

## Department of Physician Assistant Studies

### Mission Statement

#### *Le Moyne College Mission Statement*

Le Moyne College is a diverse learning community that strives for academic excellence in the Catholic and Jesuit tradition through its comprehensive programs rooted in the liberal arts and sciences. Its emphasis is on education of the whole person and on the search for meaning and value as integral parts of the intellectual life. Le Moyne College seeks to prepare its members for leadership and service in their personal and professional lives to promote a more just society.

#### *Department of Physician Assistant Studies Mission Statement*

The Le Moyne College Physician Assistant Program is dedicated to the education of students to become competent, caring, compassionate, and ethical providers of health care services with the supervision of a licensed physician. The program seeks to instill in each the individual desire to pursue a lifelong commitment to promote excellence in the delivery of patient care through continual self-assessment and advancement of one's medical skills and knowledge.

The program prepares the student to work in a wide variety of settings under the supervision of licensed physicians, such as hospitals, private primary care facilities, nursing homes, and community centers.

#### *History of the Program*

The Physician Assistant Program of Le Moyne College was founded in 1996 in response to the health care needs of central New York, including Syracuse and Onondaga County. It was established within the Department of Biology, with Norb Henry, EdD as the founding director, and James Longo, MD as the founding medical director. The Physician Assistant Program was granted full departmental status in 2004, with Linda Allison, MD, MPH becoming the first Chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

The Physician Assistant Program was a certificate program until 2005, when it received approval from the New York State Department of Education and the Accreditation Review Commission for PA Education to grant a master's degree. Students who entered in fall 2004 were allowed to complete either the certificate program or the graduate program (with an extra semester of coursework), and students entering in fall 2005 were the first full master's degree class.

The program was initially granted provisional accreditation, and full accreditation in 1998. Continuing accreditation was granted for 2002-2006, and again for 2006-2011. The first class entered in fall 1996 with 32 students. Since 1998, over 440 students have completed the Le

Moyne College Physician Assistant Program and are employed throughout central New York and across the US.

*Le Moyne PANCE Pass Rate*

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>LMC first time taker pass rate</b>	<b>NCCPA national first time test taker average pass rate</b>
2007	88	93
2008	91	94
2009	94	92
2010	97	94
2011	88	91
2012	92	93

## Master of Science – Physician Assistant Studies Program

### Curriculum

#### *Program Objectives*

Upon completion of the program, a student will have developed the skills to provide competent and compassionate care, and skills that promote lifelong learning, including

- Development of strong knowledge base
- Self-directed learning
- Self-assessment
- Clinical thinking
- Resource utilization and evaluation
- Applied professional skills
- Professional communications and comportment

#### *Curriculum*

The physician assistant studies program is a full-time, master's degree program lasting two years (24 months). The program begins only in the fall semester.

#### *Didactic Year*

The first year (12 months) is the didactic year comprised of lectures, labs and problem-based learning exercises. The overarching philosophy of the entire program is the bio-psycho-social approach to patient care. The active learning aspect of the didactic year is referred to as “problem-based.” This specific component emphasizes student-centered, rather than teacher-centered, education. Case review and analysis sharpens clinical skills in a safe learning environment. The lectures, seminars and discussion groups are blended with laboratory exercises and “hands-on” physical examination skills to round out the first-year experience.

Le Moyne is one of only a handful of PA programs that also presents medical humanities courses as an integral part of training. In conjunction with evidence-based medicine skill acquisition, self-directed learning and resource utilization, the Le Moyne graduate learns to care for the whole person.

Community-service learning moves the student from the classroom to the neighborhoods to facilitate an even greater, deeper understanding of the human condition in the “real world.”

#### *Clinical Year*

In the second year (12 months), emphasis is placed on developing a solid, pragmatic foundation for day-to-day practice by providing patient care under the close supervision of a board-certified (or eligible) physician and licensed health care providers. Multiple sites are utilized and multiple specialties are represented. Each rotation examines the concepts of “health and wellness” in various settings and in ways uniquely sensitive to the prevailing cultural climate.

The clinical curriculum is comprised of eight rotations: internal medicine and adult primary care; pediatrics; geriatrics; women's health; surgery; emergency medicine; behavioral health; and the surgical/medical subspecialty electives.

In addition to the didactic and clinical courses, the master's seminar courses provide an opportunity for the physician assistant student to complete a master's project that contributes to the student's knowledge and professional development, as well as to the profession.

### *Cultural Competence Initiative*

Physician assistants must develop communication skills that enable them to take a thorough patient history and provide patient education in a wide range of settings involving a diverse patient population. As the nation's population changes and ages, increasing ethnic diversity poses special communication challenges for the health care provider. People of color suffer a disproportionate burden of disease, morbidity and mortality. In order to address the health disparities and the need to develop strong communication skills, students participate in community outreach activities that provide them an opportunity to work with diverse populations within the Syracuse area. Students encounter people from backgrounds different from their own and have an opportunity to develop a sensitivity and understanding of others through these activities.

### *Schedule of Courses\** (Effective Fall 2010)

\*Medical Terminology assignments begin in the summer prior to matriculation, 0 credits

#### **Year 1**

Fall	Cr	Spring	Cr	Summer	Cr
PAS 501 Clinical Medicine I	7	PAS 502 Clinical Medicine II	7	PAS 503 Clinical Medicine III	7
PAS 511 Anatomy & Physiology I	4	PAS 512 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	PAS 515 Counseling & Public Health	3
PAS 513 Pharmacology I	3	PAS 514 Pharmacology II	3	PAS 603 Research Seminar III	3
PAS 521 Medical Humanities Seminar I	3	PAS 522 Medical Humanities Seminar II	3		
PAS 600 Orientation to the PA Profession	0	PAS 602 Research Seminar II	1		
PAS 601 Research Seminar I	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>13</b>

#### **Year 2**

Fall	Cr	Spring	Cr	Summer	Cr
PAS 604 Research Seminar IV	2	PAS 605 Research Seminar V	3	PAS 677-8 Clinical Rotations VII, VIII	6
PAS 671-3 Clinical Rotations I, II, III	9	PAS 674-6 Clinical Rotations IV, V, VI	9	PAS 653 Professional Skills III	3
PAS 651 Professional Skills I	3	PAS 652 Professional Skills II	3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>9</b>