developed and approved during Administrative Practicum 1. Students collaborate with their selected mentor and DMSc faculty as they accomplish the administrative project. Through execution of the practicum, students apply specialized leadership and administrative knowledge to increase their capabilities and develop as a leader in healthcare. Prior to the end of the semester, students submit a standardized and comprehensive report on the execution and completion of this practicum.

HPE 795 Education Practicum II (3 credits)

During this semester, students carry out and execute the practicum developed and approved during Education Practicum 1. Students collaborate with their selected mentor and DMSc faculty as they accomplish the education-based project. Through execution of the practicum, students apply education knowledge and skill to increase their capabilities and develop as an educator in healthcare. Prior to the end of the semester, students submit a standardized and comprehensive report on the execution and completion of this practicum.

Psychiatry Concentration Track

TBD

Concentration Track Director

Students who choose the Psychiatry concentration track will become greater assets to clinic and hospital settings. Through this concentration track, students will develop practical skills beyond their current abilities that benefit patients with psychiatric disorders. PAs who complete this track will add value to their clinics by increasing access to care for patients with psychiatric disorders.

Psychiatry Course Descriptions:

9 credits (3 courses) of concentration courses and 6 credits (2 courses) of practicum courses are required.

PMH 710 Advanced Clinical Science: Psychiatry (3 credits)

This course provides a detailed review of the neuroscience model beginning with neuroanatomy and neurophysiology (cells, circuits, neurotransmitters, receptors and signaling the nucleus, genetics, and epigenetics) followed by an exploration of how these structures and processes are modulated (hormonal actions in the brain, plasticity during maturation and adult development, immunity/inflammation and bioelectric modulation) and finally how the neuroscience model contributes to our understanding of pain, pleasure, appetite, anger and aggression, sleep, sex, social attachment, memory, intelligence, attention, depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, and Alzheimer's disease.

Content will be delivered using the latest evidence-based asynchronous methods to a small group of dedicated learners from around the world in a virtual classroom environment. In addition to the course text, a variety of video presentations will be included, with weekly formative assignments that will engage learners in a self-directed review of the published literature, peer to peer learning through post and reply style academic writing on a scholarly forum, and brief quizzes to build confidence in the mastery of instructional content. Summative assignments will require each student to complete 24 learning activities qualifying for the Neuroscience Education Institute (NEI) Master Psychopharmacology Certificate and complete all 10 self-assessments for the NEI Master Psychopharmacology certificate.

PMH 720 Psychiatry Diagnostics & Therapeutics I (3 credits)

This course focuses on the psychiatric interview for the accurate diagnosis of psychiatric conditions and the implementation of comprehensive treatment plans. In addition to psychiatric pharmacology, crisis intervention and risk management will be reviewed. The course will also explore the ethical and legal issues associated with the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders. Neurodevelopmental, psychotic, mood, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, trauma-related, stressor-related, dissociative, and somatic disorders will be covered in this course. *Prerequisite: PMH 710*

PMH 730 Psychiatry Diagnostics & Therapeutics II (3 credits)

This course is a continuation of the Psychiatry Diagnostics & Therapeutics course series, building upon the concepts that were explored in Psychiatry Diagnostics & Therapeutics I. Eating, sleep, sexual, gender identity, disruptive, impulse control, conduct, substance-related, neurocognitive, and personality disorders will be covered in this course. *Prerequisites: PMH 710, PMH 720*

ACP 790 Clinical Practicum I (3 credits)

During this course, students will design and propose a clinical practicum that they feel will help them obtain additional exposure to and mastery of aspects of clinical practice that are not usually considered within the scope of general PA practice. During this semester, students are expected to find a qualified clinical preceptor (such as a collaborating physician or consulting specialist) who can precept them as they learn and master the advanced skill and knowledge. The student is expected to create a plan of learning and assessment with which the preceptor is agreeable. This plan is then proposed to DMSc faculty and approval of the practicum is accomplished by the end of the course.

ACP 795 Clinical Practicum II (3 credits)

During this semester, students carry out and execute the practicum developed and approved during Clinical Practicum 1. Students collaborate with their selected preceptor and DMSc faculty as they accomplish the learning and assessment plan for their advanced skill and knowledge development. Through execution of the practicum, students apply specialized medical knowledge and increase their clinical capabilities to develop an area of clinical expertise. Prior to the end of the semester, students submit a standardized and comprehensive report on the execution and completion of this practicum.

PMH 790 Psychotherapy Practicum I (3 credits)

The focus of this course is Motivational Interviewing (MI) for advanced graduate-level students. Learners will be provided with a comprehensive review of MI as a person-centered therapeutic modality, its clinical application to a wide range of behavioral and psychological conditions involving diverse clinical settings and populations across the life span. Learners will receive access to online therapy supervision asynchronously from a licensed mental health therapist while they complete 500 hours of clinical practice at their current location of employment. Learners will conduct systematic and continuous process and outcome measurements during their practical application of established psychotherapeutic methods and procedures. This course will include

proctored case scenarios and real-time audio-visual patient/client interactions to promote mastery of the course material. Learners will receive instructive feedback through evidence-based clinical supervision models that include session recording, transcription, and analysis.

PMH 795 Psychotherapy Practicum II **(3 credits)**

This course focuses on the “gold standard” of contemporary psychotherapy practice, Cognitive-Behavior Therapy (CBT), for advanced graduate students. Learners will be guided through a comprehensive review of CBT based on the theoretical models and strategies proposed by CBT pioneers, Aaron and Judith Beck. Learners will receive access to online therapy supervision asynchronously from a licensed mental health therapist while they complete 500 hours of clinical practice at their current location of employment. The learner will expand their proficiency in clinical case formulation and the therapeutic application of CBT in a variety of clinical settings with diverse populations (individuals/families and groups) across the lifespan. This course will incorporate clinical conceptualizations, reflective strategies, practice exercises, interactive videos, and case examples to stimulate learner skill acquisition, fostering needed social, cognitive, behavioral, and affective change in clients/patients. This course will include proctored case scenarios and real-time audio-visual client/patient interactions to promote mastery of the course material. Learners will receive instructive feedback through evidence-based clinical supervision models that include session recording, transcription, and analysis. *Prerequisite: PMH 790*

Faculty

Program Leadership

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