Course Number: PHA 503

Course Title: Introduction to the Physician Assistant Profession

Number of Credits: 1 Credit Hour

Day/Time: Wednesdays 10:00 – 10:50 AM

Prerequisites: Accepted into the Physician Assistant Program

Faculty: Marissa Liveris, MMS, PA-C (Course Director)
Office: Charles House, Rm. 105
Office Hours: can be scheduled directly with the course director
Email: mliveris@carrollu.edu
Phone: 262-524-7402

Course Description:
The course explores the factors affecting the development of the profession and the role of the physician assistant in today's healthcare system. Credentialing, policies, regulations governing the scope of practice, and professional organizations for physician assistants are explored. The course also examines quality assurance and risk management, legal issues, practice statues, and rules regulating physician assistant practice in Wisconsin. Issues of professionalism, physician/physician assistant relationships, and ethical decision-making are introduced.

Student Expectations:
- demonstrates a positive attitude toward learning
- on time for all scheduled classes, including timely return from breaks
- completes readings and assignments prior to class, including reviewing the weekly PowerPoint presentation prior to class
- asks relevant and understandable questions
- takes full responsibility for learning and self-directed learning activities
- shows respect for self, other students, and faculty
- provides feedback in a constructive and respectful manner
- refrains from revealing negative feelings through tone of voice or body language
- refrains from disruptive activities during class including eating, talking, getting up and down, use of cell phone, etc.
- relies on personal resources before approaching others for help
- demonstrates cooperation with and mutual respect for peers
- responds to faculty, staff and peers readily and appropriately

Instructor Expectations:
- demonstrates a positive attitude towards the facilitation of learning
- is on time for all scheduled classes
- should the need arise, reschedules class time with appropriate and timely notification to students, faculty, and staff
- provides appropriate course materials for class preparation prior to class
- is available for office hours or appointments to assist with questions
- responds to faculty, staff, and students readily and appropriately
listens attentively and initiates communication which is appropriate and timely
identifies limitations in knowledge and provides appropriate resources for student learning
provides timely and constructive feedback for assignments and assessments
shows respect for self, students, and other faculty
refrains from revealing negative feelings through tone of voice or body language
demonstrates cooperation with and mutual respect for students, faculty, and staff

**Recommended Text and Reading**
Readings as noted in the reference section of each PowerPoint

**Grading**
The course grade for the summer semester will be based upon the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Linked Objectives (to ARC-PA stds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Written Assignment-ethical case</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>B2.13, B2.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Written Assignment-legal case</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>B2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>B2.11, B2.13, B2.14, B2.16, B2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and weekly class activity/assignment participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Feedback</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Letter Conversion scale**
A  100-93
AB 92.99-90
B  89.99-83
BC 82.99-80
C  79.99-70
D  69.99-60
F  59 and below

Final grades will not be rounded up.

**Attendance and Professionalism**
Attendance at all class periods, laboratories, and practical experiences are mandatory unless otherwise indicated.
Poor attendance (unexcused absences, tardiness, and unauthorized early departures), lack of preparation, and unprofessional behavior may result in a lower or failing grade and/or be reported to the program progression committee. If you will be absent, tardy, or need to be excused early you must notify the course director via e-mail or phone prior to the scheduled meeting time. Tardiness and unauthorized early departures will be considered unexcused absences unless prior notification is submitted. Unexcused absences of more than 10% of class time may result in a failing grade. Absences are excused only at the discretion of the course director and/or the PA Program Director. Students may be required to make up missed laboratory time (excused or unexcused) at the discretion of the course director.
**Examinations**
There will be 2 quizzes during the semester. Please refer to the schedule for details. Quizzes are multiple choice and are closed-book. Challenges to quiz questions will be accepted for 1 week after the return of scores. Challenges must be submitted in writing via email with two written sources with at least one from recommended course readings.

No books, papers, notebooks, cell phones, smart phones, I-pods, I-pads, blackberry, etc. or backpacks/book bags will be allowed on/near your desk during an examination. Recommend keeping personal belongings in the back of the room or in lockers. **Hats** are prohibited during an exam. Cell phones, smart phones, I-pods, I-pads, blackberry, etc must be turned off during an examination.

**Assignments**
Assignments will be required and will be outlined on the course site.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**
The Carroll University Academic Integrity Policy is located in the Carroll University Student Handbook. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, the instructor(s) reserve the right to impose a sanction of failure on the assignment/assessment or failure in the course. If you have questions about appropriate citations, please ask your instructor.

**Accommodation for Disabilities**
Any requests for accommodation for physical or cognitive disability must be made through the Walter Young Disability Services Coordinator at Carroll University. Appropriate accommodations will be evaluated based on the program technical standards once notification has been received from the Walter Young coordinator. If an individual student has special needs or concerns about course requirements related to religious beliefs, cultural issues, or other issues, the student must contact the Program Director with a request for accommodation.

**Modifications to the syllabus**
The instructor and the University reserves the rights to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (schedule, course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).

**Remediation**
Students who receive a D or an F in this or any physician assistant year 1 course will be placed on academic probation.

During the course, a student who scores more than 2 SD below the mean on an exam/assessment may be required to complete additional work. The student will be contacted by the course instructor and asked to meet to discuss the remediation requirements for that particular assessment. Remediation requirements will be determined by the course instructor. When an instructor requires remediation of a student it does not affect the exam/assessment grade, nor does it improve the semester or course grade. Remediation is required to ensure that course objectives are met. It is expected that assigned work for the purpose of remediation be completed in a thorough, professional and timely manner. Satisfactory completion of remediated work will be determined by the course instructor. Students may be required to complete additional work if the original remediation is deemed unsatisfactory.

Students should make every effort to resolve remediation issues with the course director. If a student is unable to resolve such issues s/he may request a review by the Didactic Subcommittee. All decisions made by the subcommittee are final. If remediation is not successfully completed by the end of the course/semester a grade of “Incomplete” will be given until the work is successfully completed. Please note that an incomplete course grade may delay program progression and/or graduation. Information regarding incomplete grades is available in the Graduate Catalog.
Course Goals:
The goal of this course is to present the student with an overview of the physician assistant profession to include the current trends, organizations, and political and legal issues. Cultural issues related to patient care as well as professionalism and ethical dilemmas are explored during this course to assist the student in the preparation for clinical practice.

At completion of the Introduction to the PA Profession, students should be able to:
1. Describe the policies, procedures, and expectations of the Carroll University PA program.
2. Discuss the origins and current trends of the PA profession.
3. List the various organizations for the PA profession and their roles and responsibilities.
4. Explain the training of a physician assistant and how it has evolved over the years.
5. Understand and describe the process of licensure, certification, credentialing and regulation of practicing PA’s.
6. Describe the PA/physician team approach to health care.
7. Discuss how policies and health care delivery systems have influenced the PA profession.
8. Discuss legal information pertinent to the PA profession.
9. Summarize the internationalization of the PA profession.
10. Discuss current workforce issues affecting the PA profession.
11. List and define the various ethical theories.
12. Introduce the ideas of quality assurance activities including patient safety, quality improvement, risk management and prevention of medical errors.
13. Summarize the health disparities among populations and barriers to health care.
14. Summarize information on medical reimbursement and billing.

Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Understand the history of the PA profession
2. Distinguish PA professional practice elements related to ethics, ethical conduct, workforce, scope of practice, and malpractice
3. Differentiate between certification and licensure and the elements of each
4. Identify elements of professionalism
5. Identify health disparities with application of knowledge

A. History of the PA Profession
   1. Identify and recognize the historical beginnings of the PA profession and its changing role in health care in the United States and internationally.
   2. Employ information from the PA Clinical Doctorate Summit in 2009 and how it relates to PA education and the profession.
   3. Identify the 6 PA professional competencies and elements within each.
   4. Define accreditation
   5. Understand and explain the importance, implications and process of PA educational program accreditation by Accreditation Review Commission for Physician Assistant Education (ARC-PA).
   6. Identify each of the different organizations and their roles (AAPA, PAEA,ARC-PA, NCCPA, SAAAPA, WAPA)

B. Professional Practice Issues
   1. Identify and discuss ethical principles and issues affecting PA practice including end-of-life decisions, autonomy, responsibilities and duties of patient and provider, beneficence,
nonmaleficence, truth-telling, confidentiality, informed consent, and justice
2. Identify and define the role of and issues related to quality improvement in healthcare settings such as patient safety, prevention of medical errors, quality improvement and risk management.
3. Compare and contrast other non-physician practitioners with the PA profession.
4. Identify appropriate professional relationships with physicians and other health care providers.
5. Describe appropriate models of physician supervision of PA practice.
6. Discuss professionalism as it is defined in the context of a physician assistant student and as a professional physician assistant.
7. Identify and discuss current trends and issues including workforce, political, international, and educational issues.
8. Recognize and understand the role of PA residencies.
9. Review ethical case studies and discuss outcomes.
10. Define 4 principles of bioethics and apply them to patient case examples.
11. Specify the various reimbursement systems for the services provided by PAs including Medicaid, Medicare and third party payors.
12. Differentiate between Medicare and Medicaid and third party payors.

C. Lifelong Learning
1. Understand the function of Physician Assistant professional organizations and the importance of participation as a practicing PA.
2. Convey the importance of professional involvement in the PA employment setting.
3. Summarize the qualifications, requirements, methods and options for acquiring and maintaining initial NCCPA certification and subsequent recertification.
4. Discuss the importance of knowing professional and personal limitations.
5. State the Physician Assistant's responsibility in professional development and how this affects patient care.

D. Overview of credentialing, licensure, liability
1. Identify and describe the national requirements for PA certification and re-certification.
2. Identify and describe the Wisconsin state requirements for PA licensure.
3. Distinguish national certification from state licensure.
4. Identify and explain AAPA’s 6 key elements of PA practice.
5. Understand AAPA’s Model State Legislation and compare/contrast it to the state of Wisconsin’s Med Chapter 8.
6. Recognize and explain Med Chapter 8 regarding Wisconsin regulations for practicing PAs.
7. Define PA credentialing and privileging.
8. Identify the legal and regulatory requirements of the PA nationally as well as specific Wisconsin state requirements.
9. Identify and discuss PA medical practice liability and strategies for reducing risk; also discuss the impact of liability costs on the practice of medicine.
10. Identify and describe common mistakes that may make a clinician vulnerable to malpractice litigation.
11. Discuss how to prevent medical errors in clinical practice.
12. Describe the concept of medical malpractice.
13. Describe the 4 elements of medical malpractice and distinguish between them.
14. Explain the concept of medical negligence as it relates to standard of care.
15. Describe basic legal considerations in the practice of medicine, i.e. confidentiality, patient rights, abandonment and malfeasance.
16. Describe the patient/clinician relationship and responsibilities.
17. Recognize and summarize strategies for risk management.

E. Patient advocacy, patient care
1. Develop a commitment to excellence and on-going professional behavior.
2. Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices.
3. Develop a sensitivity and responsiveness to patients’ culture, age, gender, and disabilities.
4. Identify the major ethnic minority groups and their disparities related to health care status and access.
5. Identify barriers and biases that lead to inadequate health care.
6. Summarize the concerns related to health care access for those who are underinsured and uninsured.

### Course Schedule: (*Schedule is subject to change*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References/Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-Jun</td>
<td>Intro and History of the PA Profession</td>
<td>Ch.1; <a href="http://www.pahx.org">www.pahx.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7-Jun</td>
<td>PA Profession - Regulation, Licensing, Credentialing, Certification</td>
<td>Ch. 4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14-Jun</td>
<td>Ethics, Professionalism and Political Action</td>
<td>Ch. 7, 34-35</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>21-Jun</td>
<td>Physician: PA Team Relationship - Scope of practice, AAPA guidelines, Chapter Med 8</td>
<td>Ch 53, appendix; <a href="http://www.aapa.org">www.aapa.org</a></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>28-Jun</td>
<td>Internationalization of the Profession and PA Workforce Issues</td>
<td>Ch. 2 and 49</td>
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<td>(Assignment 1 Due)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5-Jul</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12-Jul</td>
<td>PA Education in the United States - Past and Present, Post - Grad Education</td>
<td>Ch. 3, Ch 37</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>19-Jul</td>
<td>Legal Issues</td>
<td>Ch. 36</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>26-Jul</td>
<td>Health Disparities and Patient Advocacy</td>
<td>Ch. 39-41, Ch. 44-48,50</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>2-Aug</td>
<td>Reimbursement, Medicare and Medicaid - small group working session</td>
<td>Ch. 6 and 42 (Assignment 2 Due)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>9-Aug</td>
<td>Reimbursement, Medicare and Medicaid - small group presentations</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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