



## Primary Care Associate Program 2013-2014

The Primary Care Associate (PCA) Program, cooperatively administered by the Stanford University School of Medicine and Foothill College, prepares Physician Assistants (PAs) to provide primary health care services with physician supervision. Physician Assistants improve the quality of and access to health care for all populations.

The Program's curriculum emphasizes the skills necessary to recognize and treat common primary care problems that include acute, chronic, emergent or surgical conditions in patients of all ages. Our students are trained to: evaluate the health status of patients; diagnose and treat common illnesses; manage chronic diseases; deliver preventive care; counsel patients about family, psychosocial, and health-related problems. The curriculum fulfills the program's mission to educate Physician Assistants to serve medically under-served populations. The curriculum includes lectures, seminars, laboratory groups, technical skills workshops, and clinical preceptorships. Didactic and clinical learning experiences are integrated throughout the whole program. Clinical placements emphasize primary care and include hospital and specialty rotations.

After completing the program, a Certificate of Clinical Proficiency is awarded by the Stanford University School of Medicine, and a Certificate of Achievement or an Associate in Science degree from Foothill College. The curriculum prepares graduates to pass the Physician Assistant Certifying Exam (PANCE) required for practice as a Physician Assistant.

Information and applications may be obtained online:  
<http://pcap.stanford.edu>

You may contact the program office at:  
Primary Care Associate Program  
1215 Welch Road, Modular G  
Stanford, CA 94305-5408  
telephone: (650) 725-6959; fax: (650) 723-9692  
e-mail: [pcap-information@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:pcap-information@lists.stanford.edu)

### Program Learning Outcomes:

- The student will demonstrate competency in skills required to provide primary care health services as a physician assistant, with physician supervision.
- The student will demonstrate knowledge of national and state regulations for the practice of the physician assistant profession.

### Career Opportunities:

Physician Assistants practice in all health care settings, including clinics, private physician offices, hospitals, emergency departments and long-term care facilities. Physician Assistants can also participate in Physician Assistant education, academia and research. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the total number of physician assistant jobs in the U.S. will grow by 50% by 2014. Our

program emphasizes employment in rural and inner-city medically under-served communities.

**Units required for Major: 97.5**

**Units required for Certificate: 97.5**

### Associate Degree Requirements:

- English proficiency: ENGL 1A, 1AH, 1S & 1T, ESLL 26 or equivalent.
- Mathematics proficiency: MATH 57, 105, 108 or equivalent.

A minimum of 90 units is required\* to include:

- All Foothill General Education requirements (30 Units)
- Core courses (97.5 Units)

\*Additional elective course work may be necessary to meet the 90-unit minimum requirement for the associate degree.

NOTE: All courses pertaining to the major must be taken for a letter grade. In addition, a GPA of 2.0 or higher is required in all core courses for the degree or certificate.

### Program Types:

**AS = Associate in Science Degree.**

**CA = Certificate of Achievement.**

### Additional Information:

The program is 21 months in length, presented in seven quarters and leads to a Certificate of Achievement. Completion of these courses prepares the student for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE). All courses must be taken in sequence.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1st**

Academic Prerequisites

All applicants must complete the following courses at an accredited college or university:

- Human Anatomy with lab, Human Physiology with lab and Microbiology with lab must be completed with a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- Human Anatomy\* with Lab (4 semester units or 5 quarter units)
- Human Physiology\* with Lab (4 semester units or 5 quarter units)
- Microbiology with Lab (4 semester units or 5 quarter units)
- Introductory Chemistry (3 semester units or 4 quarter units)
- Intermediate Algebra (3 Semester units or 4 Quarter units)
- English Composition - ENGL 1A or equivalent. (3 semester units or 4 quarter units)
- Introduction to Sociology or Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3 semester units or 4 quarter units)
- Introduction to or General Psychology (3 semester units or 4 quarter units)



\* For combined Human Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) classes, a full academic year curriculum is required. All combined coursework for A & P must total at least of 8 semester units or 12 quarter units.

Please Note: Due to recent Education Code changes, students attempting to re-take courses may be unable to gain admission to repeat courses. Due to this change, Human Anatomy, Human Physiology and Microbiology is no longer required to be completed within 5 years. However, it is still highly recommended.

NOTE: A criminal background check is required by the Program. Drug testing may be required by clinical facilities. Positive results could impact a student's ability to attend clinics, complete program requirements or gain a license to practice upon graduation. Students are responsible for the cost of the required screenings and tests.

#### Clinical Prerequisites

A minimum of 3,000 hours of direct patient care experience in the US must be completed by the application deadline. This requirement can be met with 18 months of full-time work experience or equivalent part-time hours (paid and/or volunteer). Hours accrued as a student in a training program cannot be used to meet clinical prerequisites. The amount of direct patient contact and level of patient care responsibility is considered when evaluating prior clinical experience. Successful applicants come from a variety of clinical backgrounds, including but not limited to: Medical Assistant (Back Office), Military Medical Corpsman, Nurse (RN or LVN), Paramedic, Radiology Technician, Physical Therapist, Respiratory Therapist. Other clinical experiences involving direct patient care are evaluated on an individual basis. Questions regarding General Education and prerequisite requirements can be answered by the Counseling office. To schedule an appointment with the Foothill College PCA Program Counselor call (650) 949-7423.

#### Preceptorships

The Primary Care Associate Program offers a curriculum that emphasizes community-based clinical training in combination with a didactic program. Much of the training takes place in the office of a preceptor - a practicing physician who teaches the student during the course of his/her regular practice. The Program is responsible for providing and approving a preceptor but allows the student to propose potential sites. During the preceptorship, the Program retains responsibility for student training and evaluation. Preceptorships occur in a variety of clinical settings throughout California. Applicants from the community satellites, if accepted, are expected to do their clinical training in their designated satellite county.

#### Core Courses: 98.5 Unit(s)

NOTE: All courses except PCA 50 prepare the student for the

Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).

#### Spring

PCA 50 Orientation to Primary Care Associate Program (1 unit)

#### Summer\*\*

PCA 51A Basic Science/Microbiology/Infectious Disease (2 units)

PCA 52A Anatomy/Physiology/Pathophysiology I (5 units)

PCA 53A Pharmacology I (3 units)

PCA 54A Pre-Clinical I (3 units)

PCA 55A Professionalism/Cultural Medicine I (1 unit)

PCA 56A Core Medicine I (6 units)

#### Fall\*\*

PCA 52B Anatomy/Physiology/Pathophysiology II (5 units)

PCA 53B Pharmacology II (3 units)

PCA 54B Pre-Clinical II (3 units)

PCA 55B Professionalism/Cultural Medicine II (.5 unit)

PCA 56B Core medicine II (8.5 units)

\*\* Students attend classes at Stanford Monday through Friday. Broad overview of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology, pharmacology, and basic science is completed before beginning the study of each body system and common primary health care problems. Instruction on professionalism is included. Students participate in clinical skills sessions and workshops.

#### Winter

PCA 54C Pre-Clinical III (4 units)

PCA 55C Professionalism/Cultural Medicine III (.5 unit)

PCA 56C Core Medicine III (9 units)

PCA 60A Preceptorship I (4 units)

Students attend classes episodically at Stanford Monday through Friday, with weeks spent in clinical training sites. Students continue to learn about management of acute and chronic primary health care problems, including issues at end of life. Students study the range of health care conditions of pediatric and geriatric patients. Instruction on professionalism is included. Students participate in lectures, laboratory, clinical skill sessions and workshops. Students start their clinical training in their primary preceptorship clinical sites.

#### Spring

PCA 54D Pre-Clinical IV (1 unit)

PCA 56D Core Medicine IV (5 units)

PCA 60B Preceptorship II (6 units)

Students attend classes episodically at Stanford Monday through Friday, with weeks spent in their clinical training sites. Students continue to learn about management of acute and chronic primary health care problems. Classes focus on preparing students for specialty rotations in later quarters: Emergency medicine, in-patient care and surgical rotations.



Students continue their clinical training at their primary preceptor sites. Students will also participate in pediatric, geriatrics, obstetrics and gynecological rotations.

#### Summer

PCA 56E Core Medicine V (1.5 units)

PCA 60C Preceptorship III (7 units)

Students attend classes episodically at Stanford Monday through Friday, with weeks spent in their clinical training sites. Classes include study of Public health issues. Students are allowed to start rotations in emergency medicine, in-patient care and surgery care.

#### Fall

PCA 56F Core Medicine VI (1.5 units)

PCA 60D Preceptorship IV (7 units)

Students attend classes episodically at Stanford Monday through Friday, with weeks spent in their clinical training sites. Classes include study of Public health issues. Students continue clinical training in their primary preceptors sites, pediatrics, geriatrics, obstetrics and gynecology; students may participate in rotations in emergency medicine, inpatient care, and surgery care.

#### Winter

PCA 55D Professionalism/Cultural Medicine IV (3 units)

PCA 56G Core Medicine VII (2 units)

PCA 60E Preceptorship V (6 units)

Students attend classes episodically at Stanford Monday through Friday, with weeks spent in their clinical training sites. Classes provide information on preparation for practice and PA licensing. Students continue clinical training in their primary preceptors sites, pediatrics, geriatrics, obstetrics and gynecology; students may participate in rotations in emergency medicine, inpatient care, and surgery care. This quarter helps the student to analyze and organize the full scope of core medicine in a format that integrates multiple levels of skills in managing patients of all ages and gender, in health, illness and end of life in a primary care setting.

#### **Certificates:**

##### **Certificate of Achievement, Primary Care Associate 97.5 Unit(s)**

The Certificate of Achievement is awarded upon completion of the Program Prerequisites and Core Courses taken in sequence. General education courses are not required.