Physician Assistant Orlando 2009

Nova Southeastern University

Follow this and additional works at: https://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd_coursecatalogs

Part of the Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

NSUWorks Citation
Nova Southeastern University, "Physician Assistant Orlando 2009" (2009). Health Professions Divisions Course Catalogs. 318.
https://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd_coursecatalogs/318

This Program Overview is brought to you for free and open access by the NSU Course Catalogs and Course Descriptions at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Health Professions Divisions Course Catalogs by an authorized administrator of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact nsuworks@nova.edu.
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 27,000 students, is the **sixth 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 **98,000 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.BI) degrees. The College of Pharmacy offers the doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree to entry-level, international, and postbaccalaureate students. 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 the master in clinical vision research (M.S.). The College of Allied Health and Nursing offers an entry-level bachelor of science degree in nursing (B.S.N.), 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 a physician assistant program that awards the master of medical science (M.M.S.) degree in physician assistant, as well as a master of occupational therapy (M.O.T.) degree and the 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./PT., 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. There are also courses of study in bachelor of health science—vascular sonography and master of health science—anesthesiologist assistant. 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.
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 80,000 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 writing prescriptions.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as published in the 2006–2007 Occupational Outlook Handbook, the PA profession is the fourth fastest growing profession. The U.S. Department of Labor projects that, between 2004 and 2016, jobs for PAs will increase by 27 percent. The BLS feels that this “much faster than average” growth of the PA profession is “due to anticipated expansion of the health care industry and an emphasis on cost containment, resulting in increasing utilization of PAs by physicians and health care institutions.”

NSU PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT—ORLANDO
MISSION STATEMENT

- to provide an exemplary educational experience, which emphasizes primary medical care, yet will enable graduates to manifest competency and skill in a variety of clinical environments

- to inspire graduates to pursue lifelong learning

- to foster leadership qualities, which will enable graduates to improve access to quality, affordable health care

- to heighten the stature 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 Ph.D. 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.), and transition doctor of physical therapy (T-D.P.T.) programs, as well as the bachelor of health science—vascular sonography and the master of health science—anesthesiologist assistant specialty courses of study. 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 appropriate clinical rotations throughout the state of Florida. 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.
COURSE OF STUDY The Physician Assistant Program curriculum is completed following a minimum of 90 semester hours of undergraduate coursework, of which 30 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) must be upper division.* The comprehensive curriculum, completed in a consecutive manner, is oriented to primary care and prepares the student to practice in a wide variety of clinical settings.

Due to the highly integrated and compact curriculum, the department requires matriculants to complete the entire program at the student educational center in Orlando.

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 timeframe, students are generally in class from Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m., although there are occasional evening and/or weekend hours.

The clinical year is devoted to 13 months of clinical training with required clinical rotations in family medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, prenatal care/gynecology, general surgery, internal medicine, orthopedics, dermatology, otorhinolaryngology, community medicine, and one elective. Internal medicine and family medicine rotations are eight weeks in length. All other rotations, including the elective, are four weeks in length.

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; however, many rotation sites require students to work up to 100 hours per week.

*Upper division is defined as a course number beginning with a 3 or a 4.
Upon completion of the course of study, students will have earned a master of medical science in physician assistant (M.M.S.) degree.

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.

**DUAL ADMISSION PROGRAMS**

Undergraduate/Physician Assistant Dual Admission Program—Florida Hospital College of Health Science and NSU’s Orlando Student Educational Center

Nova Southeastern University’s College of Allied Health and Nursing has established an articulation agreement with Florida Hospital College of Health Science for a select number of highly motivated, qualified students interested in pursuing professional studies in the Physician Assistant Program. This allows candidates to receive both a bachelor of science (B.S.) degree from Florida Hospital College and a master of medical science (M.M.S.) in physician assistant from the PA program at NSU in a five-year period. Candidates must maintain a specified grade point average during the undergraduate year and achieve acceptable scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Students will be awarded a B.S. degree from Florida Hospital College of Health Science at the end of the first academic year of the program and an M.M.S. degree upon completion of the program.

For information and requirements, contact

Office of Admissions
Florida Hospital College of Health Science
671 Winyah Drive
Orlando, FL 32803-1226

Toll-free: 800-500-7747
Phone: (407) 303-9798
Fax: (407) 303-9408
accreditation

PA programs are accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants (ARC-PA), Inc. Provisional accreditation is an accreditation status that is awarded to new PA programs by ARC-PA, Inc. for a limited, defined period of time. This provisional accreditation status indicates that the new PA program, at the time of the site visit by ARC-PA, Inc. has demonstrated its ability to implement a PA program that is in compliance with ARC-PA's Standards for Accreditation. Provisional accreditation status does not indicate guarantee of any future accreditation of the program. Once provisional accreditation is achieved, a follow-up provisional visit will occur. This visit will usually occur while the inaugural class is in the clinical phase of the program and is conducted to evaluate the program for continued accreditation.

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—Orlando was awarded provisional accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants, Inc. (ARC-PA) in March of 2007. The program will be re-evaluated in two–three years for a full accreditation.

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. 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 individuals 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.
# Curriculum Outline

**For the Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant Program, Orlando**

- **Start Date**: June 2009
- **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>MPA 5406</td>
<td>Cultural Issues in Health Care</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5000</td>
<td>Anatomy</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5001</td>
<td>Pharmacodynamics</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5002</td>
<td>Introduction to the PA Profession</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5003</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Medical Imaging</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5005</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5100</td>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5300</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis I</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5400</td>
<td>History Taking and Communication Skills</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>267</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Second Semester: Fall (September-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>MPA 5404</td>
<td>Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA 5420</td>
<td>Epidemiology/Biostatistics in Health Care</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5101</td>
<td>Clinical Pathophysiology</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5200</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5310</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis II</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5410</td>
<td>Pharmacology I</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5500</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine and Surgery I</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5600</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Medicine I</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5006</td>
<td>Electrocardiography</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>361</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></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>MPA 5422</td>
<td>Research Methodology</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5102</td>
<td>Clinical Pathophysiology II</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5103</td>
<td>Clinical Pathophysiology III</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5320</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis III</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5420</td>
<td>Pharmacology II</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5510</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine and Surgery II</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5520</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine and Surgery III</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5540</td>
<td>Clinical Psychiatry</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5610</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Medicine II</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>520</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fourth Semester: Summer II (Advanced Didactic; June-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>MPA 5407</td>
<td>Clinical Pharmacology</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA 5410</td>
<td>Complementary Medicine and Nutrition</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA 5412</td>
<td>Publication Skills and Medical Research</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA 5460</td>
<td>Life Support Procedures and Skills</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5009</td>
<td>PA and Health Care Dynamics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5560</td>
<td>Clinical Procedures and Surgical Skills</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 5008</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HOURS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>196</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Rotation Title</th>
<th>Weeks/Contact Hours</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPA 6401</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>4 / 160</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA 6500</td>
<td>Graduate Project</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6310</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>4 / 200</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6320</td>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>8 / 340</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6330</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>8 / 360</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6340</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>4 / 180</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6350</td>
<td>Prenatal Care and Gynecology</td>
<td>4 / 180</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6360</td>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>4 / 200</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6370</td>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
<td>4 / 180</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6380</td>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>4 / 160</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6390</td>
<td>Otorhinolaryngology</td>
<td>4 / 180</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAO 6400</td>
<td>Community Medicine</td>
<td>4 / 160</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CONTACT HOURS (second year)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Clinical curriculum is subject to change as directed by the department.*
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 minimum of 90 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) of specified coursework from a regionally accredited college or university. Of these 90 semester hours, 30 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) must be upper division courses (typically defined as a course number beginning with a 3 or a 4). Upper division courses can be courses from any department other than physical education. These courses are of the applicant's choosing; however, upper division science courses are recommended. The program requires the applicant to have earned a grade of C or better in each of the upper division courses.

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.8 and a minimum science GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 grading scale at the time of application and must maintain that GPA through matriculation. 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 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 composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities/arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical terminology</td>
<td>1</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 and human physiology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry or organic chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Statistics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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 nine 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, 2009. Applications will not be considered complete without GRE scores.

Testing information for the GRE may be obtained from http://www.gre.org or by telephoning (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 laptop computer and a printer. The computer must have the following minimum specifications:

- Pentium IV or equivalent, 800MHz minimum processor
- 512 MB RAM
- Combo DVD and RW drive
- Sound capability and speakers
- Internet connection with private Internet service provider (ISP) for access from home to the Internet
- Wireless capability
- Printer

The following are recommended features:

- Video capable of 800 x 600 screen display or better
- Windows 2000/ME/XP or NT
- Microsoft Office 2000 with PowerPoint, Word, and Excel minimum
- Surge suppressor electrical outlet
- Flash drive

PDA Requirements

Students are required to have a handheld device (PDA) prior to the start of the advanced didactic component of the curriculum. The PDA is essential to completing all required documentation for clinical rotations. The type of PDA and operating system will be specified to all students during the first semester.

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.
The CASPA application may be submitted as early as April 16.

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
- 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, 2009.

- CASPA considers all academic coursework at the college level when calculating the applicant's science and cumulative GPA. This is a process known as no grade forgiveness. The Nova Southeastern University PA Program—Orlando 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 you have questions regarding your GPA, you should see your academic advisor at your local college or university.
- Applications submitted with GPAs that are below the minimum required GPA of 2.8 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 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 following:

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

   Josef Silny & Associates
   7101 SW 102nd Avenue
   Miami, Florida 33173
   (305) 273-1616 – (305) 273-1338 (fax)
   Web site: www.jsilny.com
   Email: info@jsilny.com
b. Three letters of recommendation/evaluation:

One letter of recommendation/evaluation must be sent from an individual (other than a relative or friend) such as an academic advisor, professor, coworker, or supervisor.

Two letters of recommendation/evaluation must be from health care professionals (neither of which can be from a relative or friend), one of which must be from a physician or a PA. Applications submitted without these letters will not be considered.

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, 2009.

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, 2009, 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, Orlando, Florida, site and are by invitation only. Interviews will be held during the months of September 2008 through March 2009. 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
4850 Millenia Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32839-6012

CURRENT COLLEGE COURSEWORK

All prerequisite coursework must be completed by the end 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
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 $50 fee.
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 505
  Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1552
  www.paeonline.org

- For eligibility requirements and a description of the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, contact:
  National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants
  157 Technology Parkway, Suite 800
  Norcross, Georgia 30092-2913
  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
  stats.bls.gov

student housing

Nova Southeastern University—Orlando does not offer on-campus housing. However, numerous apartments, condominiums, and other rental facilities are located near the site. Information concerning housing may be obtained by contacting

Coordinator of Student Services and Recruitment
Physician Assistant Program
4850 Millenia Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32839-6012

(407) 264-5153
Tuition for 2009–2010 (subject to change by the board of trustees without notice): $23,790 for Florida residents and $24,330 for out-of-state students. A Health Professions Division general access fee of $145 is required each year. An NSU student services fee of $750 is also required annually.

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.
Students should anticipate spending approximately $19,000 per year for living expenses. In addition, students should anticipate spending approximately $6,000 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 separate university publication, *The NSU Guide to Student Financial Assistance*. For a copy or information, contact:

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

(954) 262-3380 • 800-806-3680

Due to 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.