PAP 500
Orientation
No Credit
Course Director: Irvine
An orientation to Albany Medical College, the Graduate Studies Program, and the Center for Physician Assistant Studies. Students are provided with and review policies, procedures, rules, and regulations for didactic and clinical phases of instruction. An orientation to the facility is included. Sessions include a professionalism seminar, mandatory safety training, and interprofessional awareness as well as orientation to clinical rotations.

PAP 505
History & Professional Ethics
Credits: 2
Course Director: Stoddart
This course explores the historical development of the training and use of Physician Assistants (PAs) in the United States. The role of PAs in the delivery of health care and their relationship with other health care professionals in various medical settings is discussed. The legal requirements concerning the training, registration, certification, and conditions of practice are also covered. Current ethical and medical-legal issues in clinical medicine are discussed and debated as are current trends in Physician Assistant practice.

PAP 528
Behavioral Aspects of Medicine
Credits: 3
Course Director: Stoddart
This course provides the physician assistant student with an introduction to behavioral aspects of medicine, including biological, psychological, and sociological factors as they impact individuals in states of relative health and disease. It includes an overview of principles of psychiatric evaluation and a focus on psychiatric problems commonly seen in primary care, while introducing students to the differential diagnosis and treatment of major psychiatric disorders. These include: anxiety and mood disorders, psychosis, alcohol and substance abuse, and somatoform disorders.

PAP 530
Health Policy
Credits: 3
Course Director: Stoddart
The course provides a basic understanding of the structure and operation of the American Health Care System. The historical roots, evolution, and future of the system are examined. The role of social, behavioral, legal, and economic forces in the delivery of health care is examined.

PAP 535
Community Health
Credits: 3
Course Director: Stoddart
This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the natural occurrence of disease and its relationship to the public health system, community, and cultural environment. It addresses competencies across the spectrum of physician assistant practice as they apply to the PA role in addressing community based health problems.

PAP 540
Counseling for Preventive Medicine
Credits: 3
Course Director: Wright
The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to counsel patients and their families in the following areas: health promotion and counseling through the life span, genetic inheritance of disease, end of life issues, response to illness, injury, and stress; principles of violence identification and prevention.
PAP 550  
Advanced Anatomy  
Credits: 4  
Course Director: Crone  
A comprehensive study of human anatomy. Gross anatomy, histology, and neuroanatomy will be covered using a regional approach, with the relationship of organs and aspects of clinical significance explored in lecture and lab dissection.

PAP 560  
Applied Pathophysiology  
Credits: 4  
Course Director: Crone  
A study of cellular, organ, and system functions important for an understanding of physiological homeostasis and the disruptions in homeostasis that characterize pathophysiological processes.

PAP 565  
Immunology and Microbial Disease  
Credits: 3  
Course Director: Crone  
Integration of microbiological and immunological principles into a regional exploration of infectious disease.

PAP 570  
Medical Pharmacology I  
Credits: 2  
Course Director: Keller  
Study of physical and chemical properties, physiological and biochemical actions, absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion & therapeutic use of drugs. Lectures provide the student with insight into both practical & theoretical implications of complex physiological and biological responses to drugs.

PAP 571  
Medical Pharmacology II  
Credits: 2  
Course Director: Keller  
Study of physical and chemical properties, physiological and biochemical actions, absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion & therapeutic use of drugs. Lectures provide the student with insight into both practical & theoretical implications of complex physiological and biological responses to drugs.

PAP 575  
Medical Informatics  
Credits: 2  
Course Director: Irvine  
This course is designed to assure that students have or gain the skills required for the practitioner to maintain a critical, current, and operational knowledge of, and ability to communicate, medical information. It is intended to help prepare the student for PA practice by developing the skills required to search, assess, and apply the medical literature to patient care and effectively document their findings- including appropriate coding and billing.

PAP 580  
Physical Assessment  
Credits: 6  
Course Director: Pulver  
This course introduces the student to the basic skills of history and physical examination. Students learn interviewing skills that focus on the fundamentals of listening to and communicating with patients while building therapeutic relationships. Patient-centered skills and provider-centered interviewing techniques will be emphasized. A regional approach to the physical examination builds on students’ basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology. Common and important problems are emphasized in each body system. Students learn basic physical examination techniques and use of medical equipment. The problem-oriented medical record will be introduced, and students have the opportunity to practice documentation skills. The difference between a comprehensive H&P and a problem-focused patient encounter will be discussed.
PAP 587
Diagnostic Methods I
Credits: 1
Course Director: Bachta
This course is designed to prepare the student for selection, ordering and interpretation of diagnostic studies used in medicine. Instruction in laboratory diagnosis of disease, interpretation of EKGs and radiographs, and selection and ordering of imaging studies is included. Emphasis will be placed on application of diagnostic methods to clinical problem solving.

PAP 588
Diagnostic Methods II
Credits: 3
Course Director: Wright
This course is designed to prepare the student for selection, ordering and interpretation of diagnostic studies used in medicine. Instruction in laboratory diagnosis of disease, and radiographs, and selection and ordering of imaging studies is included. Emphasis will be placed on application of diagnostic methods to clinical problem solving.

PAP 589
Diagnostic Methods III
Credits: 2
Course Director: Wright
This course is a continuation of PAP 588 and is designed to continue the student's preparation in selection, ordering and interpretation of diagnostic studies used in medicine. Age and gender appropriate indications for and interpretation of screening studies will be covered. Instruction in laboratory diagnosis of disease, radiographs, and selection and ordering of imaging studies is included. Skills required for physician operated laboratory (CLIA exempt) will be included. Emphasis will be placed on application of diagnostic methods to clinical problem solving.

PAP 590
Fundamentals of Clinical Medicine I
Credits: 6
Course Director: Pulver
This course is the first in a three term sequence of courses. It serves as an introduction to clinical medicine, and includes the following topics: cardiovascular medicine, pulmonology, gastroenterology, and nephrology. Lectures are provided by the faculty at Albany Medical College and the medical staff of the Albany Medical Center Hospital. History, clinical presentation, evaluation, differential diagnoses, management, patient education, and disease prevention will be emphasized.

PAP 591
Fundamentals of Clinical Medicine II
Credits: 6
Course Director: Bachta
This course is the second in a three-term sequence of courses focusing on the study of health and disease. Designed to lay the foundation for patient care, emphasis is on the integration of essential anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, microbiology, pharmacology, and medical terminology relevant to medical problems encountered in the primary care setting. Health maintenance issues and emergency conditions are discussed within each unit. The diagnostic/therapeutic process is taught using a medical subspecialty approach. Topics covered in this course include geriatrics, orthopedics, rheumatology, surgery, endocrinology, dental, dermatology, and infectious disease. History, clinical presentation, evaluation, differential diagnoses, management, patient education, and disease prevention will be emphasized.

Each unit is accompanied by specific objectives as well as a worksheet to help students organize important points and information. Textbooks, handouts, and internet links complement concepts discussed in class. In addition, specific learning objectives are provided for the worksheets and for each assignment.

PAP 592
Fundamentals of Clinical Medicine III
Credits: 6
Course Director: Carlin
This course is the third in a three term sequence of courses. Topics covered in this course include pediatrics, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, obstetrics, gynecology, urology, hematology/oncology and neurology. Lectures are provided by the faculty at Albany Medical College and the staff of the Albany Medical Center Hospital. History, clinical presentation, evaluation, differential diagnosis, management, patient education, and disease prevention will be emphasized.
PAP 595
Clinical Skills Laboratory
Credits: 2
Course Director: Carlin
In this course students apply their knowledge of the medical interview and physical examination in direct patient encounters with the supervision of clinical faculty. Students perform several history and physical exams and work with a faculty preceptor to synthesize the data, assess the patient’s status, and formulate treatment plans. Oral presentation and written documentation of the encounters will be emphasized. In addition, the course provides an introduction to basic skills including aseptic technique, suturing, splinting, injections, phlebotomy, IV access, and Foley catheterization.

PAP 600
Research Methods
Credits: 4
Course Director: Crone
An introduction to research methods used in medicine. Topics include literature search and critical review, evidence-based medicine, and statistical methods in clinical research. Students will apply methods learned to identify and critically assess an individual evidence based medicine question.

PAP 640
Senior Seminar
Credits: No Credit (graduation requirement)
Course Director: Lahut/Glick
This course focuses on preparation for the summative Clinical Competency Examination (PAP 724), and preparation for both the Comprehensive Examination (PAP 723) and the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE). In addition, professional development topics pertinent to employment and practice as a PA such as licensing and credentialing, medical coding and billing, medical malpractice, and appropriate medical documentation are presented. The course discusses job search skills, and provides an opportunity for students to design a CV or resume.

PAP 650
Clinical Rotation - Medicine
Credits: 3
Course Director: Lahut
During the Medicine clinical rotation students will be assigned to the inpatient medical services at one of our local hospitals. Under the supervision of physicians and hospitalist physician assistants, students will participate in a wide variety of in-patient care activities including medical history review, physical examination, diagnostic testing, and management within the limitations imposed by education and experience. Students will also attend PA grand rounds, daily rounds, and special conferences.

PAP 655
Clinical Rotation - Emergency Medicine
Credits: 3
Course Director: Glick
During the Emergency Medicine clinical rotation students will be assigned to an Emergency Room and/or Ambulatory Care, Express Care, Prompt Care or Urgent Care Unit under the supervision of physicians and physician assistant or NP, and given the opportunity to deal with patients on an acute outpatient basis. Depending on location, students will also attend daily rounds and special clinical conferences.

PAP 661
Clinical Rotation - Family Practice/Geriatrics
Credits: 3
Course Director: Lahut
The Family Practice/Geriatrics clinical rotation will allow students to participate in a variety of primary care related activities. They will be given the opportunity to interact with patients as a primary care provider and in many instances, will be dealing with additional family members as well as the patient. They will be assigned patients, from neonates to the elderly, for medical history review, physical examination, and diagnostic testing in preparation for a supportive role in the patients’ therapeutic management. The team approach to medicine and the importance of continuity of care are emphasized.

PAP 691
Clinical Rotation – Comprehensive Interprofessional Care
Credits: 2
Course Director: Lahut
Working in a variety of settings, and under the supervision of a preceptor, students will work with formal interdisciplinary teams in the evaluation and treatment of neurological and musculoskeletal disabilities not only as they are encountered in the routine practice
of medicine, but also in a variety of locations and facilities designed for the care of patients with both acute and chronic disabling diseases and injuries.

PAP 665
Clinical Rotation - Obstetrics and Gynecology
Credits: 3
Course Director: Lahut
On the Obstetric and Gynecology clinical rotation students will be assigned to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Peter’s Hospital or AMC, or to outpatient private practices or clinics. They will, under supervision, see patients who present for annual GYN check-ups, gynecologic complaints, and those with normal or complicated pregnancies. Students will also be assigned patients for medical history review, physical examination and diagnostic testing in preparation for a supportive role during labor and delivery or gynecological surgery. Where applicable, student will also attend daily rounds, OB/GYN Grand Rounds and special conferences, participating where possible in the discussions of diagnostic problems and management plans. This experience includes matriculation in and ongoing activities for research project courses.

PAP 670
Clinical Rotation – Elective I
Credits: 2
Course Director: Glick
The four week Elective clinical rotation allows students to choose any area of medicine or surgery. Those areas students are encouraged to choose include the following: Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Dermatology, Infectious Disease (including HIV positive/AIDS patients), Cardiology or Hematology/Oncology.

In addition to the goals and objectives provided by CPAS, students and preceptors work together to develop individual objectives based on the student’s area of interest.

PAP 674
Clinical Rotation – Elective II
Credits: 2
Course Director: Lahut
The four week Elective clinical rotation allows students to choose any area of medicine or surgery. Those areas students are encouraged to choose include the following: Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Dermatology, Infectious Disease (including HIV positive/AIDS patients), Cardiology or Hematology/Oncology.

In addition to the goals and objectives provided by CPAS, students and preceptors work together to develop individual objectives based on the student’s area of interest.

PAP 675
Clinical Rotation - Pediatrics
Credits: 3
Course Director: Glick
Students on their Pediatric clinical rotation will be assigned to private pediatric offices or to community-based pediatric health centers where they will, under supervision, participate in a wide variety of patient care activities.

PAP 680
Clinical Rotation - Psychiatry
Credits: 3
Course Director: Lahut
The Psychiatry rotation is designed to give the student the opportunity to deal with patients’ psychological problems. Students will work with consulting psychiatrists within the Albany Medical Center and other affiliated institutions. Students will perform in-depth psychological interviews and evaluate a patient’s psychological status. In some cases, the students will be asked to interview additional family members to better understand the nature of a patient’s psychological problem.

PAP 685
Clinical Rotation - Surgery
Credits: 3
Course Director: Glick
The Surgery clinical rotation is designed to assign students to the Department of Surgery at either Hospital Based or Private Surgical Services where they will, under supervision, participate in a wide variety of patient care related activities. Students will be assigned patients for medical history review, physical examinations, diagnostic testing and, within the limitations imposed by education and previous experience, management including supportive involvement in a variety of major and minor surgical procedures. They will also attend daily rounds and special conferences, participating where possible in the pre-operative
confirmation of clinical impressions and preparation of patients for surgical procedures, as well as, in the many facets of post-surgical care.

PAP 690  
Clinical Rotation - Orthopedics  
Credits: 3  
Course Director: Glick  
During the Orthopedic clinical rotation students will be placed in outpatient sites where they will, under supervision, participate in a variety of activities related to clinical orthopedics, physical medicine and rehabilitation. They will be assigned patients for medical history review, physical examination (emphasis on joints and spine), and diagnostic testing in preparation for a supportive role during medical and surgical management of orthopedic problems and/or rehabilitative training of patients.

PAP 697  
Clinical Rotation-Community Practice Preceptorship  
Credits: 4  
Course Director: Lahut/Glick  
The Community Practice Preceptorship clinical rotation is designed to introduce students to the variety of roles and functions Physician Assistants may assume in a modern health care delivery system. It is a clinical rotation in a community primary health care delivery facility such as a physician's office, a health maintenance organization, emergency room, or a clinic. The Community Practice Preceptorship is scheduled as the last rotation of the clinical phase. Students are required to do this rotation in Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Women’s Health, or Emergency Medicine.

PAP 750  
Portfolio for the Clinical MS Degree I  
Credits: 2  
Course Director: Irvine  
This course assists the student in the preparation of a portfolio that summarizes the professional and personal learning that has occurred as a physician assistant student. The student will identify activities and experiences accomplished in the role, define specific educational competencies and outcomes achieved from the activities and experiences, and evidence the learning and development with selected assignments and documentation.

Student input will be emphasized by inclusion of periodic self-assessments. Students will reflect upon their efforts, behaviors, achievements, and the learning process specifically in regard to working towards the Competencies for the PA Profession.

PAP 751  
Portfolio for the Clinical MS Degree II  
Credits: 1  
Course Director: Irvine  
This course assists the student in the preparation of a portfolio that summarizes the professional and personal learning that has occurred as a physician assistant student. The student will identify activities and experiences accomplished in the role, define specific educational competencies and outcomes achieved from the activities and experiences, and evidence the learning and development with selected assignments and documentation.

Student input will be emphasized by inclusion of periodic self-assessments. Students will reflect upon their efforts, behaviors, achievements, and the learning process specifically in regard to working towards the Competencies for the PA Profession.

PAP 752  
Portfolio for the Clinical MS Degree III  
Credits: 1  
Course Director: Irvine  
This course assists the student in the preparation of a portfolio that summarizes the professional and personal learning that has occurred as a physician assistant student. The student will identify activities and experiences accomplished in the role, define specific educational competencies and outcomes achieved from the activities and experiences, and evidence the learning and development with selected assignments and documentation.

Student input will be emphasized by inclusion of periodic self-assessments. Students will reflect upon their efforts, behaviors, achievements, and the learning process specifically in regard to working towards the Competencies for the PA Profession.
EXAMINATIONS

PAP 720
Formative Clinical Competency Examination I
This course is the first in a three-term sequence of courses designed to prepare students for clinical encounters. During this sequence, students develop their problem-solving skills and fluency in the history and physical examination process, while building on pre-existing knowledge. An interactive and supportive environment with faculty guidance facilitates the transfer of learning from the classroom to the real world. For this course, students will prepare for and perform a comprehensive adult physical examination with a simulated patient.

PAP 721
Formative Clinical Competency Examination II
This course is the second in a three-term sequence of courses designed to prepare students for clinical encounters. Students develop their problem-solving skills and fluency in the history and physical examination process, while building on pre-existing knowledge. An interactive and supportive environment with faculty guidance facilitates the transfer of learning from the classroom to the real world. Based on the chief complaint elicited, students will obtain a focused medical history and perform an appropriate physical examination for a simulated patient with a single system clinical problem.

PAP 722
Formative Clinical Competency Examination III
This course is the third in a three-term sequence of courses designed to prepare students for clinical encounters. Students develop their problem-solving skills and fluency in the history and physical examination process, while building on pre-existing knowledge. An interactive and supportive environment with faculty guidance facilitates the transfer of learning from the classroom to the real world. Based on the chief complaint elicited, students will obtain a focused medical history and perform an appropriate physical examination for a simulated patient with a multi-system clinical problem.

PAP 723
Comprehensive Examination
Students complete a comprehensive, multiple-choice examination prepared by the faculty as a summative cognitive assessment and graduation requirement.

PAP 724
Clinical Competency Examination
Students complete a series of encounters with programmed patients and inter-station exercises prepared by the faculty as a summative competency assessment and graduation requirement.