2012

Physician Assistant Southwest Florida 2012

Nova Southeastern University

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NSU MISSION STATEMENT

Nova Southeastern University, a private, not-for-profit institution, offers a diverse array of innovative academic programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels, complementing on-campus educational opportunities and resources with accessible distance learning programs, and fostering intellectual inquiry, leadership, and commitment to community through engagement of students and faculty in a dynamic, life-long learning environment.

Nova Southeastern University, synonymous with dynamic innovation and intellectual challenge, is the largest independent not-for-profit university in the Southeast, and with an enrollment of more than 29,000 students, is the seventh largest in the United States. Situated on a beautiful, 300-acre campus in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the university is experiencing a sustained period of academic growth, fiscal strength, and commitment to the challenges of the 21st century.

In this environment of expansion and stability, the university is capitalizing on its strengths in such areas as academic innovation, comprehensive clinical training, and flexible educational delivery systems.
Founded in 1964 as Nova University, the institution merged with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in 1994, creating Nova Southeastern University. To date, the institution has more than 135,000 alumni. Fully accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the university awards associate’s, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees in a wide range of fields including the health professions, law, business, marine sciences, psychology, social sciences, computer and information sciences, and education.

The university’s programs are administered through 15 academic centers that offer courses at the main campus and at field-based locations throughout Florida; across the nation; and at selected international sites in Europe, Mexico, the Pacific Rim, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

With a budget of more than $220 million per year and an upward trend in enrollment, the university will continue to maintain a solid record of academic and fiscal strength and excellence in teaching and community service, while expanding its mission in research and scholarship.
As a student in the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University, you can anticipate a remarkable experience. You will train, study, interact, and share faculty and resources (either campus-based or online) with students from various backgrounds and disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach distinguishes the Health Professions Division as unique and will better prepare you to master your discipline with a sensitivity and understanding of the entire health care system.

The Health Professions Division, with a student body of more than 2,500, is home to six colleges. The College of Osteopathic Medicine, the first one in the southeastern United States, grants the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree. The College of Osteopathic Medicine also awards the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) and the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.) degrees. The College of Pharmacy offers the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree to entry-level and international students, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Pharmacy. The College of Optometry is the only institution in the state of Florida that awards the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree as well as a Master of Science in Clinical Vision Research (M.S.). The College of Allied Health and Nursing offers an entry-level Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree, as well as an R.N. to B.S.N. program, a Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree, a post-M.S.N. certificate, and a Ph.D. in nursing education. The college offers physician assistant programs that award the Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.) degree in Physician Assistant, as well as programs offering a Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.) degree and an entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree. Doctoral programs are offered in occupational therapy (Ph.D./O.T., Dr.OT), physical therapy (Ph.D./P.T., D.P.T.), and audiology (Au.D.). In addition to these programs, the College of Allied Health and Nursing offers the Bachelor of Health Science (B.H.Sc.), Master of Health Science (M.H.Sc.), and Doctor of Health Science (D.H.Sc.) degrees—open to midlevel clinicians and allied health professionals—and a Ph.D. degree in Health Science. There are also specializations in Bachelor of Health Science—Vascular Sonography, Master of Health Science—Vascular Sonography, and Master of Health Science—Anesthesiologist Assistant, as well as concentrations in Cardiovascular Sonography for both the Bachelor of Health Science and the Master of Health Science. The College of Medical Sciences grants the Master of Biomedical Sciences (M.B.S.) degree. In the fall of 1997, the College of Dental Medicine admitted its charter class into the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) program. Now, the college also offers a Master of Science in Dentistry (M.Sc.D.) degree, as well as postgraduate programs in endodontics, oral surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, and prosthodontics.

The Health Professions Division occupies a $70 million complex, covering 21 acres of the university campus. The division includes eight buildings totaling more than 900,000 square feet of space for classrooms, laboratories, offices, the Health Professions Division Library, an outpatient health center, and a pharmaceutical care center. The adjacent 1,500-vehicle parking garage overlooks the Miami Dolphins Training Camp.
If you wish to be a leader in the health professions, Nova Southeastern University can help you reach your potential.

In less than two decades, NSU’s Health Professions Division has developed into a multidisciplinary academic health center of international stature. Composed of the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Dental Medicine, Optometry, Allied Health and Nursing, and Medical Sciences, the Health Professions Division has redoubled its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and community service, while expanding its mission in research and scholarship. Working together, our distinguished faculty members prepare students for an exciting career on tomorrow’s dynamic health care team.

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.
Health Professions Division Chancellor
Extending the health care team

The physician assistant profession was born at Duke University in the mid-1960s and was conceptualized by Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D. At this time, there was a lack of primary care providers, especially in certain areas. Stead, along with many other physicians and educators, realized the need for a new medical professional who would work in collaboration with physicians. These professionals were called Physician Assistants (PAs).

Today, more than 73,000 individuals are in practice as physician assistants in the United States. Under the supervision of a physician, PAs practice medicine and provide health care to patients. Some of the duties performed include the taking of medical histories, the performance of physical examinations, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests, diagnosing and treating illnesses, performing health maintenance screenings, performing medical/surgical procedures, assisting in surgeries, and in most states, writing prescriptions.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor, as published in the 2010–2011 Occupational Outlook Handbook, employment of PAs is expected to grow 39 percent from 2008 to 2018. This “much faster than average” growth of the PA profession “reflects the expansion of health care industries and an emphasis on cost containment, which results in increasing use of PAs by health care establishments.”

MISSION STATEMENT

NSU Physician Assistant Department—Southwest Florida

- to provide an exemplary educational experience that emphasizes primary medical care, yet enables graduates to demonstrate competency and skill in a variety of clinical environments
- to inspire graduates to pursue lifelong learning
- to foster leadership qualities that will enable graduates to improve access to quality, affordable health care
- to heighten public awareness of the physician assistant profession
The health care marketplace is undergoing a rapid change. The pace of this change has provided a formidable challenge for institutions that provide the educational programs for future health care professionals.

Nova Southeastern University's College of Allied Health and Nursing is committed to providing the highest quality of education to students in a variety of health care disciplines, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, and physician assistant studies, as well as audiology and the nursing programs (entry-level B.S.N., R.N. to B.S.N., M.S.N., post-M.S.N. certificate, and Ph.D.). In addition, the college is committed to a lifelong learning philosophy through the Ph.D. in Physical Therapy and the Dr.OT and PhD. in Occupational Therapy. We also have the Bachelor of Health Science (B.H.Sc.), Master of Health Science (M.H.Sc.), Doctor of Health Science (D.H.Sc.), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Health Science, and transition Doctor of Physical Therapy (T-D.P.T.) programs. In these programs, the college has Bachelor and Master of Health Science specializations in Vascular Sonography, Bachelor and Master of Health Science concentrations in Cardiovascular Sonography, and a Master of Health Science specialization in Anesthesiologist Assistant. These degrees for practicing health care professionals are delivered mainly through the use of innovative distance technology.

The Physician Assistant Department offers a program that can be completed in 27 months. The program has an emphasis on primary care, with students completing challenging clinical rotations at a variety of health care facilities affiliated with the program. Upon successful completion of the program, students graduate with a Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.) degree in physician assistant. Graduates are able to provide a number of health care services, allowing a greater number of patients access to care.

The College of Allied Health and Nursing is committed to providing health care educational opportunities in formats that meet the needs of prospective students in the community and adequately prepare graduates to assume greater leadership roles in health care delivery systems.

Richard E. Davis, PA-C, Ed.D.
Dean, College of Allied Health and Nursing
THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM • SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

COURSE OF STUDY

The Physician Assistant Program curriculum is completed following a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States. Graduates of foreign institutions with baccalaureate degrees should refer to item 3 under Admission Requirements on page 10.

The comprehensive curriculum, completed in a consecutive manner, is oriented to primary care and prepares the graduate to practice in a wide variety of clinical settings.

The first 14 months of study consist of basic sciences and clinically related didactic courses. All courses are required and must be successfully completed before advancing to the clinical year. During this time frame, students are generally in class from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., although there are occasional evening and/or weekend hours.

The department requires all matriculants to complete the entire program at this location because of the highly integrated and compact nature of the curriculum.

The clinical year is devoted to 13 months of clinical training with required clinical rotations in family medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, prenatal care/gynecology, surgery, and internal medicine. The students also complete three elective rotations, for a total of nine clinical rotations. The required subject rotations and two of the elective rotations are six weeks in length. The remaining elective rotation is four weeks in length. All required rotations must be completed in the state of Florida, primarily within 80-100 miles from NSU’s Fort Myers Florida Student Educational Center. Each student will complete at least one rotation in a rural or underserved area. This will likely entail traveling beyond the 80-100 mile radius of Fort Myers. For core rotations assigned by the program outside of the 100 mile radius, student housing will be provided.

Each required rotation has assigned readings and learning objectives. At the end of each required rotation, a written comprehensive subject examination is administered and must be passed. During rotations, students will be supervised by licensed practitioners and will actively participate in patient assessments, perform common laboratory procedures, interpret common diagnostic examinations, and help manage common medical problems. The work hours during clinical rotations are set by the preceptor and can include evening and weekend hours. Students are required to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, although many rotation sites require students to work up to 100 hours per week.

Upon completion of the course of study, students will have earned a Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.) degree in Physician Assistant.

The role of the physician assistant requires a high level of expertise and responsibility. The applicant must possess the ability and desire to complete a rigorous academic and clinical program and make a commitment to continued learning.

Students are provisionally admitted to a degree-seeking program based on a review of unofficial transcripts or other specific program admission requirements. However, this admission includes a condition that final and official transcripts, documents, and requirements must be received within 90 calendar days from matriculation. If these final and official transcripts, documents, and/or requirements are not received by that time, the student will not be allowed to continue class attendance. Financial aid will not be disbursed to a provisional/conditional student until he or she has been fully admitted as a regular student (all admissions requirements have been approved by the college/program admissions office). Students who have an unpaid balance 30 days from the start of the term will be assessed a $100 fee.
ACCREDITATIONS

PA programs are accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants (ARC-PA), Inc. Accreditation is important, as only graduates of accredited programs qualify to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE), which is required for licensure. All new programs must apply for provisional accreditation before students can be matriculated.

The NSU Physician Assistant Department—Southwest Florida was initially awarded provisional accreditation by the ARC-PA in 2005 and received full, continuing accreditation in 2007. The program will undergo its next continuing accreditation site visit by the ARC-PA in 2011.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Consistent with all federal and state laws, rules, regulations, and/or local ordinances (e.g., Title VII, Title VI, Title III, Title II, Rehab Act, ADA, and Title IX), it is the policy of Nova Southeastern University not to engage in any discrimination or harassment against any individual because of race, color, religion or creed, sex, pregnancy status, national or ethnic origin, nondisqualifying disability, age, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, unfavorable discharge from the military, veteran status, or political beliefs or affiliations, and to comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity, and affirmative action laws, orders, and regulations.

This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions; enrollment; scholarships; loan programs; athletics; employment; and access to, participation in, and treatment in all university centers, programs, and activities. NSU admits students of any race, color, religion or creed, sex, pregnancy status, national or ethnic origin, non-disqualifying disability, age, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, unfavorable discharge from the military, veteran status, or political beliefs or affiliations, to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at NSU, and does not discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

www.nova.edu/pa/swflorida
CURRICULUM OUTLINE FOR THE MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE (M.M.S.)

Start Date: June 2012
Length: 27 months
Degree: Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.) in Physician Assistant
Didactic: 14 months
Clinical: 13 months

First Semester: Summer I (June–August)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>LAB</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5000</td>
<td>Anatomy</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5100</td>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5300</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis I</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5400</td>
<td>History Taking and Communication Skills</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5003</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Medical Imaging</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5002</td>
<td>Introduction to the PA Profession</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5409</td>
<td>Cultural Issues in Health Care</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS</strong></td>
<td>233</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>16</td>
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</table>

Second Semester: Fall (August–December)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>LAB</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5200</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAN 5403</td>
<td>Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5310</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis II</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5410</td>
<td>Pharmacology I</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAN 5500</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine and Surgery I</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5600</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Medicine I</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5006</td>
<td>Electrocardiography</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5102</td>
<td>Clinical Pathophysiology I</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS</strong></td>
<td>357</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum is subject to change as directed by the department.
### Third Semester: Winter (January–May)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>LAB</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5103</td>
<td>Clinical Pathophysiology II</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5320</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis III</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5104</td>
<td>Clinical Pathophysiology III</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5510</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine and Surgery II</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5520</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine and Surgery III</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5610</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Medicine II</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5420</td>
<td>Pharmacology II</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5540</td>
<td>Clinical Psychiatry</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL HOURS</td>
<td></td>
<td>461</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Fourth Semester: Summer II (Advanced Didactic; May–July)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>LAB</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5461</td>
<td>Life Support Procedures and Skills</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5560</td>
<td>Clinical Procedures and Surgical Skills</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5008</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5009</td>
<td>PA and Health Care Dynamics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5411</td>
<td>Complementary Medicine and Nutrition</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5419</td>
<td>Clinical Pharmacology</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 5423</td>
<td>Interpretation and Evaluation of Medical Literature</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL HOURS</td>
<td></td>
<td>246</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clinical Curriculum: Second Year (August–August)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>LAB</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6310</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6320</td>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6330</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6340</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6350</td>
<td>Prenatal Care and Gynecology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6360</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6370</td>
<td>Elective I</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6375</td>
<td>Elective II</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6380</td>
<td>Elective III</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN 6601</td>
<td>Graduate Project</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CONTACT HOURS (second year)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The NSU PA Program—Southwest Florida utilizes a rolling admissions process. Applications are received through CASPA, as they are completed, until the deadline date, January 15. Interviews are conducted beginning in September and are continued until all seats are filled. The admissions process is very competitive, and due to the rolling admissions (possible acceptance beginning in September), it is advisable to apply early in the admissions cycle.

Prospective students are selected by the Committee on Admissions (COA), which considers the overall qualities of the applicant. Areas of consideration include interpersonal skills, personal motivation, knowledge and understanding of the PA profession, academic performance and level of achievement, life experiences, quality and length of prior health care experience, and recommendations/evaluations. Personal interviews are offered to the most qualified applicants to assess interpersonal and communication skills, maturity, altruistic attitude, and commitment to a PA career.

1. Prior to matriculation, applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university. The program requires the students to earn grades of C (2.0) or better in each of the upper-division courses.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.9 and a minimum science GPA of 2.9 on a 4.0 grading scale. Successful applicants in the past have typically had cumulative grade point averages in the range of 3.0 to 3.3 and higher.

2. The college requires the students to earn a grade of C (2.0) or better in each of the following required courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>SEMESTER HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College algebra (or higher)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities/arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General biology (or zoology)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology including laboratory</td>
<td>4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General chemistry (I and II)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human anatomy</td>
<td>3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human physiology</td>
<td>3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry or organic chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical terminology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Applicants are encouraged to complete their elective coursework in the areas of behavioral, physical, and social sciences or the humanities. Upon review of a student’s record, the Committee on Admissions may require additional coursework and testing as a condition of acceptance.

*Note: These science courses must have been completed within the seven years prior to application to the program.

Recommended courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>SEMESTER HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry or organic chemistry laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Graduates of foreign institutions where English is not the primary language of instruction must present transcripts showing at least 18 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) of study from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States. Of these 18 semester hours

- 3 semester hours must be in English composition (courses do not include ESOL)
- 3 semester hours must be in English literature (courses do not include ESOL)
- 3 semester hours must be in public speaking (courses do not include ESOL)

The remaining 9 semester hours can be any course of the applicant's choosing (excluding physical education).

4. All applicants are required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test to the Enrollment Processing Service (EPS),
attention Physician Assistant Admissions. NSU’s school code is 5522. The GRE must have been taken within the past five years and must be taken early enough for official scores to be received in the admissions office by the supplemental application due date of February 15. Applications will not be considered complete without GRE scores.

Testing information for the GRE may be obtained at www.gre.org or by calling (609) 921-9000.

Prior health care experience is highly recommended and is considered for admission. Those applicants who have prior health care experience must submit verifiable information about their experience.

5. All applicants must show evidence of computer skills through coursework or self-study prior to the end of the first term. Students may obtain instruction through the NSU Student Microcomputer Laboratory or other training facilities.

All students are required to have a computer and a printer. The computer must have the following minimum specifications:

- IBM-compatible PC
- 1 GB RAM
- DVD capability with CD-RW
- sound capability and speakers
- Internet connection with private Internet service provider (ISP) for access from home to the Internet
- printer

The following are recommended features:

- video capable of 800 x 600 screen display or better
- Windows XP or higher
- Microsoft Office 2003 or higher with PowerPoint, Word, and Excel minimum
- surge suppressor electrical outlet

The clinical year will require the student to track clinical experiences using a Web-based program. Each student may elect to keep handwritten copies of clinical experiences to input into his or her desktop computer at a later date or may elect to purchase a laptop, a Windows-compatible PDA, or a mobile phone with Internet connectivity to help aid in clinical-year tracking.

6. Students are required to authorize the NSU Health Professions Division to obtain background check(s), as per the adopted policy of April 22, 2005. Students may also be required by the Health Professions Division to obtain a background check—or authorize clinical training facilities, where appropriate, to conduct the check—and to permit the results of the consumer reporting agency to be provided to the NSU Health Professions Division and/or the clinical training facilities. If the background check(s) reveal information of concern that the NSU Health Professions Division may deem unfavorable, the NSU Health Professions Division will provide the accepted applicant or enrolled student with the Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act and a copy of the report and request that the student provide a detailed written explanation of the information contained in the report, along with appropriate documentation (e.g., police reports). This information must be returned to the NSU Health Professions Division within 10 business days of the date the communication is sent unless another date is specified by the NSU Health Professions Division in its communication with the student.

Offers of admission will not be considered final until the completion of the background check(s) by the NSU Health Professions Division, and where appropriate, by the clinical training facilities, with results deemed favorable. If information received indicates that the student has provided false or misleading statements, has omitted required information, or in any way is unable to meet the requirements for completion of the program, then the admission may be denied or rescinded, the student may be disciplined or dismissed, or the student’s enrollment may be terminated.

Following the initial background check(s), students will be asked annually to provide certification relating to any convictions, guilty pleas, or no contest pleas to any criminal offense, other than traffic violations.
1. Apply to CASPA. The Physician Assistant Program participates in the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) for the receipt and processing of all applications. CASPA takes no part in the selection of students. CASPA application packets may be obtained and submitted
   - online at [www.caspaonline.org](http://www.caspaonline.org)
   - by writing: CASPA
     P.O. Box 9108
     Watertown, Massachusetts 02471
   - by calling CASPA at (617) 612-2080

Questions regarding completion of the online application may be directed to CASPA’s email address at apply@caspaonline.org or by calling them. The CASPA application deadline, in order to be considered for admission in June, is January 15, 2012.

CASPA considers all academic coursework after graduation from high school in calculating the applicant’s science and cumulative GPA. This is a process known as no grade forgiveness. The NSU PA Program—Southwest Florida has a no grade forgiveness policy as well; therefore, the program will not recalculate GPAs received from CASPA.

It is the applicant's responsibility to know what his or her science and cumulative GPAs are. If the applicant has questions, regarding his or her GPA, he or she should see his or her academic advisor at his or her local college or university.

Applications that are submitted with GPAs that are below the minimum requirement posted by the program will not be given consideration.

2. Send supporting documents to CASPA.
   a. All official college transcripts from all undergraduate, graduate, and professional institutions attended must be sent to CASPA directly from the institutions. If the applicant attended or is a graduate of a foreign institution, all coursework from the foreign institution must be evaluated for U.S. institutional equivalence. The official evaluation must be sent directly from the evaluation service. For evaluations, please contact one of the services listed here.

3. Send GRE scores to Nova Southeastern University Physician Assistant Admissions Office.
   Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores must be submitted directly to Nova Southeastern University, Enrollment Processing Services (EPS), College of Allied Health and Nursing, Physician Assistant Department, Office of Admissions, 3301 College Avenue, P.O. Box 299000, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33329-9905. The NSU code number is 5522. Your GRE test scores must be less than five years old and must be taken early enough for official scores to be received by the supplemental application deadline of February 15, 2012.

   - World Education Services
     P.O. Box 745
     Old Chelsea Station
     New York, New York 10113-0745
     (212) 966-6311
     Web site: [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

   - Josef Silny & Associates
     7101 SW 102nd Ave.
     Miami, Florida 33173
     (305) 273-1616
     (305) 273-1338 (fax)
     Web site: [www.jsilny.com](http://www.jsilny.com)
     Email: info@jsilny.com

   - Educational Credential Evaluators
     P.O. Box 514070
     Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203-3470
     (414) 289-3400
     Web site: [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org)

b. Three letters of recommendation are required.
   - one from a physician or physician assistant (required)
   - one from a health care professional involved with direct patient care (required)
   - one from an individual such as an academic advisor, professor, coworker, or supervisor

None of the three letters may be from relatives or friends. Applications submitted without these letters will not be given consideration.
4. Once the CASPA application has been received by Nova Southeastern University, a supplemental application will be mailed.

5. Send completed supplemental application to
   Nova Southeastern University
   Enrollment Processing Services (EPS)
   College of Allied Health and Nursing
   Physician Assistant Department Admissions
   3301 College Avenue
   P.O. Box 299000
   Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33329-9905
   Phone: (954) 262-1109 • Fax: (954) 262-2282

   Your complete supplemental application must be received no later than February 15 in order to be considered for admission for the June entering class. Once we receive the GRE scores, the supplemental application, and the $50 fee, your file will be reviewed by the admissions counselor.

   The applicant will not be considered for a possible interview until the application from CASPA, the supplemental application (signed and dated), the $50, nonrefundable application fee, and the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) test scores are received by the Nova Southeastern University Physician Assistant Office of Admissions.

   Personal Interviews
   Once your application is complete, the Committee on Admissions will decide whether or not your application is strong enough to warrant an invitation for a personal interview. Interviews are conducted at the Nova Southeastern University site in Fort Myers, Florida, and are by invitation only. Interviews are typically held during the months of September through April. An invitation to interview is not a guarantee of admission.

   Application Withdrawal
   If, at any time, you wish to withdraw your application from consideration, please do so in writing. Please direct this correspondence to
   Nova Southeastern University
   Physician Assistant Program—Southwest Florida
   Fort Myers Student Educational Center
   3650 Colonial Court
   Fort Myers, Florida 33913-6636

   Current College Coursework
   All prerequisite coursework must be completed by the middle of May in order to be considered for the June entering class. If, at the time of application, coursework is in progress or anticipated, please identify these courses on the supplemental application.

   Transcripts
   All applicants who are accepted must submit official transcripts of all completed coursework to the NSU EPS Physician Assistant Admissions prior to matriculation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that arrangements are made for these transcripts to be sent to
   Nova Southeastern University
   Enrollment Processing Services (EPS)
   College of Allied Health and Nursing
   Physician Assistant Department Admissions
   3301 College Avenue
   P.O. Box 299000
   Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33329-9905

   Undergraduate/Physician Assistant Dual-Admission Program with Hodges University
   Nova Southeastern University's College of Allied Health and Nursing has established an articulation agreement with Hodges University for a select number of highly motivated, qualified students interested in pursuing professional studies in the Physician Assistant Program. Candidates must complete all Hodges University core requirements and all prerequisite courses for entry into the NSU PA Program—Southwest Florida and will earn a baccalaureate degree from Hodges University prior to entry into the PA Program. In addition, candidates must maintain a specified grade point average during the undergraduate years at Hodges University and must achieve scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) that are no less than the mean scores for each element of the GRE of those students admitted to the NSU PA Program—Southwest Florida the prior year.

   For information and requirements, contact
   Office of Admissions
   Hodges University
   2655 Northbrooke Drive
   Naples, Florida 34119
   (239) 513-1122
Student Housing
Nova Southeastern University—Southwest Florida does not offer on-campus housing. However, numerous apartments, condominiums, and other rental facilities are located near campus. Information concerning housing may be obtained by contacting

Coordinator of Student Services and Recruitment
PA Program—Southwest Florida
Fort Myers Student Educational Center
3650 Colonial Court
Fort Myers, Florida 33913-6636
(239) 274-1021

Disclaimer: Links to non-NSU Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement.

• For information on a career as a physician assistant, contact
  American Academy of Physician Assistants
  Information Center
  950 North Washington Street
  Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1552
  www.aapa.org

• For a list of accredited programs and a catalog of individual physician assistant training programs, contact
  Physician Assistant Education Association
  300 North Washington Street, Suite 710
  Alexandria, Virginia 22314
  www.paeonline.org

• For eligibility requirements and a description of the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, contact
  National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants
  12000 Findley Road, Suite 100
  Johns Creek, Georgia 30097-1409
  www.nccpa.net

• For information on employment, employment projections, and compensation statistics, contact
  U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
  Postal Square Building
  2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
  Washington, D.C. 20212-0001
  http://stats.bls.gov
**Tuition and Fees**

Tuition for 2011–2012 is $27,000. Tuition for 2012–2013 will subsequently be posted on our Web site (www.nova.edu/pa/swflorida). A Health Professions Division general access fee of $145 is required each year. An NSU student services fee of $750 is also required annually. All tuition and fees are subject to change by the board of trustees without notice.

1. **Acceptance Fee**—$500. This fee is required to reserve the accepted applicant’s place in the entering first-year class, but is not refundable in the event of a withdrawal. It is payable within two weeks of an applicant’s acceptance.

2. **Deposit**—$250. This is due February 15, under the same terms as the Acceptance Fee.

3. **Preregistration Fee**—$250. This is due April 15, under the same terms as the Acceptance Fee.

The first semester’s tuition and fees, less the $1,000 previously paid, are due on or before registration day. Tuition for each subsequent semester is due on or before the appropriate registration day. Students will not be admitted until their financial obligations have been met. The financial ability of applicants to complete their training at the college is important because of the limited number of positions available in each class. Applicants should have specific plans for financing 27 months of professional education. This should include tuition, living expenses, books, equipment, and miscellaneous expenses.

Each student is required to carry adequate personal medical and hospital insurance. Students may avail themselves of the hospitalization insurance plan obtainable through the university.

**Expenses and Financial Aid**

Students should anticipate spending approximately $25,000 per year for living expenses. In addition, students should anticipate spending $5,000 for books and equipment during the 27-month program.

The primary financial responsibility for a student’s education rests with the student and his or her family. Economic circumstances for some families may make it necessary for the student to obtain assistance from other sources.

The purpose of the Student Financial Assistance Program at NSU is to help as many qualified students as possible to complete their health professions education. Various loans, scholarships, and grants are available to qualified students to help ease the high cost of a health professions education. These financial assistance programs are described in a variety of separate university publications.

For information on financial assistance, contact

Office of Student Financial Assistance
Nova Southeastern University
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

(954) 262-3380 • 800-806-3680

A limited number of part-time work assignments are available. However, because of the demands of the program curriculum, the program strongly discourages any outside employment.
The Nova Southeastern University Health Professions Division is pledged to the admission and matriculation of qualified students and wishes to acknowledge awareness of laws that prohibit discrimination against anyone on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability. Regarding those students with verifiable disabilities, the university will not discriminate against such individuals who are otherwise qualified, but will expect applicants and students to meet certain minimal technical standards (core performance standards) as set forth herein, with or without reasonable accommodation. In adopting these standards, the university believes it must keep in mind the ultimate safety of the patients whom its graduates will eventually serve. The standards reflect what the university believes are reasonable expectations required of health professions students and personnel in performing common functions.

The holders of health care degrees must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. In order to carry out the activities described below, candidates for Health Professions Division degrees must be able to integrate consistently, quickly, and accurately all information received, and they must have the ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

Candidates for degrees offered by the Health Professions Division must have, with or without reasonable accommodation, multiple abilities and skills including intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; interpersonal communication; mobility and strength; motor skills; and hearing, visual, tactile, behavioral, and social attributes. Candidates for admission and progression must be able to perform these abilities and skills in a reasonably independent manner.

**Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Qualitative Abilities**

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving—a critical skill—requires all of these intellectual abilities. Candidates and students must have critical thinking ability sufficient for good clinical judgment. This is necessary to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations and to develop plans of care. In addition, candidates and students should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

**Interpersonal Communication**

Candidates and students should be able to interact with and observe patients in order to elicit information; perform
examinations; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; and perceive nonverbal communications. They must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. Candidates and students must also be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in all written forms with all members of the health care team. They must have interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.

**Motor Skills**

Candidates and students should have sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of some health care professionals are cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, and the ability to calibrate and use various pieces of equipment. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

**Strength and Mobility**

Candidates and students must have sufficient mobility to attend emergency codes and to perform such maneuvers as CPR when required. They must have the physical ability to move sufficiently from room to room and to maneuver in small places.

**Hearing**

Candidates and students should have sufficient auditory ability to monitor and assess health needs. They must be able to hear information given by the patient in answer to inquires; to hear cries for help; to hear features in an examination, such as the auscultatory sounds; and to be able to monitor equipment.

**Visual**

Candidates and students must have visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in patient care. It must be consistent in many cases with being able to assess asymmetry, range of motion, and tissue texture changes. Physician assistant students must have sufficient visual ability to use ophthalmologic instruments. It is necessary to have adequate visual capabilities for proper evaluation and treatment integration. Candidates and students must be able to observe the patient and the patient's responses, including body language, and features of the examination and treatment.

**Tactile**

Candidates and students must have sufficient tactile ability for physical assessment. They must be able to perform palpation, functions of physical examination, and/or those related to therapeutic intervention.

**Sensory**

Physician assistants are required to have an enhanced ability to use their sensory skills. These enhanced tactile and proprioceptive sensory skills are essential for appropriate evaluation and treatment of patients.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes**

Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities; the exercise of good judgment; the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients; and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with the patients. Candidates and students must be able to physically tolerate taxing workloads, to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and education process.