



Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS)  
Program Policy and Procedure Handbook  
Academic Year 2021-2023



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# Pace University – Lenox Hill Hospital Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS)

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## *Program Policy and Procedure Handbook*

*Academic Year 2021-2023*

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This PA program policy and procedure handbook has been developed by the faculty and administration of the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program to provide the student with specific guidelines, rights, and responsibilities regarding the Physician Assistant Program. This handbook is designed to supplement rather than supplant existing University policies and procedures, including those set forth in the University graduate catalog and student handbook. We encourage every student to become familiar with and refer to those and other University publications for further information. Students are responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable policies of Pace University and the Physician Assistant Program.

Any questions regarding policies contained within this handbook should be directed to the Chair of the Physician Assistant Program. Although every effort has been made to make this manual as complete and up-to-date as possible, it should be recognized that circumstances will occur which the handbook does not cover. The handbook may also be altered due to changes in the program policies. Students will be notified of any changes or additions in writing.

When the handbook does not cover a specific circumstance or the interpretation of a policy is ambiguous, the Chair of the Program will make the necessary decision or interpretation. If students have questions regarding a situation, they should discuss them with the Chair of the Physician Assistant Program.

Please note that if there is any conflict between the specific policies and procedures set forth in this handbook and general University policies and procedures, the policies and procedures in this handbook shall be controlling. We hope you find this handbook helpful and wish you success in your studies.

-- The PA Program Faculty

New policies approved after publication of this handbook may add to or supersede those contained herein.

Policies are derived from the

“Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education”

Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA)

## Accreditation Status

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Pace University. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2023. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

As part of the licensing process in most states, including New York, both successful completion of an accredited program and passage of the PANCE are required to practice. Specific information regarding the licensing process can be obtained by contacting the licensing authority in the state in which you intend to practice.

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## General Information

### Program Mission

The mission of the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program is to graduate physician assistants with the requisite knowledge and skills necessary to function in diverse settings. The Program develops leaders committed to professionalism and community engagement.

### Program Vision

The Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program will prepare lifelong learners to succeed within the rapidly changing health care landscape who are committed to becoming leaders in the PA profession and community.

### Program Goals for Meeting PA Core Competencies

GOAL	ASSESSMENT METHOD (Benchmark)	OUTCOME CLASS OF
GOAL #1 Students will be prepared with the requisite medical knowledge and skills to enter clinical practice	PANCE first-time pass rate (above national average)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
	Class mean scores for PAEA EORs (above national average)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
	Passage of summative OSCE exam (90% will pass on the first attempt)	2020 – 100% 2019 – 92% 2018 – 94%
GOAL #2 Students will be prepared to function in diverse settings	Didactic & clinical curriculum to include diversity education (1 didactic and 1 clinical course)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
	Diversity of clinical experience (100% of students have exposure to diverse patient populations & clinical sites)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
GOAL #3 Engage in a culture of commitment to the PA profession	Faculty participation in national, state and local organizations (>90% of faculty belong to national, state or local professional organizations)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
	Student participation in national, state & local organizations (100% of students belong to AAPA & NYSSPA)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
	Faculty hold national state or local leadership positions (at least 5% of faculty)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
GOAL #4 Encourage community outreach & engagement	Assign a faculty member to help coordinate community engagement	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met

	projects (1 faculty member/class will volunteer)	
	Outreach or public service activities (80% of first-year students will participate in at least 2 outside community engagement projects during their didactic year)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
GOAL #5 Support students throughout all phases of their education	Attrition (not to exceed 5%)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
	Graduations Rates (> 90%)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met
	Identified at-risk students are placed in guided study or remediation programs (100% of at-risk students)	2020 – Goal met 2019 – Goal met 2018 – Goal met

See program goals and success at <https://chp.pace.edu/program-goals-and-success>

**Sponsorship**

On July 31,1996, the New York State Education Department registered the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program. The Commission on Higher Education Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools accredits Pace University. The most recent reaccreditation was awarded in 2014. Pace’s clinical affiliate, Lenox Hill Hospital was awarded three-year accreditation by the Joint Commission following its most recent survey in February of 2017. The residency programs offered by Lenox Hill Hospital are accredited by their respective agencies.

**History of the Physician Assistant Profession**

In 1965, Dr. Eugene Stead of Duke University founded the first Physician Assistant (PA) Training Program. Soon after, similar programs were begun in other states; by 1971, over 50 PA educational programs had been established in colleges, universities, and medical centers across the country. Existing financial support from the government was expanded in 1971 with passage of the Comprehensive Health Manpower Act and continued in the 1980s in the form of categorical grants funded under the authority of the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act. The medical establishment joined in early efforts to solidify the PA profession. In 1970, the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates recommended that states be encouraged to amend medical practice acts to allow physicians to delegate tasks to qualified PAs. The following year the AMA took steps, through its Council on Medical Education, to recognize and accredit the rapidly growing number of PA training programs. The founders of the PA concept believed that the key to success was a close practice relationship with physicians. Therefore, efforts to legally sanction PA practice were aimed at modifying existing laws to allow physicians to delegate a wide variety of medical tasks to PAs. Physician Assistants were not introduced to assume new roles brought about by advances in medical technology. Rather, they were to perform duties previously performed only by doctors – history taking, physical examination, diagnosis, and patient management. A physician-dependent role afforded PAs a large amount of responsibility for patient care, yet did not usurp the ultimate authority of physicians. Thus, the legal basis for PA practice is built upon physician supervision, a relatively unique arrangement among health providers.

To ensure the competence of PAs emerging medical practice, the AMA and the PA profession worked

with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to produce a national competency examination. In 1975 an independent organization, the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), was created to administer a certification program that involves an entry-level examination (developed in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners), as well as continuing medical education and periodic re-examination. As the first Physician Assistants entered practice, they quickly began to organize their young profession. The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), established in 1968, serves the interests of graduate and student PAs in areas such as government affairs, public education and professional development, while its chapters work to advance the profession on the state level. A closely related organization, the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP), represents the interests of PA educational programs.

Throughout the 1970s, health services researchers focused attention on physician assistants to observe their acceptance by physicians and patients, the content and quality of the care provided, cost effectiveness and productivity, and willingness to practice in medically underserved areas. The 1980s and 90s brought about the continued expansion of training programs for PAs and further utilization in a wider range of practice settings than had ever been anticipated by its founders. Today PAs play an integral role in many aspects of the health care system. Current transitions in managed care have resulted in the incorporation of PAs into reimbursement formulas. In the next several decades the expansion of opportunities for PAs in primary care and other specialties will become limitless.

### Program Faculty and Administration

The Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program is administered by the faculty and department personnel listed below. The Program administration is responsible for class selection, curriculum design and development, student and course evaluation, student advising, and other matters relevant to the Program. It is important to the faculty of the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program that there is open communication between students, faculty and staff. It is our intention, therefore, that all department personnel be available for student consultation as required.

### Program Leadership

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## General Standards

### Program Technical Standards

Pace University complies with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as well as state and local laws which prohibit institutions of higher education from discriminating against students with disabilities. Although all applicants and students are held to the same technical and academic standards, reasonable accommodations are provided to qualified individuals with a disability. In order to request a reasonable accommodation, applicants and students should read Information for Students with Disabilities which may be found at <https://www.pace.edu/counseling/student-accessibility-services> and then contact the Coordinator of Disability Services for their campus.

The ability to meet the technical standards and educational objectives established by the program is essential for the fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree (MSPAS). The academic and technical standards established by the faculty require that all students accepted by the Pace University – Lenox Hill Hospital PA Program possess the physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities that ensure that they will be able to complete all aspects of the curriculum. Students admitted to the Physician Assistant (PA) Program must have the intellectual, emotional and physical abilities to acquire the knowledge, behaviors, and clinical skills needed to successfully complete the entire curriculum and practice medicine as a physician assistant. The technical standards outlined below ("Technical Standards"), in conjunction with established academic standards, are followed by the Admissions Committee to select students who possess the intelligence, integrity, physical, and personal as well as emotional characteristics that are necessary to become an effective physician assistant. The Program and sponsoring institution must maintain the integrity of the curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the education of a physician assistant. The program and sponsoring institution cannot compromise the health and safety of others and reserve the right not to admit any applicant who cannot meet the technical standards or who would constitute a direct threat to the health and safety of others, e.g., those individuals who are currently impaired by alcohol or substance abuse cannot meet the Technical Standards.

### Technical Standards

Granting of the PA degree signifies that the holder is a physician assistant prepared for entry into the practice of medicine. Therefore, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills to practice medicine as PAs in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Candidates must also have the physical and emotional stamina to function in a competent manner in educational and practice settings that may involve heavy workloads and stressful situations. Accordingly, candidates for the degree must be able to perform specific essential functions that the faculty deem requisite for the practice of medicine. These functions, expressed as technical standards, fall into several broad categories, including observation, communication; motor; conceptual, integrative and quantitative; and behavioral and social.

*Observation:* Candidates must be able to observe demonstrations in the basic sciences, medical illustrations and models, microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathological states. They must also be able to directly and accurately observe a patient's demeanor, see a patient's physical condition, and obtain a medical history and perform a physical examination correctly on the patient in order to integrate the information derived from these observations in order to develop an accurate diagnostic and treatment plan. These skills require the functional use of vision, hearing, smell, and somatic sensation.

*Communication:* Candidates must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in a clinical setting and elicit information, perceive nonverbal communications and detect changes in mood. They must be able to record information accurately and clearly, speak fluent English, and communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and families. Candidates must also be able to communicate effectively with other members of the healthcare team in oral, written and electronic form, and provide accurate information in patient care settings in which decisions based upon those communications must be made rapidly.

*Motor:* Candidates must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers necessary to complete a full physical examination. They must possess motor function sufficient to perform basic laboratory tests (e.g., urinalysis, CBC, etc.) and carry out diagnostic procedures (e.g., venipuncture, arterial puncture, paracentesis, thoracentesis, lumbar puncture, etc.). These skills require coordination of gross and fine muscle movements, equilibrium, and sensation. Candidates must be able to execute the appropriate motor movements required to provide general care as well as emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physician assistants are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the management of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. A candidate must be able to transport themselves from one location to another in a timely fashion in order to facilitate patient care responsibilities and receive educational training.

*Interpretative, Conceptual, and Quantitative:* Candidates for the degree must have effective and efficient learning techniques and habits that allow for mastery of the complex PA curriculum. They must be able to learn through a variety of modalities, including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group activities, individual study, preparation and presentation of reports, and use of computer technology. They must be able to memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize. They must also be able to comprehend spatial relationships and three-dimensional models.

*Behavioral and Social Attributes:* Candidates must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within the guidelines established by the law and by the ethical standards of the PA profession. They must be able to relate to patients and their families, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team with courtesy, maturity, and respect for the dignity of individuals. This requires that they place the welfare of their patients foremost, and demonstrate honesty, integrity, dedication, compassion and nondiscrimination in the care of their patients. They must at all times demonstrate the emotional stability to be able to exercise good judgment and carry out prompt completion of all the responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of their patients in a sensitive and effective manner. This sensitivity includes self-examination of personal attitudes, perceptions, and stereotypes in order to avoid potential negative impact on relationships and patient care. Applicants must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and professional responsibility to their patients, and to learn to function in an environment of uncertainty, in which changes may occur rapidly and without warning. A candidate must be able to accept criticism and respond by a modification of behavior. All of these personal qualities will be assessed during the admissions and educational process.

## Functions, Tasks and Technical Procedures

Supervised clinical practice experiences must enable all students to meet the program's learning outcomes:

1. for preventive, emergent, acute, and chronic patient encounters,

2. across the life span, to include infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly,
3. for women's health (to include prenatal and gynecologic care),
4. for conditions requiring surgical management, including pre-operative, intra-operative, post-operative care, and
5. for behavioral and mental health conditions.

Core Skills and Procedures graduates are expected to perform:

- OSHA and HIPAA Regulations
- Comprehensive and focused history taking and physical examination of all patient populations across the life span, to include infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly, including prenatal care and appropriate care of patients from diverse backgrounds
- Basic and Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certifications
- Male genital and rectal/prostate examination
- Female pelvic, and rectal examination
- Wound care - sterile technique, suturing, dressing
- Basic surgical skills - scrub, gown, glove, sterile technique
- Surgical dressing change
- Suturing
- Stapling
- Venipuncture
- IM and SC injections
- Intradermal and Intramuscular injections
- IV cannulation
- IV/Hep-lock insertion
- Casting and splinting
- Interpreting diagnostic imaging
- Interpreting EKGs
- Interpreting laboratory values
- Arterial Blood Gas (ABG)
- Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG)
- Foley Catheter Placement (Male and Female)
- Nasogastric tube (NG tube)

## Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession

The PA Program educational objectives and expected graduate competencies are taken from the "Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession", crafted by the NCCPA, ARC-PA, APAP/PAEA, and the AAPA. These competencies are noted in the Student Handbooks and in each syllabus as they apply to the specific learning objectives of the course. All graduates will be expected to meet the "Competencies" which state the following:

### Medical Knowledge

Medical knowledge includes an understanding of pathophysiology, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, health promotion and disease prevention. Physician assistants must demonstrate core knowledge about established and evolving biomedical and clinical sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care in their area of practice. Physician assistants are expected to demonstrate an investigatory and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations.



Upon graduation our students are expected to:

1. understand etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathologic process, and epidemiology for medical conditions;
2. identify signs and symptoms of medical conditions;
3. select and interpret appropriate diagnostic or lab studies used in primary care;
4. manage general medical and surgical conditions to include understanding the indications, contraindications, side effects, interactions and adverse reactions of pharmacologic agents and other relevant treatment modalities;
5. identify the appropriate site of care for presenting conditions, including identifying emergent cases and those requiring referral or admission;
6. identify appropriate interventions for prevention of conditions;
7. identify the appropriate methods to detect conditions in an asymptomatic individual;
8. differentiate between the normal and the abnormal in anatomic, physiological, laboratory findings and other diagnostic data;
9. appropriately use history and physical findings and diagnostic studies to formulate a differential diagnosis; and
10. provide appropriate care to patients with chronic conditions.

### Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Interpersonal and communication skills encompass verbal, nonverbal, and written exchange of information. Physician assistants must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange with patients, their patients' families, physicians, professional associates, and the health care system.

Upon graduation our students are expected to:

1. create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients;
2. use effective listening, nonverbal, explanatory, questioning, and writing skills to elicit and provide information;
3. appropriately adapt communication style and messages to the context of the individual patient interaction;
4. work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group;
5. apply an understanding of human behavior;
6. demonstrate emotional resilience and stability, adaptability, flexibility and tolerance of ambiguity and anxiety; and
7. accurately and adequately document and record information regarding the care process for medical, legal, quality and financial purposes.

### Patient Care

Patient care includes age-appropriate assessment, evaluation, and management. Physician assistants must demonstrate care that is effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of wellness.

Upon graduation our students are expected to:

1. work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals to provide patient-centered care;
2. demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families;
3. gather essential and accurate information about their patients;
4. make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment;

5. develop and carry out patient management plans;
6. counsel and educate patients and their families;
7. competently perform the medical and surgical procedures considered essential in the area of practice; and
8. provide health care services and education aimed at preventing health problems or maintaining health.

### Professionalism

Professionalism is the expression of positive values and ideals as care is delivered. Foremost, it involves prioritizing the interests of those being served above one's own. Physician assistants must know their professional and personal limitations. Professionalism also requires that PAs practice without impairment from substance abuse, cognitive deficiency, or mental illness. Physician assistants must demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements.

Upon graduation our students are expected to demonstrate:

1. understanding of legal and regulatory requirements, as well as the appropriate role of the physician assistant;
2. professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers;
3. respect, compassion, and integrity;
4. responsiveness to the needs of patients and society;
5. accountability to patients, society, and the profession;
6. commitment to excellence and on-going professional development;
7. commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices;
8. sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender, and disabilities; and
9. self-reflection, critical curiosity, and initiative.

### Practice-based Learning and Improvement

Practice-based learning and improvement includes the processes through which clinicians engage in critical analysis of their own practice experience, medical literature, and other information resources for the purpose of self-improvement. Physician assistants must be able to assess, evaluate, and improve their patient care practices.

Upon graduation our students are expected to:

1. analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities using a systematic methodology in concert with other members of the health care delivery team;
2. locate, appraise, and integrate evidence from scientific studies related to their patient's health problems;
3. obtain and apply information about their population of patients and the larger population from which their patients are drawn;
4. apply knowledge or study designs, and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical studies and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness;
5. apply information technology to manage information, access on-line medical information, and support their education;
6. facilitate the learning of students and/or other healthcare professionals; and
7. recognize and appropriately address gender, cultural, cognitive, emotional and other biases; gaps in medical knowledge; and physical limitations in themselves and others.

### System-based Practice

Systems-based practice encompasses the societal, organizational and economic environments in which health care is delivered. Physician assistants must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger system of health care to provide patient care that is of optimal value. PAs should work to improve the larger health care system of which their practices are a part.

Upon graduation our students are expected to:

1. use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education;
2. effectively interact with different types of medical practice and delivery systems;
3. understand the funding sources and payment systems that provide coverage for patient care;
4. practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care;
5. advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities;
6. partner with supervising physicians, health care managers and other health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve the delivery of health care and patient outcomes;
7. accept responsibility for promoting a safe environment for patient care and recognizing and correcting systems-based factors that negatively impact patient care;
8. apply medical information and clinical data systems to provide more effective, efficient patient care; and
9. use the systems responsible for the appropriate payment of services.

### Standards of Professional Conduct

As health care practitioners, physician assistants are required to conform to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct. Physician assistant students also are expected to adhere to the same high ethical and professional standards required of physician assistants.

The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) has identified four primary bioethical principles, i.e., autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice, which form the foundation of the Statement of Values of the Physician Assistant Profession. The Statement of Values provides a guideline for ethical conduct by physician assistants. A complete discussion of the ethical conduct required of physician assistants can be found at the AAPA website: <https://www.aapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/16-EthicalConduct.pdf>.

In addition to the AAPA's guidelines, the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) recently adopted a code of conduct for certified and certifying physician assistants. NCCPA's code of conduct "outlines principles that all certified or certifying physician assistants are expected to uphold." A complete discussion can be found at: <https://www.nccpa.net/code-of-conduct>.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), the accrediting body for physician assistant programs, recognizes that "The role of the physician assistant demands intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, appropriate interpersonal skills and the capacity to react to emergencies in a calm and reasoned manner. An attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality in communicating with patients, and a commitment to the patient's welfare are essential attributes." (Further information may be found at the website of the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, <http://www.arc-pa.org/about/pas/>)

In addition to knowing and complying with the principles and standards promulgated by the AAPA, NCCPA, and the ARC-PA, physician assistant students are required to know and comply with the

policies, procedures and rules of the Physician Assistant Program and the University (including, without limitation, the Guiding Principles of Conduct found in the Pace University Student Handbook, <https://www.pace.edu/student-handbook>, and the policies, procedures and rules of each clinical site to which the student is assigned.

Please refer to the Northwell Health Employee Handbook section on “Conduct in the Workplace”. Although students in the PA Program are not considered employees of Northwell Health, they should utilize this policy as a basis for professionalism while participating in clinical experiences within the hospital (<https://www.northwell.edu/employees/new-employee-onboarding>). Further, physician assistant students are required to conduct themselves in a manner that complies with the following principles and standards:

### Respect

Physician assistant students are expected to treat all patients, faculty, staff, clinical preceptors, health care workers, and fellow students with dignity and respect. For example, physician assistant students must be able to:

- recognize and embrace their role as a member of a team and interact with others on the team in a cooperative and considerate manner;
- maintain and exhibit respect for the privacy and confidentiality of fellow students during activities with other students, including but not limited to physical examinations of fellow students or discussion groups that may reveal personal information;
- offer criticism or suggestions in a thoughtful manner that fosters respect and trust and be willing to accept and apply constructive feedback; and
- remain professional and maintain a calm demeanor and respond in accordance with the standards of professional conduct when confronted by another member of the team with conduct that may be inappropriate or when faced with emergency or highly stressful situations.

### Accountability

Physician assistant students have a unique role in health care delivery. In that role, physician assistant students are accountable for:

- performance of only those procedures authorized by the Program, clinical site, supervisor and/or preceptor and always required to exercise sound judgement;
- functioning at all times under the supervision of a preceptor while at clinical sites and prohibited from assuming primary responsibility for a patient’s care. For example, students shall not treat or discharge a patient without prior consultation with and approval of a clinical preceptor or supervisor;
- timely completion of all assignments and duties effectively and to the best of their ability; and
- identifying and reporting unprofessional, unethical and/or illegal behavior by health care professionals and students, faculty, and staff of the Physician Assistant Program. If a physician assistant student has a reasonable belief that such conduct has occurred, he or she should report it to the Program Director, preceptor, supervisor, or clinical coordinator, as may be appropriate under the circumstances.

### Concern for the Patient

Physician assistant students must, by their words and behavior, demonstrate concern for the patient. Concern for the patient is manifested in many ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- Physician assistant students must treat patients and their families with dignity and respect and use appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication to convey concern, pleasantness, and

- professionalism to the patient. At all times, the physical and emotional comfort of the patient is of paramount importance.
- Students shall deliver health care services to patients without regard to their race, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, creed, disability, medical condition, socioeconomic status or political beliefs, or any status protected by law.
  - Students may not accept gifts or gratuities from patients or their families.
  - Sexual and romantic relationships with patients are prohibited and will not be tolerated.

#### Timeliness and Lateness

Attendance and timeliness are important aspects of professional behavior. Students are expected to report to all classes, online activities, labs, seminars, call back days, clinical sites, and other scheduled activities on time. Timely return from designated breaks is required. Students must return messages from Program staff, faculty, clinical preceptors, patients, and clinical sites in a timely manner (i.e., in less than 36 hours). Students must submit all required assignments and forms on or before the designated date and/or time they are due.

**The professional conduct of physician assistant students is evaluated on an on-going basis throughout the professional phase (i.e., the didactic and clinical years) of the Program. Violations of standards of conduct are subject to disciplinary actions administered by the University and by the Physician Assistant Program.**

#### Academic Integrity

Physician assistant students are expected to comply with the University's and College of Health Professions Academic Integrity Code which may be found in the Pace University Student Handbook (<http://www.pace.edu/student-handbook/university-policies-disciplinary-and-grievance-procedures>).

In addition, physician assistant students must know and comply with the academic integrity policy of the Physician Assistant Program which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Students are not permitted to use notes or other materials during examinations unless expressly authorized in advance to do so by the instructor.
- Students are required to do their own work and, without prior approval of the instructor, may not submit work created by others as their own work or knowingly allow another student to copy or use his or her work.
- Students are required to sit for examinations that are submitted to fulfill their own academic obligations; students may not have another student or person take an examination for them.
- The same academic work may not be submitted more than once for credit or to fulfill the requirements of an academic exercise.
- Obtaining a copy of an examination or graded assignment (e.g., case presentation, patient education project) used in a previous year or completed by another person is prohibited.
- Prior to taking an examination or completing an assignment, students are not permitted to review prior related examination questions or answers and/or graded assignments completed by another person.
- A student must give proper attribution when using the words or ideas of another person, whether in a written or oral academic exercise. This includes, among other things, proper citation of quoted and paraphrased material.
- Knowingly presenting false information to Program faculty, staff, supervisors, patients, or clinical preceptors is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to, falsifying laboratory data, patient information, or forging another's name or signature on required program documents such as preceptor evaluations.

- Misrepresenting oneself as a graduate of the Program or one's physician assistant student status as, for example, a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, medical resident, and the like, is prohibited.

### **PAEA Exam Honor Code**

Students in the didactic and clinical year will be required to adhere to PAEA examination and honor code policies. Please review all policies in the below link and your signature on the performance agreement acknowledges that you fully understand the information.

(<https://paeaonline.org/resources/public-resources/paea-news/maintaining-exam-integrity-during-covid-19>)

### **The Center for Excellence in Healthcare Simulation Code of Conduct**

The College of Health Professions Center for Excellence in Healthcare Simulation training facility contains simulation centers, laboratories, and classrooms for inter-professional collaboration and to permit students to hone their clinical skills in an environment focusing on patient safety and quality.

At the start of your didactic year an orientation of the training facility will be delivered along with a discussion of the formal Code of Conduct compliance agreement. The Center for Excellence in Healthcare Simulation is to be treated like a real clinical environment. The Center provides a safe learning environment, and all simulations are for learning purposes only. Student performance during a simulation is not to be discussed outside of the course. As a healthcare professional, you are to treat the simulator like your patient.

Please see Center for Excellence in Healthcare Simulation Code of Conduct Compliance Agreement.

## Student Resources

### Professional Agencies and Regulatory Bodies

#### Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA)

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) is the recognized accrediting agency that protects the interests of the public and PA profession by defining the standards for PA education and evaluating PA educational programs within the territorial United States to ensure their compliance with those standards.

The ARC-PA encourages excellence in PA education through its accreditation process, by establishing and maintaining minimum standards of quality for educational programs. It awards accreditation to programs through a peer review process that includes documentation and periodic site visit evaluation to substantiate compliance with the Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education. The accreditation process is designed to encourage sound educational experimentation and innovation and to stimulate continuous self-study and improvement. (<http://www.arc-pa.org>)

#### American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)

The AAPA is the national professional organization of physician assistants. Its membership includes graduate and student physician assistants as well as affiliate membership for physicians and physician assistant educators. The Academy provides a wide range of services for its members from representation before federal and state governments and health related organizations, public education, pamphlets and brochures, insurance and financial programs, and employment assistance. Their mission is to lead the profession and empower members to advance their careers and enhance patient health. Their vision is to see PAs transforming health through patient-centered, team-based medical practice.

As an AAPA member, you also receive multiple publications, free record keeping and reporting of CME requirements, and are entitled to a membership discount for the annual spring conference. Student Physician Assistant Societies are an integral part of the AAPA and make up a body referred to as the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA). The Student Academy meets yearly at the national spring conference to elect officers and representatives. The Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program encourages each of you to take an active interest in this process. A student must be in good standing, with no history of academic or professional probation, in order to hold a leadership role within the program's SAAAPA group.

The national organization represents you and as such deserves your support during your student years and as a graduate Physician Assistant. Membership to professional organizations is another benefit also routinely covered by employers. (<https://www.aapa.org/>)

#### New York State Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA)

The NYSSPA is the state constituent chapter of the APAA. Currently all fifty states have similar chartered constituent chapters. The NYSSPA mission is to provide PAs a collective voice through advocacy and enhancing the environment of PA practice focused on quality patient and healthcare outcomes. Their collective vision is to promote and empower PAs as leaders and integral members of healthcare.

NYSSPA provides continual representation of PA interests in both Washington, DC and Albany with both federal and state health profession's organizations as well as the State Department of Health (DOH) and the State Education Department (SED). The Student Affairs Committee of NYSSPA promotes

student issues and interests within the Society. Any student enrolled in a New York PA Program approved by the Board of Directors is eligible for student membership. Student members may hold a place on the Board of Directors and are also eligible for scholarship monies. <http://www.nysspa.org>

### National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

All graduates of Physician Assistant Programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) are eligible to sit for the national certifying exam (PANCE) offered by the NCCPA. Registration applications are completed during the clinical year of the Physician Assistant Program. Most states require graduates to take and successfully pass the national certification exam to continue employment. Please refer to the link below for exam scheduling requirements.

Once certified through the NCCPA, each graduate must obtain and report 100 hours of various required CME every two years. Recertification exams are also required at the end of each 10-year cycle in addition to the CME requirement. <http://www.nccpa.net>

### Libraries & Texts

The Henry Birnbaum Library is located on the Pace University, New York City Campus at 1 Pace Plaza. In addition to required texts, the library holds many supplemental texts and periodicals. The library also provides students with access to a wide spectrum of electronic information resources, on-line information and document retrieval systems and the Internet. These services allow students to obtain books, articles, research papers, or government documents from scholarly journals to which the Pace library does not hold subscriptions. The service desk can provide an information sheet detailing library hours and circulation policies. The instructional services librarians can assist with interlibrary loans and daily passes to other libraries in New York City. Additional information about library services is available on the Pace University website <http://www.pace.edu/library/>. The library liaison for the College of Health Professions (CHP) has created a library information module and PA webpage to further assist students with medical literature resources and research and can be found at <http://libguides.pace.edu/PAS>.

The Lenox Hill Hospital Health Sciences Library is available to all clinical year physician assistant students. This library's holdings include many general and specialty medicine texts and periodicals. On-line searches of the medical literature are also available. Please see the Medical Librarian at Lenox Hills Hospital for details regarding library hours. Additionally, various individual hospitals and clinical sites also offer electronic resources such as UpToDate, DynaMED, MDCConsult, Access Medicine, Access Surgery and Access Emergency Medicine.

A list of all required and recommended texts will be provided throughout the year via individual course syllabi. \*\*A majority of required textbooks can be accessed through: <https://accessmedicine.mhmedical.com/> with a Pace University username and password.

### Information Technology

The Information Technology Services (ITS) at Pace University offers students a wide variety of resources, including internet access on campus, computer labs, and software packages. More information is available at <https://www.pace.edu/its>. For live assistance with a technological concern, contact the Pace Helpdesk at 914-773-3648 or create a work request at <https://help.pace.edu>.

### Activate e-Mail

Access to Pace online systems requires an active account. Therefore, go to Pace University's directory at



<https://directory.pace.edu> and find your username/e-mail. Here are the steps:

1. Go to <https://directory.pace.edu>
2. Type your First and Last name in the Name textbox
3. Select Applicants in the Person Type textbox
4. Click Search
5. After receiving results, click View Details next to your name
6. Write down your Username. It will begin with your initials, followed by a sequence of numbers and a letter.

If your name does not appear, you may also try typing only your Last Name in the Name textbox and select All Staff, Faculty, and Students in the Person Type textbox. Once you have your e-mail or username (e-mail without “@pace.edu”), a one-time account activation at [adam.pace.edu](http://adam.pace.edu) is imperative. Password change/reset, e-mail forwarding, apps and software downloading, etc. are also done through [adam.pace.edu](http://adam.pace.edu).

### Duo Multifactor Authentication (Duo MFA)

Some Pace systems also require the Duo Multifactor Authentication (Duo MFA), also known as 2-Factor Authentication. It adds a second verification step by utilizing a mobile device in your possession, such as a cell phone or tablet, to complete authentication to a website or system. For example, when logging into the MyPacePortal, you will first enter your Pace username and password. Then, you will generate a separate passcode using the Duo MFA application on your phone or tablet. See the Duo enrollment instruction at

<https://paceuniversity.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/KBT/pages/724795685/Duo+MFA+First+Device+Enrollment> and the list of protected systems at

<https://paceuniversity.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/KBT/pages/720601093/Duo+Multifactor+Authentication+MFA>.

### MyPacePortal

The MyPacePortal is available to students for registration, to see grades, financial aid status, and other student records, to submit a health insurance waiver and other university forms, and more. Here are the steps to log in:

1. Go to <https://portal5login.pace.edu>
2. Type your MyPace Portal Username in the Username textbox
3. Type your New MyPace Portal Password in the Password textbox
4. Click Login

### Computer Labs and Printing Services

To use a computer or software for Mac and PC, the Computer Resource Center (CRC) at One Pace Plaza, Room W202, has open-access computing labs for Pace students, faculty, staff, and Alumni. The hours of operation is available at <https://www.pace.edu/its/its-service-areas/computer-labs>. Printing, copying, and scanning services using the Pharos Printing System are also available. Remote access to a computer is available through the Virtual Lab. No installation is necessary as it is accessing online at <https://virtuallab.pace.edu>.

### Financial Aid

Pace University students may be eligible for financial aid from Pace University, the federal government, New York State, and other organizations. Ms. Nakeba McKoy is the financial aid counselor for PA students, who can be reached at [nmckoy@pace.edu](mailto:nmckoy@pace.edu) and can provide information about financial aid services. Also see the information about general eligibility at <https://www.pace.edu/financial-aid/contact-us>.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of students' education records. FERPA affords eligible students with certain rights - one of these rights is to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII). To protect student's personally identifiable information (PII), Nakeba McKoy the Financial Aid liaison to the PA department, will not be accepting tax documentation, loan applications or any documents that include PII to her personal e-mail. All documentation listed above should be sent via the helpdesk or to [finacialaid@pace.edu](mailto:finacialaid@pace.edu) which is secure.

## Expenses

Current tuition and fees are available from the Office of Graduate Admissions and can be found at <https://www.pace.edu/admission-and-aid/graduate-admission/tuition-and-cost>. All costs are subject to change at any time.

Other costs to be considered by the student are books, rent and utilities, food, transportation, and personal medical insurance costs (<https://www.pace.edu/financial-aid/types-financial-aid/cost-attendance>). All students will be required to purchase medical diagnostic equipment and supplies, and lab coats. Students need to also consider costs for Infection Control Certification, HIPAA and OSHA Certification, Medical Terminology Certification, BLS/ACLS Certification, patient tracking software, immunization tracking software, PACKRAT and PANCE examinations. All travel costs during the duration of the program including travel to and from clinical rotations is the responsibility of the student. Any student who must repeat a clerkship for any reason will be responsible for any fees and applicable credit hours. **The Program is not responsible for any changes in the tuition or financial aid of students who must repeat a course/semester for academic or behavioral reasons. Nor is it responsible for changes made while a student is on a leave of absence.**

## Instructional Aids and Simulation Lab

The program utilizes several models, simulations, and computer programs. Holdings include breast exam and prostate exam models, Foley catheter male and female models, IV and suture arms, anatomy, dermatology, medicine and pharmacology videos, heart sound and EKG software, and history and physical exam recordings and demonstrations. Many of these are in the Interprofessional Center for Healthcare Simulation (ICHS) laboratory at 163 William Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10038. ICHS is a safe learning environment for clinical simulations and offers state-of-the-art resources. See more information at <https://www.pace.edu/college-health-professions/centers/center-excellence-healthcare-simulation/about-simulation-lab>. All students must adhere to the laboratory's code of conduct:

1. The Interprofessional Center for Healthcare Simulation (ICHS) laboratory is to be treated as a REAL clinical environment. Equipment, room design, and preparation are all geared towards mimicking a clinical environment and students are to behave as if they were in a clinical setting.
2. The ICHS is a safe learning environment; all simulations are for designing to meet learning objectives within your courses. Student performance during a simulation is not to be discussed outside of the course. Additionally, students must not discuss content of simulated exercises with other students after completion. Students should not arrive at the lab with prior knowledge of the exercise as it hinders their performance. (Honor Code)
3. Dress code for laboratory will be provided by faculty dependent upon skills being taught. If you are meeting or working with a Standardized patient, professional attire and a clean white coat is necessary.
4. The ICHS uses some equipment that contains latex. If you have a latex allergy, please notify your faculty as well as the staff of the ICHS.
5. You must wash your hands or use hand sanitizer prior upon entering the simulation room or a

standardized patient examination room. As a healthcare professional, you are to treat the simulator/standardized patient as you would in a clinical setting.

- a. You are expected to introduce yourself to your patient and provide your credentials
  - b. You are to inform your patient of their plan of care, lab results, procedures, and medications as applicable.
6. Betadine and surgical lubricant or any type of marking device may not be used on any simulators unless instructed by lab staff.
  7. Discard all sharps, needles and syringes in red sharps boxes located in each room. Needles and syringes are not to be discarded in regular trash containers. All sharps, syringes and needles are to remain in the lab and should not be removed.
  8. All medications used in the laboratory are either simulated or expired and are not for clinical use and should not be removed.
  9. Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the skills lab, simulation suites or examination rooms.
  10. Students are responsible for their personal belongings. Belongings may be stored in the day use lockers by bringing your own lock to secure your belongings. Belongings cannot be left in the laboratory overnight.
  11. Students should clean up after skills sessions and discard trash in proper containers. All exam tables, stools, equipment and supplies should be returned to proper place before leaving the exam room.
  12. Simulations and standardized patient exercises are videotaped with Simcapture by Laerdal/Blinc corporation. By participating in a simulation you are acknowledging and agreeing to be recorded. Recorded video may be used for debriefing, educational, and publicity purposes unless explicitly requested otherwise by you in writing. Students may log into the access portal to watch their own videos. Students can only watch the videos of activities they have participated in.

## Professional Mentors

The Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Program recognizes the importance of professional role modeling. To this end, the Program recommends and fosters relationships between its students and many of the physician assistants who work at Lenox Hill Hospital outside of the Program. This relationship may take various forms from a one-time professional advisement session to shadowing or participation in an elective clerkship. The Program conducts scheduled social events during which students may meet and network with a larger group of physician assistants.

The program encourages students to join the Student Academy of American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA) at <https://www.aapa.org/about/aapa-governance-leadership/student-academy/> and the New York State Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA), which has an online section dedicated to students (<https://www.nysspa.org/page/PASStudentResources>). Students and faculty also attend professional NYSSPA and AAPA conferences; these conferences provide students additional opportunities to meet and network with physician assistants and other healthcare practitioners.

## The Pace Physician Assistant Student Society

The Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital PA Student Society is a chapter of the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA) and works in conjunction with AAPA to coordinate events and advocate for student and professional issues on a local, state and national level. The program's faculty advisor for SAAAPA is Dr. Elijah A.J. Salzer, DMSc, PA-C, NYSAFE, C-EFM. The Society serves as a communication link between the PA classes, faculty, staff and community. Student Society activities include community service, fundraising, public education and promotion of the PA profession. A few of the common Student Society activities include:

- Fundraising for local, national, and international relief efforts
- PA week activities (PAs on the Plaza)
- March Month of Service
- Oral health education awareness at local high schools
- Light The Night Walk: Taking Steps to Cure Cancer
- Attendance and participation at state and national PA conferences

A student must be in good standing, with no history of academic or professional probation, in order to hold a leadership role within the program's SAAAPA group. See more information at <https://www.aapa.org/about/aapa-governance-leadership/student-academy>.

## Safety and Security

The safety and security services at Pace University is available 24 hours a day, seven days per week. There is always a supervisor on duty in addition to regular patrols on campus buildings. All active students, staff, and faculty's Pace e-mail address and phone number are automatically added in the Pace Alert system upon enrolling or hiring. To update your preferences, confirm your mobile phone number, register supplemental contact information, update your contact information, or opt out of receiving messaging, visit this link, <https://appsrv.pace.edu/ConnectED/>.

The PaceSafe mobile app is the only app that integrates with Pace University's safety and security systems. This features the following:

- *Friend Walk*: Send your location to a friend, who can watch you walk home in real-time.
- *Incident Reporting*: Multiple ways to report a safety/security concern directly to Pace University Safety and Security.
- *Events and Training*: Stay up-to-date on all emergency preparedness and safety trainings and events.
- *Safety Notifications*: Receive instant notifications and instructions from campus Safety and Security when on-campus emergencies occur.
- *COVID-19 Self-Assessment*: Complete your daily symptom self-assessment right from the app! If you do not have a smartphone and are unable to use the PaceSafe app, please access our web-based daily health questionnaire.
- *Campus Safety Resources*: Access all important safety resources in one convenient app.
- *Emergency Procedures*: Learn what to do in case of an emergency.
- *Campus Maps*: View maps for all Pace campuses, as well as evacuation maps with emergency assembly areas.
- *Emergency Contacts*: Contact the correct services for the Pace University area in case of an emergency or a non-emergency concern.

The above information has been derived from the Security and Emergency Management website at <https://www.pace.edu/security-emergency-management>.

## Student Services at Pace

The following are just some of the many useful services available at the Pace University and students should consult the Pace University website at <https://www.pace.edu/parents-families> and the catalog for further information on these and other services that are of interest to them:

- Dean for Students (<https://www.pace.edu/student-affairs>)
- Student IT Resources (<https://www.pace.edu/its/it-services-and-support/students-resources>)
- Center for Academic Excellence (<https://catalog.pace.edu/undergraduate/general->

- [university/academic-co-curricular-services/center-academic-excellence-cae/](https://www.pace.edu/academic-co-curricular-services/center-academic-excellence-cae/))
- Computer Labs (<https://www.pace.edu/its/its-service-areas/computer-labs>)
- The Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://www.pace.edu/multicultural-affairs>)
- English Language Institute (<https://www.pace.edu/eli>)
- Academic Centers and Institutes (<https://catalog.pace.edu/undergraduate/schools/dyson-college-arts-sciences/academic-centers-institutes/>)
- Center for Community Action and Research (<https://www.pace.edu/dyson/centers/center-for-community-action-and-research>)

## Self-Care Statement

Your academic success in this program and throughout your college career depends heavily on your personal health and well-being. Stress is a common part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected life changes outside the classroom. The Program strongly encourages you to take care of yourself throughout your educational experience.

Please feel free to talk with faculty about any difficulties you may be having that may impact your performance in this demanding program as soon as it occurs and before it becomes unmanageable. Please know there are a number of other support services on campus that stand ready to assist you. We strongly encourage you to contact them as needed and the following mechanisms have been established to deal with the stresses that you may incur.

### Identification and Prevention

1. Student input (SAAAPA President and Director's Hours)
2. Required faculty advising sessions
3. Discussion and observation by clinical preceptors
4. Discussion and observation by Program faculty
5. Discussion of 'Student Concerns' in Program advisement meetings

### Treatment

- Pace University Health Care Unit (212-346-1600)  
<http://www.pace.edu/college-health-professions/university-health-care>
- Pace University Counseling Center (212-346-1526)  
<http://www.pace.edu/counseling-center/>
  - Community Resources  
<https://www.pace.edu/counseling/contact-us>
  - Mental Health Line – 1-888-NYC-WELL
    - free, confidential help line for New York City residents
    - 24 hours per day/7 days per week
    - trained mental health professionals help callers find mental health services
    - <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/crisis-emergency-services.page>
- Crime Victims – 311
  - 24 Hour
  - <http://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/service/1467/crime-victim-assistance>
- SUICIDE PREVENTION 24-hour HOTLINE – 212- 673-3000  
<http://www.samaritansnyc.org/>

Students who are directed to seek psychiatric or psychological services or other counseling may be required to present documentation of attendance at said sessions and/or submit a letter or certification of fitness to return to duty as a Physician Assistant student. Students are responsible for providing payment for services rendered by any agencies.

### Information for Students with Disabilities

Beginning a graduate career is an exciting and challenging experience. If you are a student with a disability, this experience can be especially challenging. Assistance is available to students with disabilities through the Counseling Center to enable them to have equal access to Pace University's educational programs and facilities (<https://www.pace.edu/counseling/student-accessibility-services>).

The same rigorous admission and academic standards apply to students with and without an accommodation. In order to support the continued success of students with special needs, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and is committed to providing equal access for all students to its facilities, programs, and activities. The University's commitment to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities includes providing reasonable accommodations for the needs of students with disabilities.

### Disabilities and Accommodations

Federal law, including the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, both as amended, as well as state and local laws prohibit institutions of higher education from discriminating against students with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act defines an individual with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities of the individual, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having an impairment.

Students with, among others, hearing, visual, or mobility impairments, or psychological conditions may be eligible for a reasonable accommodation. More specific examples of impairments include such things as specific learning disabilities, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, traumatic brain injuries, bipolar disorder, vision and hearing loss, cerebral palsy, paraplegia, and certain chronic health conditions. Major life activities include, but are limited to, activities such as seeing, hearing, learning, reading, concentrating, communicating, standing, walking, eating, sleeping, speaking, caring for oneself, thinking, and the operation of a major bodily function. Each student diagnosed with a particular disability will have a different level of functioning even within the same disability category. Further, compensation skills will also vary from one student to another and in the same student over time. Therefore, accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis according to a student's documented needs, guidelines suggested by federal and state law, and criteria developed by the University.

Identifying and implementing a reasonable accommodation for a student with a disability is an interactive process that includes shared responsibility between the University and the student. Accommodations include, for example, academic adjustments or modifications, auxiliary aids and services, and adjustments to make the campus, residential housing, and transportation accessible. Academic adjustments include such things as extended time to complete examinations, a distraction-reduced testing environment, permission to record classes, and course substitutions. Examples of auxiliary aids and services are note-taking services, readers and/or scribes for examinations, sign language interpreters, and caption services.

The University is required to provide a reasonable accommodation; it is not required to provide the specific accommodation requested by the student. In providing accommodations, the University is not required to lower or effect substantial modifications to essential requirements or to make modifications that would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity. Thus, for example, although the University may be required to provide extended time within which to complete a test, it is not required to change the substantive content of the test. Personal attendants, individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and other devices or services of a personal nature are the responsibility of the student, not the University. Finally, the University is not required to make adjustments or provide auxiliary aids or services that would result in an undue burden on the University.

Funding for auxiliary aids and services may be available from certain state agencies such as, for example, the New York State Adult Career and Continuing Education Services -Vocational Rehabilitation. For those auxiliary aids and services that are likely to be funded by a state agency, the University may require the student to apply to the agency for funding. The University may provide assistance with the application for funding.

## Requests for an Accommodation

To request an accommodation for a qualifying disability, a student must self-identify and register with the Student Accessibility Services for his or her campus. The Student Accessibility Services is housed in the Counseling Center on both the New York City and Pleasantville campuses. More information is available at <https://www.pace.edu/counseling/student-accessibility-services>. The Student Accessibility Services for the New York City campus may be contacted at 212-346-1526 or 156 William Street, 8th Floor. The Student Accessibility Services for the Westchester campuses may be contacted at 914-773-3710 or the Administration Center, 861 Bedford Road, Pleasantville. Notifying other University offices, faculty or staff does not constitute giving notice to the University of a request for an accommodation. No one, including faculty, is authorized to evaluate the need and arrange for an accommodation except the Student Accessibility Services staff. Moreover, no one, including faculty, is authorized to contact the Student Accessibility Services on behalf of a student.

It is the student's responsibility to request an accommodation. Because some accommodations may take considerable time to arrange, students are urged to contact the Student Accessibility Services in order to request an accommodation as soon as possible after receiving notice of admission to the University. Untimely requests may result in delay, substitution, or an inability to provide an accommodation. If a request for an accommodation is submitted late, the Student Accessibility Services will, nevertheless, make every reasonable effort to process the request for an accommodation.

Before an accommodation will be provided, the student may be required to submit medical and/or other diagnostic information concerning the student's impairments and limitations. If the information provided is unclear or incomplete, the student may be required to provide additional information or participate in further evaluations. The Student Accessibility Services will, in conjunction with others as may be appropriate, evaluate the information provided by the student and health care providers; refer the student for additional testing and evaluation as may be necessary; make recommendations for the accommodations to be provided to the student; and, assist in arranging for the implementation of the accommodation to be provided.

If a student experiences difficulty with the implementation of the accommodation or, if after it has been implemented, a student has concerns that the expected results of the accommodation are not being met, the student must promptly notify the Student Accessibility Services. The Student Accessibility Services will, as may be appropriate, endeavor to remedy the situation. If a student disagrees with the accommodation recommended by the Student Accessibility Services, the student should promptly appeal the recommendation to the Assistant Dean for Community Standards and Compliance at 914-773-3168. Faculty members who have concerns about a reasonable accommodation recommended by the Student Accessibility Services for his or her class, should contact the Student Accessibility Services on the appropriate campus.

Depending on the nature of the disability and the accommodation provided, a student may be required periodically to submit medical and/or diagnostic information demonstrating the current status of the disability and/or to renew the request for an accommodation.

Any questions about the services offered by the University to students with disabilities or the procedures for requesting an accommodation should be directed to the Office of Disability Services for the New York City campus at 212-346-1526 or for the Westchester campuses at 914-773-3710.

## Confidentiality

The information and documents provided to the University in support of a student's request for an accommodation shall be maintained as confidential. Individually identifiable information will not be



disclosed except as may be required or permitted by law or pursuant to a release signed by the student.

### Complaints of Disability Discrimination

If a student has concerns that the student has been discriminated against because of a disability, they should contact the University's Affirmative Action Officer at 212-346-1310 or 914-773-3856.

### Additional Services Offered by the Counseling Center

The Counseling Centers for the New York City and Westchester campuses offer a range of personal counseling and group services to all students of the University. Students who wish to obtain information about the services offered by the Counseling Centers or to schedule an appointment, should call 212-346-1526 for the Counseling Center for the New York City campus or 914-773-3710 for the Westchester campuses.

## Didactic Year Course of Study

PLEASE NOTE: Physician Assistant Program calendar may differ and does not follow the formal University calendar. Refer to individual course syllabi, and the Director of Didactic Education for further information. Some courses may be entirely or partially web-based through the University's learning management system or other educational supporting platforms. All on-campus courses are web-assisted.

### Summer II

PAS 505	Human Physiology	Synchronous	3
PAS 506	Health History & Physical Diagnosis I	Synchronous	2
PAS 510	Psychosocial Medicine	Synchronous	2
PAS 511	Professionalism and Biomedical Ethics	Synchronous	2
			<b>9 credits</b>

### Fall

PAS 512	Gross Anatomy I	On-campus	2
PAS 534	Pathophysiology I	Synchronous	2
PAS 547	Medical Pharmacology I	On-campus	3
PAS 601	Clinical Medicine I	On-campus	5
PAS 604	Laboratory Medicine & Diagnostic Methods I	On-campus	4
PAS 606	Health History & Physical Diagnosis II	On-campus	4
			<b>20 credits</b>

### Spring

PAS 513	Gross Anatomy II	On-campus	2
PAS 535	Pathophysiology II	On-campus	2
PAS 514	Epidemiology and Evidence Based Medicine	On-campus	3
PAS 602	Clinical Medicine II	On-campus	7
PAS 605	Laboratory Medicine & Diagnostic Methods II	On-campus	3
PAS 607	Health History & Physical Diagnosis III	On-campus	4
PAS 609	Surgical & Technical Skills I	On-campus	2
PAS 648	Medical Pharmacology II	On-campus	3
			<b>26 credits</b>

### Summer I and II

PAS 603	Clinical Medicine III	Synchronous	10
PAS 610	Surgical & Technical Skills II	Synchronous	2
PAS 515	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	Asynchronous	2
			14 credits

**DIDACTIC YEAR TOTAL** **69 CREDITS**

## Clinical Year Course of Study

After successful completion of the didactic year, students will begin twelve (12) months of clinical experience organized into nine five-week clerkships. The Program has an adequate number of clinical sites in all disciplines to ensure required clerkship experiences. These include:

PAS 620	Research Methods/Master's Project	fall semester	3 credits
PAS 701	Clerkship in Internal Medicine	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 702	Clerkship in Pediatrics	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 703	Clerkship in Women's Health	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 704	Clerkship in Behavioral Medicine	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 705	Clerkship in Family Medicine	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 706	Clerkship in Emergency Medicine	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 707	Clerkship in Surgery	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 708	Clerkship in Selected Elective	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 709	Clerkship Selected by Program	5 weeks	3 credits
PAS 799C	Clinical Year Capstone	ongoing	3 credits
<b>Clinical Year Total Credits</b>			<b>33 credits</b>

### International Elective Rotation

Students may choose to do their student selected elective rotation abroad through Child Family Health International (CFHI). Please visit <https://www.pace.edu/study-abroad> for further information about available programs. Detailed information about international elective rotations will be presented during the student's didactic year. International travel may require additional healthcare clearance requirements. International elective placements will be subject to faculty approval.

### Clerkship Assignment Policy

Clerkships are assigned according to their availability. Due to situations beyond the Program's control, the program is unable to guarantee specific rotation site requests including electives. Additionally, it is not unusual for changes in the clinical rotation schedule to occur during the clinical year. It is necessary that you maintain flexibility when these situations arise.

The student is required to attend clerkships where they are assigned. The cost of possible temporary housing, meals and transportation remains the responsibility of the student. All clerkship schedule decisions rest with the program.

**Once the final clerkship schedule is complete, student requests for changes will not be permitted.**

### Student Initiated Clerkships

The procedure to be followed to initiate a new clerkship site is as follows:

1. The site must be in New York and in commuting distance from Pace University NYC campus.
2. New clerkship site must be willing to allow additional students to rotate, otherwise new sites will not be permitted.
3. The student makes initial contact with the physician(s) or other potential preceptor. Once the preceptor agrees to accept the students, the clinical faculty must be notified.
4. The student will then provide the preceptor with program documentation. The student is responsible for following up to ensure the completion of these documents.

5. After the documents are complete, program staff will arrange a meeting with the preceptor and the clinical coordinator(s).
6. Students will be expected to follow up with any paperwork involved with initiated clerkships.
7. The process must be initiated by November of the didactic year.

Student initiated clerkships are not guaranteed. The final decision to pursue a particular student-initiated clerkship rests with the clinical faculty. Students are not required to initiate or acquire their own clerkship sites.

## Liability Insurance

Pace University carries general and professional liability insurance that includes coverage for all students in the Physician Assistant Program for claims arising from a student's activities in satisfaction of the requirements of his or her academic program, including clinical courses, at the University. The University's general and professional liability insurance does not cover any claim arising from a student's activities outside of his or her academic programs at the University, including, without limitation, claims arising out of previous or current academic activities at another institution or employment. These insurances apply only to claims brought against the student by third parties; they do not provide coverage for the student if the student is injured or becomes ill from work performed during their clinical course work. It is the student's responsibility to carry personal medical insurance to cover this potential.

**On occasion, a clinical site may require that students performing a clinical placement at its site have their own professional liability insurance in addition to that provided by the University. Therefore, prior to attending a clinical course, students should confirm with the clinical instructor whether students at the clinical site are required to have their own professional liability insurance in addition to that provided by the University.**

## Risk of Exposure

Students enrolled in the physician assistant program will be participating in caregiving activities. During these activities, exposure to communicable diseases, including, but not limited to, Hepatitis B ("HBV"), Tuberculosis ("TB"), Human Immunodeficiency Virus ("HIV"), SARS-Cov-2 (Covid-19), and Ebola Virus is possible. By enrolling in a clinical practicum course, students understand that they may contract a communicable disease while acting as a caregiver during clinical experiences. Students are provided standard precautions education, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines, and are expected to practice within those guidelines. Students are also expected to adhere to the policies of the clinical and practicum partners. However, in some cases, even when guidelines are followed, exposure resulting in illness can occur. This is an inherent risk in all health care fields. Students recognize and acknowledge that they are voluntarily accepting this risk as part of enrollment in the program and cannot hold the University responsible for any illness contracted during their clinical placements. **By enrolling in any clinical course, you are acknowledging this potential for exposure and voluntarily accepting the risk of contracting a communicable disease. A student may elect to postpone returning to/entering clinical assignment due to concern regarding risk. This may delay graduation until all requirements are met.**

The Pace University's Biological Safety Manual is available at <https://www.pace.edu/administrative-and-operational-services/environmental-health-and-safety/guidelines-manuals-and>.

## Transportation

Throughout the clinical phase of the Physician Assistant Program students are required to attend clinical rotations and participate in clinical experiences in a variety of community medical settings throughout the Tri-State area, including but not limited to NY, NJ, and CT.

Students are required to provide their own transportation (which may include a car) to hospital and clinical sites during the professional phase. Transportation to various hospitals, clinical experiences and other events will be the student's responsibility. Clinical year students are responsible for transportation to all clinical rotation sites and to the Program on call back days.

## Living Arrangements

Students are responsible for the cost of temporary housing, meals and transportation during the clinical year. It remains the student's responsibility to take the initiative to complete housing arrangements prior to the beginning of the next assigned clerkship.

## Program Policies

### Students' Basic Rights

Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program provides the student with some basic rights.

The student has the right to competent, knowledgeable instructors who conduct themselves in a professional manner in their interactions with students in the work setting. A student who is experiencing difficulty with an instructor should contact the Program Chair so that appropriate action may be taken.

Classrooms should be able to provide the proper educational environment for student learning. These classrooms or other appropriate facilities should also have available current instructional materials and modern equipment that meets the technical training needs of the physician assistant student.

Instructors must maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to and compatible with the learning environment. Students who disrupt that environment will be asked to leave the classroom or clinical area. If a particular student persists in disruptive behavior, disciplinary action may be initiated.

### Rights to Privacy

Student records are protected from unauthorized access and release by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. Information on this can be found on the website:

<https://www.pace.edu/registrar/transfer-credits/student-records>

Students are granted access to their own program files after completion of a Student Request for File Access form. Students may inspect and review files in the Physician Assistant Program office during regular office hours with a faculty member. At no time will information be removed from a student's permanent file. Students who wish to challenge the content of records may do so in one of two ways:

- A letter may be placed in the student record indicating the student's objections to a given entry.
- Students may request a review regarding an entry with the Professional Standards Committee.

Release of student records by the Program (i.e., to potential employers) is granted only upon completion of a written Consent for Release of Confidential Information by the student. Program faculty and Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program employees, preceptors, and administrative staff who have direct involvement with the education of the student are provided access and may review student records without written consent of the student at the discretion of the Program Chair.

### Student Grievance Policy

The University views students as responsible citizens who are integral members of the academic community. Policies and practices pertaining to student relations and services should reflect this point of view. All University officers will make every effort to ensure that this philosophy is implemented.

It is recognized, however, that regardless of how well-intentioned people may be complaints and misunderstandings are bound to arise. It is the purpose of the Student Grievance Procedures to ensure that these disagreements are expressed, explored, and resolved promptly and confidentially. The Student Grievance Procedures shall apply to student grievances relating to the following:

- Student Programs, Facilities, and Services: Allegations of violations of University policies and procedures with respect to programs, services, activities or facilities.

- Student Relations: Allegations of unfair treatment from faculty, administration, staff, or fellow students.

The Student Grievance Procedures shall not apply to claims relating to academic standing, grading or discipline, except where discrimination is alleged. Such matters are within the jurisdiction of the Academic Progression Appeals Committee and the Dean of the school. The university grievance procedure is available at <https://www.pace.edu/student-handbook/university-policies-disciplinary-and-grievance-procedures/university-grievance>.

### Sexual Harassment Policy

Pace University reaffirms the principle that its students, faculty, interns, and staff shall be free from discrimination on the basis of sex. Sexual offenses such as rape, sexual abuse, or discrimination in the form of sexual harassment, will not be tolerated. Please refer to the Pace University website for sex-based misconduct policies and procedures at <https://www.pace.edu/sexual-wellness>.

Sexual harassment in any situation is reprehensible. It is particularly damaging when it exploits the educational or professional dependence and trust between individuals with different levels of authority. When the authority and power inherent in such relationships are abused, whether overtly, implicitly, or mistakenly, there is potentially great damage to the individual, the alleged offender, and to the educational and professional climate of the University. Both institutions have established grievance policies. Any student who believes they have been or is being sexually harassed should report this incident to the Program faculty immediately. The faculty can then direct the student through the appropriate channels. Any complaints will remain confidential. No student will be placed in a clinical experience that jeopardizes his or her educational and personal welfare.

### Drug and Alcohol Policy

Physician assistant students must comply with the University's Drug and Alcohol Policy and all other applicable policies and procedures concerning the use of drugs and alcohol at Lenox Hill Hospital and clinical sites. Students are prohibited from appearing at any clinical site while under the influence of alcohol or any drug that may affect performance or judgment. See the university's alcohol and other drug policy at [www.pace.edu/student-handbook/university-policies-disciplinary-and-grievance-procedures/alcohol-and-other-drug](http://www.pace.edu/student-handbook/university-policies-disciplinary-and-grievance-procedures/alcohol-and-other-drug).

### Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screenings

There are various laws, standards and employer policies that require all employees, volunteers and students working in or assigned to a clinical site to undergo a criminal background check and/or drug screening. Therefore, in order to comply with these requirements, clinical agencies may require students, at their own cost, to complete a criminal background check and/ or drug screen prior to commencing a clinical placement. Based on the clinical agency requirement the student either will be directed to the agency to complete the agency's required background check and/or drug screening, or the student will complete the background check and/or drug screening through the Universal Background Screening, Inc. in Exxat. Based on certain criminal convictions clinical affiliates may not accept a student for a clinical assignment or may rescind a previous acceptance. In such an event, and depending on the circumstances, the student may be unable to complete a required clinical experience and consequently the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital PA Program curriculum requirements. Students who are unable to complete the program curriculum requirements are subject to dismissal from the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital PA Program. In addition, certain criminal convictions may result in the denial of the

credentials needed to practice. Prospective students who are concerned about a criminal conviction are urged to contact the relevant state and/or federal agencies to inquire whether their criminal record may adversely affect the issuance of the credentials needed to practice as a physician assistant.

### Positive Drug Screen

Positive drug screen reports will be reviewed by the Vice Dean (LSN) or Associate Dean (Allied Health) (or their designee) and any clinical or research related activity will immediately be suspended pending the outcomes of that review. During this time, the student may not participate in any aspects of the clinical or research program of study. The student will be interviewed by the Vice Dean (LSN) or Associate Dean (Allied Health) (or their designee) and any other Pace University officials relevant to the situation. **A confirmed positive drug screen will result in dismissal from the program.**

### Recreational and Medical Marijuana

Federal laws, including the Controlled Substances Act, the Drug-Free Workplace Act, and the Drug Free Schools, and Communities Act, prohibit marijuana at educational institutions and on the premises of other recipients of federal funds. Accordingly, the University does not tolerate the unlawful possession and/or use of controlled substances on its premises. Students are prohibited from using, possessing, selling, purchasing, cultivating, processing, manufacturing or giving away marijuana/cannabis (or its derivatives), on University owned or leased property. Therefore, the possession and use of medical or recreational marijuana on University property is prohibited, even if it is lawful under New York State law.

Additionally, students, including those who are certified or registered participants in a medical marijuana program, remain strictly prohibited from using marijuana or being under the influence or impaired by marijuana while in the clinical environment or on any healthcare agency property. Use of marijuana in the clinical environment or on agency property, or reporting for clinical rotations impaired or under the influence of marijuana will result in dismissal from the program.

Students who use marijuana may not be eligible for clinical placement in Federal Healthcare Facilities (VA Hospitals and Clinics). Acceptance and participation in clinical rotation placements are also subject to individual clinical agency placement policies.

### Drug Screening and Prescription Medication (including but not limited to Medical Marijuana)

Drug screening is required for all students, including those who use prescription medication, including but not limited to medical marijuana. Students who use prescription medication that may result in a positive drug screening, including but not limited to medical marijuana, should follow the process below to notify the University during the drug screening and evaluation process:

1. Undergo screening as required by the Department of Physician Assistant Studies
2. Upload supporting documentation as required or requested (e.g., copy of valid NYS Medical Marijuana Card) to student's Exxat account.
  - a. Provide adequate documentation from student's health care provider that use of prescription medication (including medical marijuana) does not and will not interfere with the student's ability to meet program technical standards. Standards can be viewed at <https://chp.pace.edu/technical-standards>
    - i. If the health care provider's letter indicates that the use of prescription medication, including but not limited to, medical marijuana, does not interfere with the student's ability to meet technical standards, clinical placement will be attempted on behalf of the student. Clinical placement is **NOT** guaranteed, but rather based on the clinical agency's internal policies in regard to offering a student placement in their facility.
    - ii. If the health care provider's letter indicates that the use of prescription



medication, including but not limited to medical marijuana, may interfere with the student's ability to meet technical standards, the student may contact the University's Office of Accessibility to determine whether an alternate accommodation to clinical placement may be available. Clinical placement is NOT guaranteed, but rather based on the clinical agency's internal policy.

- b. This supporting documentation must be submitted annually, upon a change in circumstances, or if there is a question as to the student's ability to safely perform their responsibilities, engage in patient care, or otherwise poses a threat to the safety to themselves or others in the community. The University reserves a right to request additional documentation as necessary to ensure safety of students, patients, and the community.

Students are reminded that improper use or possession of prescription medication including but not limited to use or possession of medical marijuana, on University property or during clinical rotations, or reporting to clinical rotations under the influence or impaired by such substances is still strictly prohibited and violation(s) of this policy may still subject a student to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

## Advisement Policy

Each student will be assigned to a faculty advisor. The advisor will communicate formally with the student in person or via phone, video chat, or e-mail, and document all encounters. During these encounters progress in meeting the Program's objectives, both academic and professional or behavioral, will be discussed. These sessions are an opportunity to frankly assess your strengths and identify areas for improvement, and to develop plans to capitalize on your strengths and improve your weaker areas. The advisor will also be available at other times to discuss issues of concern raised by you or others. The program faculty believes participation in the advising process is consistent with the behavior of a successful student.

Prior to each scheduled session, the advisor will collect data concerning your performance. You will be asked to complete a self-assessment portion as a basis for discussion (forms for your review are appended on the last part of this handbook). Student input is critical for the success of this process. Both advisee and advisor have specific responsibilities. Students are encouraged to use the Degree Works planner platform and bring a log for review during advisement meetings. The Degree Work's Student User Guide and FAQ is available at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/graduation-conferral-degrees/degree-works> and it is accessible through MyPace Portal (<https://portal5login.pace.edu/cas-web/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fportal5.pace.edu%2Fc%2Fportal%2Flogin>) for all users.

## Faculty Responsibilities

Each student is assigned a faculty advisor for the duration of the program. The role and responsibilities of the advisor include but are not limited to the following:

1. Provide communication between the student and faculty;
2. Meet with student at minimum two times per year;
3. Meet with student if problems arise e.g. academic or professional difficulties;
4. Know the student advisee's grades, skills and professional conduct;
5. Assist the student in meeting the educational objectives of the Program;
6. Discuss strengths and areas for improvement;
7. Suggest improvements in time management and study skills as needed;
8. Help plan in conjunction with a course coordinator remediation for deficiencies in skills or knowledge;

9. Discuss summative academic, clinical skills and professional/behavioral evaluations;
10. Identify additional faculty member(s) who will be easily accessible if a student wishes to discuss a problem of a personal or professional nature;
11. Record meetings with student advisee in student file;
12. Refer to appropriate services including but not limited to the Counseling Center, Center for Academic Excellence, Health Care Unit, as needed;
13. Enable the student to identify the materials necessary to achieve the educational and objectives and professional standards of the Program.

### Student Responsibilities

1. Discuss areas of strength and areas for improvement with the advisor;
2. Complete a self-assessment at each meeting;
3. Help plan a course of action to remediate deficiencies and capitalize on strengths;
4. Meet with advisor at minimum two times per year;
5. Meet with advisor on an as-needed basis when problems arise;
6. Make an honest effort to follow the plans derived from the sessions.

### Example of Output from Advising Sessions (Not Comprehensive)

1. Referral to Center for Academic Excellence
2. Referral to Counseling Center
3. Referral to Health Care Provider
4. Assessment of Time Management and/or Study Skills
5. Specific Remediation Programs
6. Referral for Tutoring Services
7. Stress Reduction Techniques
8. Career Goal Reexamination

### The advisor will not:

1. act as your problem solver. You can discuss your problems with your advisor and they can help you clarify options and devise a plan of action.
2. act as your medical provider. It is inappropriate for any for the Program faculty to try and provide your health care. If you have a medical problem, see the University Health Care Unit or an outside provider of your choice. Please find the information, office hours, and healthcare portal for the University healthcare at <https://www.pace.edu/college-health-professions/university-health-care>.
3. act as a counselor. If you have problems that require counseling, you need the help of a professional counselor. Your advisor will refer you to the established system at the University to assist you in accessing mental health services. Please find the information and office hours for the Counseling Center at <https://www.pace.edu/counseling>.

It is your responsibility to see your advisor and schedule a mutually convenient time for mid-semester advising. The advisor will not “track down” any student who does not make an appointment after initial notification by the PA Program. It is also your responsibility to act on the plan devised during the sessions.

The advising session can be a powerful tool for you to get the most from your education and in your development as a health care professional. The process must be an active one to be effective. Remember that someone from the Program or Counseling Center at Pace University is available during normal office hours to provide you with help. In an emergency situation, your advisor or another faculty member can address your concern immediately. For emergencies taking place after normal office hours,

please contact your community crisis center.

For non-emergent problems, make an appointment with your advisor. Please be advised that you can send an e-mail or leave a phone message 24 hours a day.

### Health Clearance Policy

All students are required to have adequate health insurance. Students are responsible for their own health care while in school. Selected clinical agencies may require evidence of health insurance. If you are placed at such an agency, it will be necessary for you to provide this evidence. If a health condition arises during the course of study that would in any way alter a student's ability to perform in the clinical setting, it is the student's responsibility to notify the Program Chair of the Physician Assistant Program immediately.

In order to ensure the safety of students, staff, clinical agency personnel, and patients, and to comply with clinical agency contract mandates, no students will be permitted to participate in Physician Assistant clinical application courses or clinical rotations unless they have been medically cleared. This may include but is not limited to facility mandated drug screening, background check, color blindness testing, physical exam, respirator mask fit testing, student interview, or facility orientation. Failure to satisfy these requirements may result in student removal from the rotation site, rotation reassignment and a subsequent delay in graduation. Students must bring copies of all completed health clearance documents with them for every clerkship. Students must keep a copy of the completed health clearance documents for their own records.

The PA Program's Health Care Clearance including annual physical exam is now handled online through Exxat at <https://exxat.com/>. All requirements and forms will be submitted to Exxat directly. Once these forms and other supporting documentation are submitted, Exxat will check the requirements against the program's specifications and will deem the student compliant or not.

**Do not upload your physical exam or any other documents that contain your medical history other than those requested by Exxat.** Please make sure to retain a copy of your actual physical exam form, as that is not uploaded to Exxat, but will be required to participate and rotate at all hospital locations.

In addition to the PA Program's Health Care Clearance process, Pace University has its own immunization requirements which students must meet.

It is the student's responsibility to read all of the instructions on each form and assure all paperwork is filled out correctly by health care providers.

Please note: Some of these forms may require additional documentation to be submitted and the signature of the health care provider; students should read each form completely and carefully.

**It is the responsibility of students to obtain the appropriate health clearance.**

### Pace University Immunization Policy

In addition to the PA Program's Health Care Clearance process, Pace University has its own immunization requirements which students must meet. All students must log in to their Pace Patient Portal and submit their immunization. With this patient portal, the University Health Care (UHC) can access your medical information when you are not feeling well and need to see a health care provider on

campus or through telehealth and telemental health. UHC may also assist you with the immunization requirements and clinical clearance forms, which must also be up-to-date before and during the clinical year. Schedule online or call ahead for an appointment. You can access the patient portal at [www.pace.edu/patientportal](http://www.pace.edu/patientportal). See detailed instructions at <https://www.pace.edu/student-accounts/immunization-compliance>.

**Important Note: Completion of Part One and Part Two of the *Immunization Requirement Form* is required of all students. Your registration will be voided and you will be unable to attend class if you do not comply with NYSDOH Public Health Law 2167.** All students must log in to their Pace Patient Portal and submit their immunization at [www.pace.edu/patientportal](http://www.pace.edu/patientportal). All hard-copy documentation will be retained for a period of two years. It will be maintained electronically for the duration of a student's attendance at the University. Student Accounts can receive requests and inquiries by e-mailing [studentaccounts@pace.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@pace.edu) as well as the <https://frontdesk.pace.edu/>.

Here are the instructions that students will see when they log into the patient portal:  
Immunization Entry

Directions to submit immunization information:

1. Obtain your immunization record from your healthcare provider or parent.
2. Once you have obtained your immunization information, enter the information for each immunization below.
3. Please send us your supporting documentation using the Upload button above. This includes your immunization record, any laboratory reports for titers, and any documentation regarding waivers.  
**\*\*YOUR NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH ARE REQUIRED TO BE ON EACH PAGE OF YOUR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR THE VERIFICATION PROCESS TO CONTINUE FORWARD.**
4. Watch your e-mail for important notifications from [noreply@medicat.com](mailto:noreply@medicat.com). We will send you secure messages as your status changes or if we need to communicate with you about your submitted materials. The Message Center is located in the Messages button above.
5. If you have, please proceed to enter the dates for your immunization requirements below. Please remember to enter the date each vaccine was administered. Please do not enter today's date. Any questions, send us a secure message from the Messages button above, or e-mail us at [complianceservices@medicat.com](mailto:complianceservices@medicat.com).  
**\*\*It is important that we have your preferred e-mail address designated to provide you with support and communication. Edit the e-mail address on file to your preferred e-mail by clicking your name in the upper right hand corner and then select Edit Your Profile.\*\***

2 Measles Virus Vaccines

1 Mumps Virus Vaccine

1 Rubella Virus Vaccine

Meningitis Acknowledgement (enter date of signature)

If students have questions about uploading their immunization compliance records, e-mail [complianceservices@medicat.com](mailto:complianceservices@medicat.com).

## Universal Precautions Policy

All PA students are required to complete a training session for healthcare professionals in infection control/universal precautions provided by the Medical Society of the State of New York and New York State Department of Health, before participating in patient contact activities. Documentation of compliance with this must be provided by the student and kept in their files prior to beginning the didactic year.

The principle of universal precautions has been adopted because any patient may be infected with microorganisms that could be transmitted to other persons. Of particular concern are the primarily blood-borne pathogens HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), HBV (hepatitis B virus), HCV (hepatitis C virus), Tuberculosis (TB), and SARS-Cov-2 (Covid19). However, body fluids other than blood, secretions, and excretions are included in universal precautions. Since infected patients may be asymptomatic, it becomes necessary to use basic precautions with every patient. Observance of universal precautions will help to provide better protection for every staff member. Students should also familiarize themselves with the hospital/clinical sites specific policies regarding universal precautions.

#### Universal Precautions Guidelines

1. Avoid direct contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, and lesions.
2. Avoid injuries from all “sharps”.
3. Avoid direct contact with items, objects, and surfaces contaminated with blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions.
4. Dispose of all “sharps” promptly in special puncture resistant containers.
5. Dispose of all contaminated articles and materials in a safe manner prescribed by law.

In practice, using Universal Precautions also requires:

1. Wash hands frequently and thoroughly, especially if they become contaminated with blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions.
2. Depending on job duties and risk of exposure, use appropriate barriers, which can include gloves, gowns, aprons, caps, shoe covers, leggings, masks, goggles, face shields, equipment such as resuscitation devices.
3. All specimens are bagged before transport to the laboratory.

These barriers are to be used to protect:

- a. Skin, especially non-intact skin (where there are cuts, chapping, abrasions, or any other break in the skin).
- b. Mucous membranes, especially eyes, nose and mouth.

Note: These items of protective apparel, including gloves are removed after each use and are **properly disposed** of. Gloves, etc. are **not** to be worn from one patient or activity to another.

### Blood-Borne Pathogen Exposure Incidents/Accidents

All injuries and other exposure having the potential for infection transmission must be reported to the preceptor and program immediately. If you have a needle-stick injury, or other work-related injury, go directly to the emergency department or employee health office to receive the proper treatment and follow-up care. Fill out and submit the Physician Assistant Program Incident Report to the Program as outlined below.

#### On Site Incident

Occasionally, accidents will occur in the Center for Excellence in Healthcare Simulation (aka the lab). Should a student be injured as a result of an accident, the student must comply with all accident and injury protocols established at the university. If you have a needle-stick injury, or other related injury, go directly to the University Health Care (UHC) or your private health care provider to receive the proper treatment and follow-up care. The student has the right to refuse recommended medical treatment at the health clinic.

Subsequently, the student must e-mail a pdf version of the Physician Assistant Program Incident Report no later than 48 hours following the incident to the Program Chair, (Dr. Jean Covino, DHSc, MPA, PA-C at [jcovino@pace.edu](mailto:jcovino@pace.edu)), course coordinator (Dr. Elija A.J. Salzer, DMSc, PA-C, MA, NYSAFE, C-EFM at [esalzer@pace.edu](mailto:esalzer@pace.edu)) for Surgical and Technical Skills courses, administrative staff, the director of the lab (Ms. Patty Myers, MS at [pmyers@pace.edu](mailto:pmyers@pace.edu)) and director of security (Mr. Vincent Beatty at [vbeatty@pace.edu](mailto:vbeatty@pace.edu)). A copy of your discharge documentation from the treating medical provider or institution must be submitted with the Incident Report.

### Off Site Incident

Occasionally, accidents will occur on your clinical rotation at the clinical site. Should a student, patient, or other staff member be injured as a result of an accident involving a student, the student must comply with all accident and injury protocols established at the institution. **If you have a needle-stick injury, or other work related injury, go directly to the emergency department or employee health office to receive the proper treatment and follow-up care.** It may also be required that students follow up with the Risk Management Department of the individual institution as well as any other offices deemed appropriate by the preceptor or institution. The student has the right to refuse the recommended clinical site medical treatment.

Subsequently, the student must fax and or e-mail the Physician Assistant Program Incident Report posted on the University's learning management system (LMS), Classes (also known as D2L or Brightspace), no later than 48 hours following the incident to a clinical coordinator and clinical administrative staff. A copy of your discharge documentation from the treating medical provider or institution must be submitted with the Incident Report.

All students are required to have adequate health insurance and are responsible for their own health care while in school. Any expenses not covered by the institution where the injury/exposure occurred, are the responsibility of the student. Please refer to the Pace University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan for more information at <https://www.pace.edu/administrative-and-operational-services/environmental-health-and-safety/safety-training>.

### In-Class Incidents/Emergencies

Any medical emergency or injury on campus must be reported to the Security office via calling 212-346-1800 (24/7), submitting an incident report on the PaceSafe App, or in-person at the main security desk at 3 Spruce St. The Security and Risk Management office keeps this information on file for their records. Please see more information on and instruction to download the Pace Safe Mobile app at <https://www.pace.edu/security-emergency-management/pace-safe-application>.

### Emergency Closings and Other Changes in Class Schedules

Occasionally, the University is confronted by the need to close because of inclement weather or other reasons beyond the University's control. Such closings are normally announced through the major radio stations in New York City and Westchester County and often appear on their Web sites. In addition, students can also check the Pace University home page, and/or call the Pace Events Phone (PEP) at (212) 346-1953 (NYC) for school closing information. Closings are also posted on the University's website at <http://www.pace.edu> and are sent via text message and e-mail for those who sign up for Emergency Notifications at <http://alert.pace.edu>.

Although classes are planned to commence and conclude on the dates indicated in the academic calendar, unforeseen circumstances may necessitate adjustment to class schedules and extension of time for completion of class assignments. Examples of such circumstances may include faculty illness, malfunction of University equipment (including computers), unavailability of particular University

facilities occasioned by damage to the premises, repairs or other causes, and school closings because of inclement weather. The University shall not be responsible for the refund of any tuition or fees in the event of any such occurrence or for failure of a class to conclude on the date originally scheduled. Nor shall the University be liable for any consequential damages as a result of such a change in schedule. The PA program reserves the right to use remote options for lectures and testing when necessary.

## Dress Code Policy

As a representative of the College of Health Professions, Pace University and Lenox Hill Hospital, the image projected is expected to be a professional one. Students must dress professionally at all times. Revealing clothing is not permitted in the classroom or clinical setting. Along with a neat and tidy appearance, students are expected to maintain appropriate personal hygiene. Students who are participating in any clinical experience (during the didactic year on hospital visits or in the clinical year on rotations) are required to wear clinical attire at all times. Clinical attire consists of the following:

- Men are required to wear a tie.
- Slacks/skirts with shirts/blouses should be conservative and not revealing.
- No open toed shoes are permitted, shoes must be worn with socks or hose; heel height should be conservative.
- Jewelry, make-up and cologne are best if conservative.
- Hair should be worn in a neat, conservative style.
- Half-length white lab coats with Program patches and Program ID tags clearly identifying the wearer as a Physician Assistant Student are required unless otherwise directed by the clinical preceptor.

Clinical supervisors, preceptors or PA Program faculty reserve the right to remove any student from a clinical site/experience who is not appropriately dressed.

## Identification Policy

Physician assistant students should be identified by a clearly marked Program identification badge while in Lenox Hill Hospital or on clinical experiences at other institutions. At minimum, students will introduce themselves as physician assistant students and sign all documentation with their legible full signature followed by 'PA-S' or 'PA student'. Students should clearly display their current Pace identification on campus.

At no time should a student, either by virtue of his or her skills or knowledge attained while progressing through the Program, misrepresent him or herself as being other than a physician assistant student. While in the Program, students may not use previously earned titles (i.e. RN, MD, DC, PhD, etc.). Failure to identify oneself appropriately or misrepresenting oneself will result in immediate dismissal from the Program.

## E-Mail/Classes Policy

E-mail is the preferred mode of communication between the program faculty/staff and students. All students must notify the Program of their current personal e-mail address, in addition to their Pace University account.

e-Mails regarding the program will be sent to each student's Pace e-mail address. Students must check their e-mail accounts daily for posts from the program faculty or staff. Additionally, students should empty mailboxes to allow for regular e-mail from program staff and faculty. "Not checking an account" is not an allowable excuse for missing a program event or notification.

Students must return messages from program staff, faculty, clinical preceptors, patients and clinical sites in a timely manner. In general and unless otherwise indicated, e-mails will be answered within 48 hours with the exception of e-mails that arrive after 5 pm on Friday and during the weekend-these e-mails will be answered on Monday.

Most course materials including online, and narrated materials are accessible through Classes (also known as D2L or Brightspace). New student IT resources provides a guide to IT services and can be accessed at <https://www.pace.edu/its/its-service-areas>.

## Social Media Policy

Refer to Pace University's social media policy at <https://www.pace.edu/university-relations/social-media/social-media-policy-pace>. In addition, it is strictly prohibited to take photographs of patients, including in the operating room, even if the patient is not identified. Similarly, the accessing of diagnostic images or any form of patient data for the purpose of transmission on any social media platform is strictly prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in being called before the Professional Standards Committee and possible dismissal from the program. Witnessing any violation of this policy should be immediately reported to the director of clinical education or Program Chair. Please refer to Pace University's IT appropriate use policy at <https://www.pace.edu/its/about-its/policies/it-appropriate-use-policy>.

## Netiquette (Internet Etiquette)

"Netiquette" (Internet etiquette) is a set of expectations that describe appropriate behaviors when interacting online. When you are communicating in an online environment, you are subject to the same rules of courtesy and conduct that you would find in any face-to-face environment. Treat your fellow students with respect. If you disagree with someone's post, you should aim to acknowledge your disagreement in a mature and respectful way, without belittling the writer, and ending the response with a question to open up further discussion. Be clear with your words. It is easy for someone to misinterpret your meaning. They cannot see your expressions or hear the tone of your voice. Be careful when using sarcasm and humor.

Without face-to-face communications, your comments may be misinterpreted. Proofread and check the spelling before submitting a post in the Discussion Board or sending an e-mail. While online communication is more relaxed, it is not careless communication. Doing a quick proof of your work before you send it may alleviate the need to clarify your posting and save you some time and potential embarrassment. Be aware of copyright and "fair use" law; do not plagiarize, and do not forget to cite your information.

\*Portions of the above has been derived from Pace University's Online Training Course

## Prohibition Against Lecture Recording & Distributing

Lectures are provided for your personal study and use only. They may not be recorded or reproduced in any form or distributed to anyone, including sharing via social media of any kind, without the prior consent of the instructor.

For example, without the instructor's prior express consent, video and audio replications as well as photographic images of lectures may not be recorded on any device including, but not limited to, audio recorders, video recorders, cellular phones, digital cameras, MP3 players, computers and other handheld devices that record images and/or sound.



A breach of this requirement may subject you to a disciplinary action in accordance with the Physician Assistant Graduate Program, the College of Health Professions and/or the University's applicable policies.

### Outside Employment Policy

The Program advises against students holding outside employment while participating in the professional phase of the Physician Assistant Program. The faculty does recognize that a need for employment may be an issue that some students will face. However, Program obligations will not be altered due to a student's work obligations. The program faculty expects that work obligations will not interfere with the student's learning progress or responsibilities while in the Program. Working often interferes with learning opportunities during rotation activities. The schedule of clinical experiences and clerkship hours are set by the Program in conjunction with the preceptor and are not negotiable. The Program also discourages the student from working clinically at the same site where they are completing clinical experiences or clerkships.

Students who are involved in, or commence, volunteer or paid work during the course of their Physician Assistant training cannot use their affiliation with the Physician Assistant Program in any aspect of that job. Work outside the Physician Assistant Program undertaken by the student, independent of the Program, is not covered by the liability insurance offered for clinical work associated with the educational experience. Additionally, students may not represent themselves as a physician assistant student in such contexts.

In addition, students are not required to work for the Physician Assistant Program, hospital affiliates or rotation sites either as a volunteer or as a paid employee.

### Program Closure/Loss of Accreditation

In accordance with federal law and Pace University's accreditation through the Middle States Association of School and Colleges, in the unanticipated event of either program closure, or loss of accreditation, Pace University would fulfill its obligation to currently matriculated students and continue to provide the necessary didactic and clinical experiences for them to complete the program.

## Academic Policy

### Examinations in the Didactic & Clinical Year

Examinations are scheduled throughout the Physician Assistant Program, and students are required to take examinations when they are scheduled. Please see Attendance and Punctuality and Missed Examinations Due to Absence in the Student Program Policy and Procedure, Didactic, and Clinical Handbooks for further information regarding examinations missed due to absence.

Students will be tested on the content of the course as described in the course syllabus. The basis of an examination includes information presented in the course, as well as reading assignments (even if the reading assignments are not formally discussed). The format and length of examinations are varied and may include multiple choice, multiple answer, true or false, matching, short answers, essays, oral presentations, practicals, simulated patient encounters, and/or a combination of formats. A proctor and faculty member will administer each examination, give the instructions for taking the examination, and keep track of the time permitted for taking the examination.

All examinations (including make-up examinations) are subject to the following conditions:

- The majority of non-clinical skills examinations are hosted on the University's learning management system (LMS), Classes (also known as D2L or Brightspace) systems along with Respondus LockDown Browser and/or live proctoring from MonitorEDU. Students must maximize the screen for Classes and close all other applications on their laptop. Any application aside from Classes found opened during an examination is a breach of academic integrity and may result in disciplinary action.
- Students are required to store all personal belongings, including but not limited to cell/smartphones, digital watches, digital headphones, and other non-essential electronic devices in a personally secure location. Unless prior approval is obtained, cell phones and other non-essential electronic devices need to be silenced or turned off. If violation of policy is suspected, the device will be confiscated and the student may be subject to disciplinary action.
- Students are required to bring and use a laptop privacy screen during exams. Failure to use this screen during exams is considered a professionalism issue and the student may be subject to disciplinary action.
- A student who arrives after the examination has begun should enter the room quietly, sit down in the closest available chair, and wait for a proctor/staff/faculty to provide the exam password. Students who arrive late and therefore begin taking the examination after the other students began, will not be permitted additional time within which to complete the examination.
- Unless authorized by the proctor, staff, or faculty member prior to the examination, students are not permitted to talk for any reason during an examination.
- When the proctor, staff, or faculty member announces that the time for the examination (considering it is on paper) has ended, every student must stop exam work immediately. If a student continues to work on the exam after the announcement that the examination has ended, the student will be subject to disciplinary action.
- In the event that a paper exam is used, students must include their names and any other required information on the examination, answer sheets, and/or scrap paper used during the exam. If answer sheets are used during examinations, only the answers on the answer sheets will be graded. Answers found on the paper exam will not be considered.
- All paper examinations, answer sheets, and/or scrap paper must be returned to the proctor or faculty member at the end of the examination. Removal of any of these items from the examination room will constitute cheating and students will be subject to disciplinary action.

- Students may not use the lavatory or leave the room in which the examination is being given for any reason unless escorted by a faculty or staff member. Electronic devices may not be used during such time.
- **All students must show their computer screen** to a proctor, staff, or faculty before leaving the room to ensure they have reviewed the exam results and have signed out of the examination.
- Students, who complete the examination early, may leave the examination room but will not be permitted to re-enter until the examination period has ended, or as instructed by the course coordinator.
- Please also be reminded to be courteous of your classmates once you have left the room. Do not congregate outside the lecture hall shouting and having lively conversations, while the rest of the class is still taking an exam. Please keep your conversations quiet and be respectful and professional.
- Except when taking an examination or during reviews of examinations, no student is permitted to have possession of an examination or answer sheet. Further, students are not permitted to copy (whether by hand or electronically) examination questions or answers. This prohibition against possession and copying of examinations and answer sheets applies to current and previous examinations, and students who violate it will be subject to disciplinary action. Sharing of exam information with more junior PA students or those taking make-up examinations is a violation of the academic integrity policy. Please see Standards of Professional Conduct in this handbook for further information regarding academic integrity.

### Remote Examination Policy

All remote multiple-choice examinations are administered utilizing an online format on a desktop or laptop equipped with a webcam. If a student logs in late, no additional time will be granted to take the exam.

Examinations are designed to simulate the PANCE experience. Students should log into their computer 15 minutes prior to the scheduled exam time and be prepared to begin the exam at the scheduled start time with your Pace University identification available for review. If students are having trouble with technology, they **MUST** contact the proctor **IMMEDIATELY** and preferably prior to the examination. The proctor will contact necessary personnel (IT, didactic/clinical administrator, course coordinator, etc.). Students are required to follow the procedures outlined below:

On your laptop (first device):

- Log into Classes then follow the link to open Respondus LockDown Monitor
- All students must begin at the same time as per the group assignment.
- Plug your laptop in during the exam to make sure you don't lose power.
- Close all other programs/applications on your computer to help prevent interference with Respondus. Turn off all mobile devices, other than your two devices to take the exam to help prevent internet connectivity issues.
- Clear your desk or workstation of all external materials — books, papers, other computers, or devices.
- No breaks allowed. Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test.
- No physical scrap paper is allowed, but you can use an approved dry-erase board.
- Any student with a technical issue and needs to restart Respondus or reboot the computer, please know that this may result in restarting the exam and requiring the proctor to communicate with us to allow another attempt. **You must be verbally communicating and connected with the proctor (MonitorEDU) at all times.**

On your second mobile device:

- Review the settings on your second device and change the standard “auto-lock” setting to allow screen to remain active throughout exam session.
- Log into MonitorEDU by going to <http://takemytest.live/>, then select Pace University to connect with a proctor.
- Position the second device in an angle behind you. The proctor may ask you to move it as necessary to have a better view.
- Put your phone in airplane mode and turn on the wifi – do this after you receive a text message from MonitorEDU.
- Plug your phone in during the exam to make sure you don’t lose power.
- Notify the proctor when you start the review and exit the exam platform.
- **Do not disconnect with the proctor until you have completed the examination, including the exam review portion following the examination.**

## Final Course Grade Appeal Process

The process for appealing a grade in a physician assistant course is governed by the University’s Grade Appeal Process. A copy of which may be found in the Pace University Student Handbook at <https://catalog.pace.edu/undergraduate/academic/academic-policies-general-regulations/grades-academic-standing/grade-appeal-process/>.

## Academic Probation

### Probation Criteria

A student in the Physician Assistant Program (“PA Program”) who fails to satisfy the academic standards of the Program usually will be placed on academic probation automatically. There are, however, certain circumstances when a student who fails to satisfy the applicable academic standards will be dismissed from the PA Program even though they were not placed on probation. See Academic Dismissal Policy.

Although it is not possible to anticipate all of the circumstances that may result in a student being placed on probation include, the circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following:

- In one semester, the student received a “C+” or lower grade in a PAS letter-graded course or an “F” grade in a PAS pass/fail-graded course (individually or together, the “Failed Course”).
- The student’s cumulative quality point average (“CQPA”) fell below a 3.00 and it is mathematically possible for the student to achieve a 3.00 CQPA. The CQPA includes failed course grade.

### Notice of Probation

Ordinarily, students who have been placed on academic probation will receive written notice of their probationary status from the PA Program as soon as practicable. However, academic probation is automatic if one or more of the requisite conditions is met and therefore is not contingent upon receipt of written notification. It is the student’s responsibility to verify his or her academic standing before each semester and seek clarification if needed from the student’s academic advisor.

### Probationary Semester

In order to be restored to the status of good academic standing and to be eligible to continue in the PA Program, a student on academic probation is required to meet the conditions of probation as described in the Conditions of Academic Probation section below. Normally, a student must satisfy the conditions of

academic probation in one semester (the “Probationary Semester”). The two summer sessions together may constitute a Probationary Semester if the student accrues the number of credits applicable to the student’s status as a full-time student (not less than nine credits) during the two summer sessions.

### Conditions of Academic Probation

*Remediate.* A student may remediate the Failed Course by taking a comprehensive test on the appropriate subject matter and receiving a “B-” or higher in a letter-graded course or a “P” in a PAS pass/fail course. If the student successfully remediates the Failed Course in the interim between the semester in which the failure occurred and the beginning of the following semester, they will be restored to the status of good academic standing and permitted to progress in the PA Program. Even though the student was not on academic probation for an entire semester, the probation is counted and designated in the student’s record. If the student does not successfully remediate the Failed Course, they will be required to decelerate in order to remain in the PA Program. (See Remediation Policy, Current Competency Policy and the Deceleration Policy.)

*Decelerate.* Students who received a “C+” or lower in a PAS letter-graded course or an “F” in a PAS pass/fail and do not successfully remediate the Failed Course will be required to decelerate in order to progress in the PA Program. Students who decelerate shall take a leave of absence from the PA Program until the next semester in which the Failed Course is offered. When they resume their studies, decelerated students will be on academic probation and required to successfully repeat the Failed Course in the Probationary Semester by receiving at least a “B-“ for a PAS letter-graded course or a “P” for a PAS pass/fail-graded course. (See Deceleration Policy, Remediation Policy, and the Current Competency Test Policy). A student may decelerate only once.

*CQPA and QPA.* At the conclusion of every semester, the student must have a 3.00 or higher CQPA and quality point average (“QPA”). Failing grades are included when calculating CQPA & QPA.

*Course Grades.* During the Probationary Semester, students must receive a “B-“ or higher in each PAS letter-graded course and a “P” in each PAS pass/fail course; and

A student who fails to satisfy even one of the conditions of probation shall be dismissed automatically from the PA Program. (See Academic Dismissal Policy)

The conditions of academic probation, including the time period within they must be satisfied, are final and may not be appealed.

### Academic Dismissal

Usually, a student will have been on academic probation before being dismissed. However, a student may be dismissed automatically from the Physician Assistant Program (the “PA Program”) even if the student has never been placed on probation. Circumstances that may result in a student being dismissed from the PA Program include, but are not limited to, circumstances in which the student:

- Qualified for academic probation a second time.
- Failed to satisfy the conditions of probation within the time permitted.
- Received two or more grades below a “B-” in a PAS letter-graded courses and/or an “F” in a PAS pass/fail-graded courses.
- The student’s cumulative quality point average (“CQPA”) fell below a 3.00.

As soon as practicable after the conclusion of each semester including the two summer sessions, the status of each student who was on academic probation during that semester will be reviewed to determine

whether the student satisfied the conditions of academic probation during the time permitted. Students who satisfied the conditions of academic probation within the time permitted will be restored to good academic standing and permitted to progress in the PA Program. Students who did not satisfy the conditions of academic probation within the time permitted will be dismissed automatically from the PA Program.

A student who fails to satisfy the conditions of academic probation or otherwise qualifies for dismissal from the PA Program ordinarily shall be notified in writing as soon as practicable that they have been dismissed. Dismissal is automatic if a student fails to satisfy the conditions of academic probation or otherwise qualifies for dismissal, and therefore is not contingent upon receipt of such notification. It is the student's responsibility to verify his or her academic standing before each semester and seek clarification if needed from the student's academic advisor.

Students who are dismissed from the PA Program may appeal their dismissal in accordance with the Appeal of Academic Dismissal Policy. If the appeal is granted, the student will be reinstated in the PA Program on academic probation subject to the Conditions of Academic Probation identified in the Academic Probation Policy. The PA Program will inform the student in writing of the conditions of probation. The conditions of probation (including the time period within which the conditions must be satisfied) are final and may not be appealed.

Normally, a student who is reinstated in accordance with the Appeal of Academic Dismissal Policy and subsequently fails to satisfy the conditions of probation will be dismissed automatically from the PA Program without any further review or appeal.

### Appeal of Academic Dismissal

Students who have been dismissed from the Physician Assistant Program (the "PA Program") may appeal the decision of dismissal to the Academic Appeals Committee (the "Appeals Committee"). See Academic Probation Policy and Academic Dismissal Policy. To initiate such an appeal, the student must deliver a written appeal by overnight mail, United States Postal Service or personal delivery addressed to the Chair of the Appeals Committee, Tracey Kramar, MS, PA-C at 163 William Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10038. Alternatively, the written appeal may be sent as an e-mail attachment to the Chair of the Appeals Committee at [tkramar@pace.edu](mailto:tkramar@pace.edu).

The written appeal must be received by the Appeals Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the letter informing the student that they have been dismissed. If the appeal is not received by the Appeals Committee on or before the fourteenth day, normally the appeal will be denied.

*Standard for Granting an Appeal.* An appeal will be granted only if the student demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Appeals Committee that the student's unsatisfactory academic performance is due to (1) extraordinary and (2) non-recurring circumstances. In order for an appeal to be granted, each of the two elements must be satisfied.

**Information Required.** The written appeal submitted by the student must include the following information:

1. The student's name, telephone number, address, and e-mail address; and
2. The reason the student was dismissed from the PA Program; and
3. Identification of the (a) extraordinary and (b) non-recurring circumstances that caused the student's unsatisfactory academic performance; and

4. An explanation of why the information provided in Paragraph 3 above should result in the reversal of the decision to dismiss the student from the PA Program; and
5. A copy of the letter informing the student that the student was dismissed from the PA Program; and
6. With respect to the final course grades that resulted in the student being dismissed, a statement that no grade appeals are pending or will be commenced after the appeal of the decision to dismiss has been submitted to the Appeals Committee.

*The Appeals Process.* The Appeals Committee will meet as soon as practicable after the fall and spring semesters and each of the summer sessions to hear appeals of academic dismissals. The Appeals Committee will also meet at such other times as may be reasonably necessary.

In addition to considering the student's written appeal, ordinarily the Appeals Committee will require the student to appear at a hearing in order to, among other things, answer any questions the Appeals Committee may have or to provide additional information. At the hearing, the student may present additional evidence in support of his or her appeal. As part of its deliberations, and at its sole discretion, the Appeals Committee may, among other things, take into consideration the student's academic record, request relevant information from faculty members concerning the circumstances that resulted in the dismissal, and request information from persons knowledgeable about the issues before the Appeals Committee. The student will be permitted to respond to such information if it is adverse to the student and the Appeals Committee is likely to rely on it in making its decision.

If the appeal is granted, the student will be reinstated in the PA Program and placed on academic probation in accordance with the conditions of probation as set forth in the Conditions of Academic Probation section of the Academic Probation Policy. If the appeal is denied, dismissal from the PA Program will be effective as of the last day of the semester in which the student was on probation or was enrolled in the PA Program immediately prior to being dismissed. A student who is reinstated pursuant to this Appeal of Academic Dismissal Policy and fails to satisfy the conditions of academic probation within the time permitted, will be dismissed automatically from the PA Program. If such occurs, ordinarily the dismissal will be final and the student will not have the right to any further review or appeal.

The decision of the Appeals Committee requires a majority vote and is final and not subject to further review. The student will be notified of the decision of the Appeals Committee in writing as soon as practicable, usually within seven (7) business days following the date on which the Appeals Committee made its decision. The decision should consist of factual statements, not conclusory statements unsupported by facts.

### **The Academic Progression Appeals Committee**

The Academic Appeals Committee consists of three full-time and/or part-time faculty members and/or adjuncts of the PA Program. A member of the Appeals Committee who was a participant in the circumstances that resulted in the student's unsatisfactory academic performance and/or subsequent probation and/or dismissal, must recuse him or herself from the Appeals Committee for the sole purpose of that student's appeal.

No advisors or representatives of the student may participate in the hearing before the Appeals Committee or in the business of the Appeals Committee. Such advisors and representatives include, but are not limited to, attorneys, friends, classmates, and family members of the student.

## Standards of Professional Conduct and Academic Integrity Compliance Policy

### Violations Occurring in a Course

The word “course” includes all settings where learning, instruction and/or training for academic credit occurs, including clinical sites and clinical education labs (individually or collectively, the “Course”).

*Instructor’s Determination of a Violation:* Ordinarily, in the process of determining whether a student violated the Physician Assistant Program (the “PA Program”) Standards of Professional Conduct and/or Academic Integrity Policy, the course coordinator (or such other faculty or administrator as may be appropriate under the circumstances) shall meet with the student in order to discuss the matter as the violation relates to his or her course, obtain any information the course coordinator believes is relevant, and permit the student to present information the student wishes to bring to the attention of the course coordinator. If the course coordinator determines that it is more likely than not that a student violated the Standards of Professional Conduct and/or the Academic Integrity Policy, the course coordinator may impose sanctions such as, but not limited to, a written warning, a reduction in the grade or a failing grade for the paper, report, examination, data compilation, presentation or other assignment; and/or a failing grade for the course in which the violation occurred; and/or requiring the student to complete a learning activity designed to increase the student’s awareness of the significance and consequences of the violation.

Ordinarily, within seven (7) business days of making the determination there was a violation and imposing the sanction, the course coordinator shall report in writing to the Professional Standards Committee that the course coordinator determined the student violated the Standards of Professional Conduct and/or the Academic Integrity Policy. The report shall (i) provide all of the relevant details about the violation; (ii) describe the instructor’s investigation; (iii) describe the basis of the finding the student violated the Standards of Professional Conduct and/or the Academic Integrity Policy; (iv) identify the sanction(s) imposed; and (v) include any relevant documents, including any documents the student submitted to the course coordinator. A copy of the report shall simultaneously be provided to the student. The report should consist of factual statements, not conclusory statements unsupported by facts.

*Appeal to Professional Standards Committee:* The student may appeal the finding of a violation of the Standards of Professional Conduct and/or the Academic Integrity Policy and/or the sanction imposed to the Professional Standards Committee. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee within seven (7) business days of the date on which the course coordinator’s report was sent to the student. If the appeal is not submitted to the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee within seven (7) business days, ordinarily the appeal shall be denied.

The Professional Standards Committee may conduct such further investigation as it believes is appropriate under the circumstances. The course coordinator’s finding of a violation and/or the sanction imposed will be affirmed unless the Professional Standards Committee determines there is no reasonable basis for the finding and/or the sanction, as the case may be. If such occurs, the Professional Standards Committee will confer with the course coordinator and request that the course coordinator review the matter and, if the course coordinator concludes it is appropriate, to vacate or modify the finding of a violation of the Standards of Professional Conduct and/or the Academic Integrity Policy and/or the sanction imposed. If the course coordinator does not conduct a review, the Professional Standards Committee will request that at least one other course coordinator review the basis of the finding that the student violated the Standards of Professional Conduct and/or the Academic Integrity Policy and/or the sanction. During the period the matter is being reviewed by another course coordinator, the original course coordinator may vacate or modify his or her finding of a violation and/or any sanction imposed.



*Enhanced Sanctions for Serial or Severe Violations:* Under certain circumstances, the Professional Standards Committee may impose sanctions in addition to those imposed by the course coordinator. For example, if previous reports from the same or other course coordinators show that the student committed similar violations of the policy currently at issue, or if the current violation is severe (e.g., patient information was falsified and consequently the safety and well-being of the patient were jeopardized; the violation jeopardized the relationship of the PA Program with a clinical site), the Professional Standards Committee may impose additional sanctions up to and including dismissal from the PA Program. Before imposing a sanction of dismissal, the Professional Standards Committee shall meet with the student in order to discuss the matter, obtain any information the Professional Standards Committee believes is relevant, and to permit the student to present information the student wishes to bring to the attention of the Professional Standards Committee.

### Violations Not Occurring in a Course

Not every violation of the PA Program's Standards of Professional Conduct occurs in a course. On occasion, the Standards of Professional Conduct are breached outside of a course, for example, treating an advisor with a lack of respect, failing to respond as requested to e-mails from an advisor or PA Program staff, or failing to meet PA Program staff or an advisor's deadline for responding to a request.

*The Complaint:* Anyone who has a reasonable belief that a student in the PA Program violated the Standards of Professional Conduct outside of a course is encouraged to report such violation so that it can be determined whether, in fact, a violation occurred, and, if so, what the sanction should be. The violation should be reported in writing to the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee. The report shall (i) provide the relevant details about the violation, e.g., what happened, when (date and time), where, and so on; (ii) identify any witnesses to the alleged violation; and (iii) include any relevant documents. The report should consist of factual statements, not conclusory statements unsupported by facts. The Professional Standards Committee shall promptly provide a copy of the complaint to the student alleged to have committed the violation.

Within seven (7) business days following the date the Professional Standards Committee forwarded the complaint, the student may submit a response to the complaint to the Professional Standards Committee. The response, which shall be in writing, may include any information the student believes is relevant to the alleged violation.

*The Professional Standards Committee's Determination of a Violation:* The Professional Standards Committee may conduct such investigation as it believes is appropriate under the circumstances. The Professional Standards Committee's investigation shall include a meeting with the student in order to discuss the violation, obtain any information the Committee believes is relevant, and to permit the student to present information the student wishes to bring to the Committee's attention. The meeting shall also provide the Professional Standards Committee the opportunity to ask questions of the student and for the student to ask questions of the Committee. If the Professional Standards Committee determines it is more likely than not that the student violated the Standards of Professional Conduct, the Committee may, in accordance with the frequency and/or severity of the violation, impose sanctions such as:

- A written caution.
- A written warning.
- Dismissal from the PA Program.

In addition to any sanction, the student may be required to complete a learning activity related to the violation of the Standards of Professional Conduct.

In determining which sanction to impose, the Professional Standards Committee may consider previous

findings that the student committed similar violations of the Standards of Professional Conduct policy.

The Professional Standards Committee will issue its decision in writing to the student as soon as practicable. The decision should consist of factual statements, not conclusory statements unsupported by facts.

*Appeal to the Dean of the College of Health Professions:* Students found to have violated the Standards of Professional Conduct and were sanctioned by the Professional Standards Committee with dismissal from the PA Program, may appeal the decision of the Committee to the Dean of the College of Health Professions. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Dean within seven (7) business days of the date on which the Professional Standards Committee's decision was sent to the student. If the appeal to the Dean is not submitted within seven (7) business days, ordinarily the appeal shall be denied.

The Dean (or the Dean's designee) will review the student's appeal to the Dean, the complaint, the student's response to the complaint that was provided to the Professional Standards Committee, the Professional Standards Committee's decision, and such other information the Dean believes is relevant to the matter. The Dean will affirm the decision of the Professional Standards Committee unless the Dean determines there is no reasonable basis for the decision. A written copy of the Dean's decision shall be provided to the Professional Standards Committee and the student as soon as practicable. The Dean's decision is final and not subject to further review.

*The Professional Standards Committee:* The Professional Standards Committee consists of full-time and/or part-time faculty members and/or adjuncts of the PA Program. A decision of the Committee requires a majority vote. A member of the Professional Standards Committee who was a participant in or observed the circumstances that gave rise to a finding of a violation of the Standards of Professional Conduct Policy and/or the Academic Integrity Policy or the sanction imposed, or the complaint the student violated the Standards of Professional Conduct Policy, must recuse him or herself from the Committee for purposes of that appeal or complaint, as the case may be. Another faculty member will be substituted for the recused Committee member for the purpose of the appeal or the complaint.

Advisors to and representatives of the student (including attorneys), and friends, classmates and family members of the student, are not permitted to participate in the business of the Professional Standards Committee.

## Evaluations

### Evaluation of Students in the Didactic and Clinical Years

Students are evaluated by various methods to ensure that they meet the requirements contained in the "ARC-PA Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education". The following instruments and processes are used in this effort:

- Didactic and clinical year written or computer-based examinations and/or simulations
- Head-to-Toe Physical Exams
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination Physical Exam Simulations (OSCE's)
- Graded Interactive Case Studies
- Observation by faculty in class, small groups, clinical experiences, and clinical clerkships
- Performance of Clinical Procedures
- Clinical Experiences
- Faculty Advisory Reviews
- Evaluation of H & P write-ups

- Oral Patient Case Presentations
- Patient Education Presentations
- Site Visit of Student
- Aquifer Virtual Patient Cases
- PACKRAT Examinations
- Professional Evaluations

### PA Program Grading and Quality Point System

A	=	94 – 100 %
A-	=	90 – < 94 %
B+	=	86 – < 90 %
B	=	83 – < 86 %
B-	=	80 – < 83 %
C+	=	76 – < 80 %
C	=	70 < 76 %
F	=	< 70 %

Any PAS course grade below a ‘B-’ is not considered a passing grade by Program standards

Failure to comply with all aspects of the course requirements and to achieve the learner characteristics may adversely affect the student's grade. The Instructor or Course Coordinator will make all decisions regarding student grades.

### Professional Evaluations

The professional conduct of physician assistant students is evaluated on an on-going basis throughout the professional phase (i.e., the didactic and clinical years) of the Program. Violations of standards of conduct are subject to disciplinary actions administered by the University and by the Physician Assistant Program.

### Program Evaluations

The Physician Assistant Program is a dynamic entity. The Program faculty is constantly engaged in activities that provide evaluation data on the Program's performance. Student input is a vital part of the evaluation process. Feedback from student evaluations can identify strengths and areas for improvement for the Program, and may guide necessary changes in the curricula or clinical components. During the professional phase of the program, students are continuously evaluating many aspects of the program, including but not limited to courses, lecturers, rotations, and textbooks.

Methods of Program evaluation that may employ student input:

- Didactic Course Evaluation
- Instructor Evaluations
- Student Self-Assessment
- Focus Groups/Surveys
- Self-Study Committees
- Admission Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- New Faculty Search Committee
- Clinical Committee

Additional methods of Program evaluation include:

- Reports to the Executive Committee
- Assessment of student performance on NCCPA exam

- Assessment of student performance on PACKRAT exam
- Assessment of data collected in graduate surveys

All Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program students are obligated to participate in ALL ongoing Program evaluation efforts. Failure to do so is considered unprofessional behavior.

### At-Risk Students

How do we define an at-risk student?

1. Failure of 2 or more exams in 1 course (didactic)
2. Failure of 3 or more exams in 1 semester (didactic)
3. Failure of Mid Term Human Physiology exam (didactic)
4. Lower 5% cumulative Clinical Medicine courses (PAS 601.602, & 603) (didactic)
5. Failure of Comprehensive Clin med exam (didactic)
6. Failure of 2 or more EOR exams (clinical)
7. Low PACKRAT scores – TBD according to mean of the class and the national mean (clinical)

What does this mean?

1. Director of Didactic Education and the Director of Clinical Education will identify these students and give this information to the adviser.
2. Adviser schedules a mandatory meeting with their student as soon as possible.

What is the adviser's responsibility?

- If it is a didactic student the adviser should discuss:
  - Student's study habits (how they study, amount of time, study groups)
  - Are they using the course objectives?
  - Are they reading the textbook?
  - Are they using appropriate review books and doing as many review questions as possible.
  - Are there any outside distractions that may be affecting their work?
  - Refer to tutors (identified clinical students)
  - Refer to Counseling Center (if applicable) (<http://www.pace.edu/counseling>)  
156 William Street, 8th Floor, NYC  
Phone: (212) 346-1526  
Walk-In Hours, Monday through Friday 1 PM - 2:30 PM (during the academic year)
- If it is a clinical student the adviser should discuss:
  - Student's study habits (how they study, amount of time, study groups)
  - Are they studying from the topic list provided to them?
  - Are they supplementing with a textbook?
  - Are they reading most nights based on cases they saw that day?
  - Are they using appropriate review books and other materials

### Tutoring

Clinical year students in good academic and professional standing are selected by the PA program faculty and may be available for didactic (pre-clinical phase) students. The program will provide access to a student tutor should the student or faculty member identify a tutoring need. Tutors will work out mutually agreeable space and timeframe for tutoring meetings, encouraging group sessions.

Based on need and recommendation from your advisor, physician assistant students in their didactic phase

may be offered tutoring. The following is the process:

1. Students who desire tutoring will contact their adviser for permission and a referral.
2. If approved, the student will be given the name(s) and contact information of the tutor(s).
3. The tutor(s) will work out a mutually agreeable place/time to meet. Avoid last minute requests as tutors are engaged in their clinical phase and may have scheduling limitations.
4. Group sessions are encouraged, and individual tutoring is not the norm.
5. Students should come prepared with specific questions / topics.
6. Tutors may not discuss prior exam content or offer insights about previous testing. Participating in such activities is a breach of Academic Integrity by both the student and the tutor.
7. Tutors will report tutoring dates, total time spent, student names and courses/primary material covered to the Department.

## Remediation

### Remediation of Didactic & Clinical Coursework

Students who fail to demonstrate the requisite knowledge or skills may be identified as at risk and required to remediate those deficiencies prior to a course failure. Remediation is a process intended to identify and assist the student with meeting academic and/or professional requirements for satisfactory progression in the program.

The academic remediation process for the PA program is as follows:

- To identify students at risk of not meeting course requirements as stated in the syllabus.
- Once identified as at risk the Director of Didactic or Clinical Education will contact the assigned advisor to notify the student and arrange a meeting time to discuss any/all of the following:
  - Review of failed examination(s) or assignment(s)
  - Area(s) of deficiency
  - Qualification for and availability of tutoring services
  - Study and test taking skills review
  - Stress management/counseling availability
- Student will be referred to review standards for progression in the program as stated in the applicable handbook.
- Student may be offered a remediation activity to be determined and developed by the course instructor/coordinator. These activities may include but are not limited to a remediation assignment (written, practical or oral).
- To identify students who are not meeting program standards on didactic assessments (i.e., didactic summative exam)
- Any meeting discussions or e-mails will be documented and placed in the student's e-file

*Remediation of Didactic Written Examinations.* Individual course written examinations are not remediated during the course of the semester (with the exception of summative evaluations).

*Remediation of Clinical Written Examinations.* Students must receive a grade of 80% or higher to pass all clinical year exams. Students who do not receive a passing grade will be required to remediate and retake the exam (See individual clinical syllabus for remediation assignments). A passing grade is required on the retest in order to successfully pass the exam component of the course. If a student is unable to pass the exam component of the course, this will result in course failure. The original exam grade will be entered for the purpose of grade calculation.

*Remediation of PAS Courses.* A student, who fails a PAS-level course, may be permitted to remediate a

maximum of one (1) PAS course during didactic year and a maximum of one (1) PAS course during clinical year. Failure of a second PAS course in didactic or clinical year will result in automatic dismissal from the program.

If a student successfully completes their remediation activity, their grade for the course will be changed to a “B-” and the original failing grade removed. Even though the student may successfully remediate the course, when determining whether the student qualifies for probation or dismissal from the PA Program, it will be counted among the courses the student failed.

If the student does not successfully remediate the PAS didactic course, the original failing grade remains and, in order to progress in the Physician Assistant Program, the student will be decelerated and required to successfully repeat the course when it is offered provided, he or she has not failed one PAS course previously.

If the student does not successfully remediate the PAS clinical course, the original failing grade remains and, in order to progress in the Physician Assistant Program, the student will be required to successfully repeat the course when it is offered provided, he or she has not failed one PAS clinical course previously. This will cause a delay in graduation.

### Remediation After Comprehensive Didactic Testing

Students who fail to demonstrate requisite knowledge based on interval didactic testing will be identified as at risk and required to remediate those deficiencies. Remediation is a process intended to identify and assist the student with meeting academic requirements for satisfactory progression in the program and preparedness for passing professional licensing exams.

The remediation process for individuals identified by the program, as at risk, at the conclusion of the didactic year is as follows:

- Identified students who failed to demonstrate the requisite knowledge on interval didactic assessments (i.e., PACKRAT, didactic summative exam) will be referred to the Director of Remediation.
- The Director of Remediation will work with identified students providing a program, guidance, continued evaluation and determine successful completion of the program.
- Students will be required to enroll in external programs as directed.
- Students should expect expenses of \$500 for the program and required resources.
- Students must complete all assignments to be eligible for graduation and program clearance for the PANCE.

### Guided Study Program

Guided study is required if a student’s final Human Physiology course grade falls 1SD or more below the class mean.

*Purpose:* Cumulative program data has shown that poor performance in Human Physiology correlates with poorer performance on the PANCE. The purpose of this program is to identify students who are at risk for performing poorly on the PANCE as soon as possible and provide additional guided study tools throughout the clinical medicine courses.

*Process:*

1. The Director of Didactic Education will identify students at the completion of the Human Physiology course that fall 1SD or more below the class mean.
2. The Director of Didactic Education will develop quizzes for each of the clinical medicine units.

3. The Clinical Medicine course coordinator will be responsible for checking that each quiz is completed at least 24 hours prior to the clinical medicine examination.
4. If quizzes are not completed during that time period, the student will be referred to their academic adviser.
5. Failure to complete 2 or more quizzes is considered a professional infraction and the student may have a *PSE form* completed by the course coordinator and placed in their file

### Remediation of Professional Difficulties

Students who fail to demonstrate requisite professional behaviors may be identified as at risk and required to address their deficiencies. Remediation is a process intended to identify and assist the student with meeting professional requirements for satisfactory progression in the program. This can occur via:

1. Professional assessment during formal advisement sessions or
2. Due to a violation of the Standards of Professional Conduct and/or the Academic Integrity Policy.

When a student is in violation of the Standards of Professional Conduct, a report to the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) will be made in accordance with the procedures. The PSC will maintain and follow all reported violations.

In addition to any sanctions imposed by the PSC the student will be mentored by his advisor/faculty or the PSC regarding appropriate professional behaviors. Professional and behavioral objectives may be discussed and plans developed to encourage improvements.

- Once identified as at risk, the PSC will contact the assigned advisor to notify the student and arrange a meeting time to discuss the PSC violation and any/all of the following:
  - Area(s) of deficiency
  - Strategies to improve professional behaviors
  - Adherence to policies, procedures, and respect for negotiated decisions
  - Maintenance of academic integrity
  - Respectful and compassionate treatment for peers, faculty, and staff
  - Punctuality and attendance
- Student will be referred to review standards for professional progression in the program as stated in the applicable handbook.
- Student may be offered a remediation activity to be determined and developed by the PSC/advisor/instructor/coordinator.
- Any meeting discussions or e-mails will be documented and placed in the student's e-file.

### Deceleration Due to Failed Remediation

A student who has been notified they have been decelerated must file for an academic leave of absence from the Office of the Registrar and drop from all courses currently enrolled. All requests and inquiries for the Office of the Registrar can be made through <https://frontdesk.pace.edu/>. A *Registration Action Form* is necessary to file with the Office of the Registrar and is available at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/forms#l>. This PDF form requires a signature from the Office of the Registrar then the student must send a copy to the Program. The student must also complete the *Leave of Absence Application* available at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/forms#l>. This online form needs the Program's approval, so choose Dr. Jean Covino, DHSc, MPA, PA-C (the Program Chair) from the Advisor's drop-down menu.

You must complete and file the necessary paperwork to resume your studies on the semester prior to your return to repeat a failed course(s). You must complete the *Resumption of Studies Application* available at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/forms#l>. This online form needs the Program's approval, so choose Dr. Jean Covino, DHSc, MPA, PA-C (the Program Chair) from the Advisor's drop-down menu.

Students whose usual course of study is decelerated in order to repeat a course are required to demonstrate their current competency in certain PAS-level courses prior to resuming their studies or progressing in the program, as determined by the program chair. If a student fails any of these competency examinations, they will have to repeat that course when offered.

### Readmission

Students who are dismissed for poor academic performance may not register for any PAS-level courses for at least one full academic year. After this time, students may apply for readmission to the PA Program and will be placed in the current applicant pool. Students are not automatically readmitted. Students may be readmitted only once to the PA Program after academic dismissal.

### Leave of Absence, Withdrawals, Resumption of Studies

Generally, a student must complete the Physician Assistant Program in three years, including any leaves of absence (LOA). The maximum time allowed from matriculation to the conferring of the MSPAS degree in accordance with the Pace University Graduate catalog is 5 years.

<https://www.pace.edu/registrar/registration/academic-catalogs>

Occasionally, for a variety of reasons, a student may find it necessary to take a leave of absence from the PA Program or to withdraw before the end of a semester in which the student is enrolled. To request a leave of absence as a reasonable accommodation for an eligible disability, students should contact the Coordinator of Student Accessibility Services.

Students who wish to take a leave of absence should file a request in writing to the Program Chair, Dr. Jean Covino, [jcovino@pace.edu](mailto:jcovino@pace.edu). Additionally, they must notify the Office of the Registrar through <https://frontdesk.pace.edu/>. **Students who are taking a leave of absence because of a medical issue must also notify Annette Hernandez, [mloa@pace.edu](mailto:mloa@pace.edu).**

For any leave whether medical, military or academic, students must file the appropriate LOA form (<https://www.pace.edu/registrar/forms>) with the Office of the Registrar. The *Leave of Absence Application* available at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/forms#l> must be completed. This online form needs the Program's approval, so choose Dr. Jean Covino, DHSc, MPA, PA-C (the Program Chair) from the Advisor's drop-down menu.

A student who is unable to complete the semester and applies for a leave of absence must withdraw from the courses in which the student currently is enrolled and will receive a "W" for each course from which the student withdrew. A *registration action form* will be required to be filed with the Office of the Registrar and can be found at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/forms#l>. This PDF form requires a signature from the Office of the Registrar then the student must send a copy to the Program.

Please be advised that a leave of absence is considered a withdrawal for financial aid purposes and will therefore affect a student's full-time status and financial aid packages. Consequently, loan repayment obligations may be triggered. Students contemplating a leave of absence or withdrawal should also consult <https://www.pace.edu/financial-aid/policies-and-procedures/refund-and-repayment-policy>. It is strongly suggested that all students consult the program's financial aid liaison, Nakeba O. McKoy ([nmckoy@pace.edu](mailto:nmckoy@pace.edu)), in an expeditious manner about all leaves of absence and withdrawals for detailed information about the status of their financial aid prior to submitting a Leave of Absence Application.

The semester prior to your return you must complete and file the necessary paperwork to resume your studies with the office of the Registrar and provide completed and signed off copies to the Office of the



Registrar and the PA Program office. The appropriate *resumption of studies form* may be found at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/forms>.

### Tuition Cancellation Policy

The Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program adheres to the Tuition Cancellation Policy stated in the University Academic Catalog at <https://catalog.pace.edu/undergraduate/general-university/tuition-fees/tuition-cancellation-policy/>.

### Tuition Cancellation Schedule

The Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program adheres to the Tuition Cancellation Schedule stated in the University Academic Catalog at <https://catalog.pace.edu/graduate/general-university/tuition-fees/tuition-cancellation-schedule/>.

### Demonstration of Current Competency

Students, whose usual course of study is interrupted either because of a leave of absence or the need to repeat any PAS course, are required to demonstrate their current competency in certain PAS-level courses prior to resuming their studies or progressing in the program. To demonstrate current competency, a student may be required to take a written, oral or practical examination (OSCE), or to perform clinical activities. A grade of 80% or higher is required in order to demonstrate current competency. Remediation of competency examinations is not permitted. If a student fails a competency examination, the student will be required to repeat the course, even if the student successfully passed the course prior to the interruption of his or her studies.

If taken previous to a leave of absence the courses in which current competency must be demonstrated prior to the resumption of studies or progression in the professional phase of the PA Program can include but are not limited to Pathophysiology (PAS 534-535), Clinical Medicine (PAS 601-603), Basic Sciences and Clinical Laboratory Medicine (PAS 604, 605), Clinical Applications (PAS 606,607), Medical Pharmacology (PAS 547, 648), and Didactic or Clinical Comprehensive Examinations. Specific courses or examinations are subject to the approval of the program director.

## Graduation Policies

### Graduation Requirements

The Physician Assistant Program and the Office of the Registrar will review all student records prior to graduation. Any outstanding financial balance must be reconciled with the University prior to graduation. Students must fulfill all Department and University requirements, including compliance with academic integrity and disciplinary policies, before being awarded a diploma and certificate and to be eligible for the physician assistant national certifying examination. Specific requirements include:

1. Satisfactory completion of all Pace University required courses and courses for the Physician Assistant Program;
2. Satisfactory completion of all courses in the professional curriculum with a grade of 80% (B-) or better;
3. Satisfactory completion of all clinical rotations;
4. Satisfactory completion of all assignments;
5. Satisfactory completion of a comprehensive written examination at the end of the didactic year;
6. Satisfactory completion of a comprehensive physical exam and clinical skills practicum (CSP) or simulation at the end of the didactic year;
7. Satisfactory completion of a comprehensive written examination at the end of the clinical year;

8. Satisfactory completion of a comprehensive OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation) at the end of the clinical year;
9. Completion of the PACKRAT examination twice in the clinical year;
10. Compliance with standards of conduct and guidelines for ethical conduct and professional performance standards as listed in the student handbook.

### Application for Graduation & Degree Conferral

Candidates for graduation are required to file a *Graduation Diploma Verification Form*. With this paperless form, you will be able to verify how your name will be presented on the diploma, graduation date, program information, and diploma mailing address among other items. It is required that you file the form as soon as possible upon entering your clinical year to ensure that the updates are processed in a timely manner that coincides with your graduation term. Diplomas are usually ordered at the end of the semester end date according to the Office of the Registrar policies and you may expect to receive your diploma in the mail at least 2-4 weeks after the order date. You will find more information at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/graduation-conferral-degrees>.

### Readiness for Graduation

The Office of the Registrar conducts the final review of degree candidates' academic records to verify that all are on track to graduate. The degree verifier will check every course record and every detail in the permanent student academic record to make sure all the degree requirements are met, minimum grade point averages have been achieved, and that enough total credits have been completed to award a degree. Degree Verification notifications are sent by e-mail to each candidate's Pace assigned student e-mail address upon completion of the review. Any discrepancies should be addressed to the degree verifier and your academic advisor immediately to prevent a delay in conferring the degree. If you have questions regarding your Diploma Verification, please contact the Office of the Registrar immediately at <https://frontdesk.pace.edu/>.

### Reasons That Will Delay Degree Verification

- Unresolved Incomplete or In-Progress courses (missing grades)
- Missing final official transcripts (degree conferral date) from Undergraduate Institution
- Any emergency situation that effects the university

**Please note:** Degree verification is a confirmation that all program requirements have been completed.

The Office of the Registrar will confer degrees beginning once the semester has ended and continuing up to 45 days after the end of the semester. Notifications of when diplomas are to be mailed will be sent to your pace e-mail address. You may receive an e-mail from a third party vendor who distributes the degrees notifying you they will be sending them out. To help facilitate the process you need to make sure that you e-mail and mailing address is correct early in the fall semester.

### Conferral versus Commencement

The precise dates are announced each year. “Conferral” means that the University Registrar posts a notation of the award of a degree in our academic record-keeping system. For most purposes, the terms “graduation” and “conferral of a degree” are synonymous. “Commencement,” however, is another matter.

**Commencement:** The University has commencement ceremonies in May of every year. If you’re planning to attend your campus’ commencement exercise, please go to <http://www.pace.edu/commencement>. Information on caps, gowns, ticket distribution, award ceremonies and receptions, and the commencement checklist is available on the Commencement site. You must

register for the ceremony before March in order to participate and in order to get tickets you must order a cap and gown. Please note: Participation in commencement ceremonies does not mean all degree requirements have been met.

*Conferral of Degrees:* Degrees are conferred upon members of the graduating class one at a time, after the final grades are posted for the final degree requirements of each student's academic program. Provided that ALL outstanding grades and requirements have been submitted, Pace confers degrees three times per year. The date of conferral that appears on the transcript is relevant to the term in which the final grade was posted.

For those who need a verification letter confirming that they have graduated from the program, you need to submit a *Letter Request Form* to the Office of the Registrar through <https://frontdesk.pace.edu>. Please note you can only submit this form after your grades have appeared on Banner.

### Verification of Enrollment

Pace University subscribes to the National Student Clearinghouse. Companies interested in validating student enrollment or degree completion should visit the following link, [www.studentclearinghouse.org](http://www.studentclearinghouse.org), to submit a request for verification. Companies should be prepared to submit the correct spelling of name and all names used while attending college, social security number, date of birth, campus attended and a signed release from the student to receive a timely response and verification.

National Student Clearing House can also be reached at 703-742-4200 by phone, at 703-742-7792 by fax and by e-mail at [service@studentclearinghouse.org](mailto:service@studentclearinghouse.org). More information is available at [www.studentclearinghouse.org](http://www.studentclearinghouse.org).

### Transcripts and Verification for Physician Assistant Students and Alumni

To request a transcript and verification with Pace University's seal, please see more information and instruction at <https://www.pace.edu/registrar/transcripts-and-verification>. Here are the keynotes:

#### Ordering Transcripts/Verification

Pace University has contracted with The National Student Clearinghouse to handle all transcript requests for current students, former students, and alumni.

- All transcript requests must be submitted to The National Student Clearinghouse Transcript Ordering Page (<https://tsorder.studentclearinghouse.org/school/select>).
- If you are a current or recently graduated student, please check to confirm that your final grades and degree information are posted on MyPace Portal prior to ordering your transcript.
- The National Student Clearinghouse will send updates on the status of your order via email.

Through the National Student Clearinghouse website, students, and alumni can choose between two types of transcripts:

- A traditional hard copy transcript that can be sent via regular mail or express mail.
  - For students who attended Pace University prior to 2005, there may be delays in the processing time as these records require additional research. These records will only be available via mail delivery.
- An electronic transcript, a certified PDF of your official Pace University transcript, that can be emailed to a university, business, organization, or to any individual with a valid email address. Recipients of the Electronic PDF Transcript will receive an email with a secured link, password, and instructions on how to retrieve the document. They will have 30 days to access the link.
  - This option is currently unavailable for students who attended Pace University prior to

2005. Please contact the Transcript & Verification Dept. (<https://frontdesk.pace.edu/>) with any concerns regarding your records if you attended during these dates.

Find the step-by-step instruction at <https://www.pace.edu/sites/default/files/2021-03/online-transcript-ordering-system-for-students.pdf>.

#### Other Verifications without University Seal

- Send the state verification, credentialing reference, and claims history request that does not require the University seal to Hope Eiger at [heiger@pace.edu](mailto:heiger@pace.edu).
- Send the education verification request for employers to your faculty advisor. You may find the faculty contact information at <https://www.pace.edu/college-health-professions/faculty>. Send the request to Hope Eiger at [heiger@pace.edu](mailto:heiger@pace.edu) if the faculty advisor is no longer with Pace University.
- Send the enrollment verification request for jury duty or apartment rental with attached form(s)/documentation to Sherylyne Toque at [stoque@pace.edu](mailto:stoque@pace.edu).

A list of licensing boards by state is available at <https://www.nccpa.net/state-licensing-boards/>.

## Physician Assistant National Certification Exam (PANCE)

### NCCPA Content Blueprint

The following material is drawn from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistant (NCCPA) webpage referenced at <https://www.nccpa.net/pance-content-blueprint>. The material on NCCPA's certification and recertification exams can be organized in two dimensions.

1. Organ systems and the diseases, disorders and medical assessments physician assistants encounter within those systems; and
2. The knowledge and skills physician assistants should exhibit when confronted with those diseases, disorders and assessments.

Please note that while the subject matter covered on the certification and recertification exams is the same, there is some difference in the nature of the questions on those exams. Generally, the questions on the initial certification exam are more specific, while questions on the recertification exam tend to address broader clinical issues. This difference is most apparent in the questions related to applying basic science concepts and reflects the different functions of the two exams.

<https://prodcmsstoragesa.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/files/PANCEBlueprint.pdf>

The tables in the links above illustrate the approximate percentage of exam questions you'll encounter in several categories, grouped as described above. Other content dimensions cross-sect these categories. For example, up to 20 percent of the questions on any exam may be related to surgery, and up to two percent may cover legal or ethical issues.

Although not an exhaustive listing, the blueprint will provide a sampling of the diseases and conditions the candidate may expect to encounter on the PANCE. Use the blueprint as a guide to your preparation for the certifying exam. Successful completion of the exam is a requirement for licensure in most states, including New York.

### NCCPA Examination Criteria

Only those students who graduate in good standing from a program approved by the Accreditation Review Committee for Physician Assistants (ARC-PA) may sit for the PANCE exam. Advance registration is required. Applications are not accepted by the NCCPA until 90 days prior to your expected

graduation date. After a completed application is received from a candidate and confirmation of graduation is received from the Program, an “exam acknowledgement” is created by the NCCPA. The available testing dates for each candidate will begin seven days after the expected program completion date and end 180 days later. Please contact NCCPA at [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net) for more detailed information.

NCCPA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and also offers special accommodations when testing for qualified examinees with medical conditions that may be temporary or are not otherwise covered by the ADA. The granting of special accommodations at the program does not automatically ensure approval of special accommodations for an NCCPA exam. The Special Accommodations Guidelines information is available on the website at <http://www.nccpa.net/specialaccommodations>.

Graduation from the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital PA Program does not ensure that one can practice as a physician assistant. Graduates must successfully pass the PANCE examination and meet state registration requirements in order to become licensed to practice as a physician assistant.

### New York State Education Department Registration

Students should complete an application for registration with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) 3 months prior to graduation. Permanent registration in New York State requires obtaining a passing score on a certifying examination acceptable to the NYSED. Limited permits are also available. The Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE) is the current examination utilized by the NYSED.

Contact Information: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/med/rpa.htm>

### Other State Registration and Licensing

The majority of states have state regulations governing physician assistants. Each student who is considering employment in a specific state should review the regulations so they are familiar with them. Many states require registration through the State Board of Medical Licensure prior to the start of employment. Students are encouraged to check with the specific State Board of Medicine for current requirements and an application. Link to other state licensing & specialty boards: <https://www.nccpa.net/state-licensing-boards/>.

### Career Services

The Career Service department provides a career counselor for CHP students. Career counselors offer students the opportunity to develop life-long career management skills and resources to obtain employment. <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/med/rpa.htm>

# Forms

(Double-click the form to open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader)

# Advisement Form

(Double-click the form to open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader)

## PA PROGRAM STUDENT ADVISEMENT FORM

Student Name:

Date:

Didactic

Clinical

Fall

Spring

\*Summer

*\*final summer advisement session must occur after S/I of the clinical year*

### Student Academic Self-Assessment: (To be completed by student)

Please circle the appropriate letter A-E in accordance to your answer A= Strongly agree; B= Agree; C= Neutral; D= Disagree; E= Strongly Disagree						
1.	I understand the PA Program expectations.	A	B	C	D	E
2.	I am able to manage class load, complete assigned tasks and keep up with Program studies and expectations.	A	B	C	D	E
3.	I am able to manage my stress level well.	A	B	C	D	E
4.	My time management and study skills are adequate.	A	B	C	D	E
5.	My professional performance is appropriate.	A	B	C	D	E
6.	I am comfortable with my overall level of ability and knowledge.	A	B	C	D	E

### Student Professional Self-Assessment: (To be completed by student)

7.	I show respect for other students, faculty, administrative personnel and preceptors/other medical personnel (if applicable)	A	B	C	D	E
8.	I am able to act appropriately in stressful situations.	A	B	C	D	E
9.	I understand and respect cultural diversity and lifestyle changes.	A	B	C	D	E
10.	I maintain academic integrity at all times.	A	B	C	D	E

Student concerns are:

Current Course/Exam Grades: PAS, EOR, PACKRAT: (To be completed by student)

### Faculty Academic Assessment: (To be completed by faculty advisor)

Student Current QPA (>3.0)	Yes	No
Is student failing or in danger of failing any PAS level course?	Yes	No
Comments:		

Pace University – College of Health Professions Center for Excellence in Healthcare  
Simulation Code of Conduct

(Double-click the form to open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader)

PACE UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

*Interprofessional Center for Healthcare Simulation  
Code of Conduct*

1. The Interprofessional Center for Healthcare Simulation (ICHS) laboratory is to be treated as a REAL clinical environment. Equipment, room design, and preparation are all geared towards mimicking a clinical environment and students are to behave as if they were in a clinical setting.
2. The ICHS is a safe learning environment; all simulations are for designing to meet learning objectives within your courses. Student performance during a simulation is not to be discussed outside of the course. Additionally, students must not discuss content of simulated exercises with other students after completion. Students should not arrive at the lab with prior knowledge of the exercise as it hinders their performance. (Honor Code)
3. Dress code for laboratory will be provided by faculty dependent upon skills being taught. If you are meeting or working with a Standardized patient, professional attire and a clean white coat is necessary.
4. The ICHS uses some equipment that contains latex. If you have a latex allergy please notify your faculty as well as the staff of the ICHS
5. You must wash your hands or use hand sanitizer prior upon entering the simulation room or a standardized patient examination room. As a healthcare professional, you are to treat the simulator/standardized patient as you would in a clinical setting.
  - o You are expected to introduce yourself to your patient and provide your credentials
  - o You are to inform your patient of their plan of care, lab results, procedures, and medications as applicable.
6. Betadine and surgical lubricant or any type of marking device may not to be used on any simulators unless instructed by lab staff.
7. Discard all sharps, needles and syringes in red sharps boxes located in each room. Needles and syringes are not to be discarded in regular trash containers. All sharps, syringes and needles are to remain in the lab and should not be removed.
8. All medications used in the laboratory are either simulated or expired and are not for clinical use and should not be removed.
9. Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the skills lab, simulation suites or examination rooms.
10. Students are responsible for their personal belongings. Belongings may be stored in the day use lockers by bringing your own lock to secure your belongings. Belongings cannot be left in the laboratory overnight.



Report to Professional Standards Committee  
(Double-click the form to open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader)



**Pace University - Lenox Hill Hospital  
Physician Assistant Program**  
163 William Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10038  
  
Phone: (212) 518-6050  
Fax: (212) 618-6005  
Email: paprogram@pace.edu  
  
www.pace.edu/chp

**REPORT TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>**

Date of violation: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Course in which violation occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Title of person who reported violation to course coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

***Within seven (7) business days of making the determination there was a violation and imposing the sanction, the course coordinator shall report in writing to the Professional Standards Committee that the course coordinator determined that it was more likely than not that the student violated the *Standards of Professional Conduct* and/or the *Academic Integrity Policy*. A copy of this report should simultaneously be sent to the student and Professional Standards Committee.***

The information provided below should consist of factual statements, not conclusory statements unsupported by facts.

Provide all of the relevant details about this violation:

1. Provide all of the relevant details about this violation:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Please describe your investigation, in other words, what actions you took to determine that a violation occurred.

<sup>1</sup> The word "course" includes all settings where learning, instruction and/or training for academic credit occurs, including clinical sites and clinical education labs (individually or collectively, the "Course").

Student Attestation of Understanding  
(Double-click the form to open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader)



Pace University - Lenox Hill Hospital  
Physician Assistant Program  
163 William Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

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Email: paprogram@pace.edu

[www.pace.edu/chp](http://www.pace.edu/chp)

### Student Attestation of Understanding

I have reviewed the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Student Program Policy and Procedure Handbook 2020-2021 and the Student Didactic Year Handbook 2020-2021. I have read the policies and procedures concerning the Physician Assistant Program. I understand my obligation to fulfill all requirements of the Program in the outlined time frame. I fully understand the information, have had an opportunity to have any questions answered and hereby agree to abide by the information concerning Physician Assistant Program policies and procedures contained within these documents, specifically the progression standards, as listed below. Additionally, I agree to abide by the University rules and regulations as set forth in the University Graduate Catalog and Student Handbook (<http://www.pace.edu/student-handbook/>).

#### Grade Point Progression Standards for the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program

Progression and continuance in the Pace University-Lenox Hill Hospital Physician Assistant Program is not only based upon scholastic achievement. It is also, necessarily, based on the qualities described in the Standards of Professional Conduct for the Physician Assistant Student and Academic Integrity.

#### PROGRESSION STANDARDS:

1. Students are required to maintain a cumulative QPA of 3.0 or higher to continue and/or graduate from the PA Program.
2. Students must obtain a minimum grade of "B-" (80%) in all PAS letter graded courses and a "P" in all PAS pass/fail graded courses.
3. Students must adhere to the Standards of Professional Conduct for the Physician Assistant Student. Please refer to the sections entitled "Standards of Professional Conduct for the Physician Assistant Student and Academic Integrity" of this handbook.

Students who fail to achieve a cumulative QPA and cumulative science QPA of 3.0, a grade of "B-" in letter graded PAS courses or "P" in pass/fail graded PAS course may present his/her case before the Academic Appeals Committee. Please refer to the Standards of Professional Conduct and Academic Integrity Compliance Policy, Probation, Dismissal and Appeals sections of this handbook for further information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Incident Report  
(Double-click the form to open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader)



**Pace University - Lenox Hill Hospital  
Physician Assistant Program**  
163 William Street, 5th Floor  
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Email: [paprogram@pace.edu](mailto:paprogram@pace.edu)  
  
[www.pace.edu/chp](http://www.pace.edu/chp)

**INCIDENT REPORT**

**Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year/Class

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Incident(s) Occurred

\_\_\_\_\_  
Time Incident Occurred

\_\_\_\_\_  
Institution/Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preceptor Name

Has an incident report been filed at the institution/office?                      Yes                      No

If yes, who filed the report? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe incident in detail. Give times, names of other personnel present, etc. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please send this form to the Course Coordinator, Director of CEL, Program Chair, Program Staff, and Director of Security.

# Consent for Release of Confidential Information

(Double-click the form to open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader)



**Pace University - Lenox Hill Hospital  
Physician Assistant Program**  
163 William Street, 5th Floor  
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Phone: (212)618-6050  
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Email: paprogram@pace.edu

[www.pace.edu/chp](http://www.pace.edu/chp)

## CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year/Class

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Students often request that parts of their Physician Assistant Program Student Record be released to potential employers through recommendations or actual copies, state agencies for licensure, and NCCPA. In order for the Program to release information, the Program office must have a Consent for Release of Confidential Information on file.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize the Physician Assistant

Program staff to release the following parts of my Student Record:

To:

I understand that the above noted information will be sent only to those persons or agencies listed above requesting documentation from my record. I also understand that information not listed above will not be released to any persons until a consent form is on file.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Name (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Student Request for File Access  
(Double-click the form to open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader)



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www.pace.edu/chp

**STUDENT REQUEST FOR FILE ACCESS**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby request to inspect the contents  
of my Physician Assistant Program student file.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signature

Appointment for Review: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**File Inspected:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Representative Signature