



Addendum to
Academic Bulletin
for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies
2021-22
September 2021

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Please note: Any changes made to policies in this *Academic Bulletin* during the academic year will come into effect upon their approval. These new policies will be communicated to all students, faculty, and staff and will replace what is in this document.

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Major Changes in this Addendum

1. **Physician Assistant:** The course descriptions were revised for PHAS 632 and PHAS 633 and the course numbers and descriptions of the Clinical Rotations (formerly PHAS 642-649, now PHAS 650-659) were revised.

Graduate Program: Master of Physician Assistant Studies

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Program Director: Tim Scanlon, PA-C, MSPA

Medical Director/Clinical Director: Scott Gardner, MD

Academic Coordinator: Jill Gulczynski, PA-C, MSPA

Program faculty:

Megan Bonk, PA-C, MPAS; Ronald Bowers, PA-C, DHSc; Sarah Brandell, PA-C, MPAS; Elizabeth Diem, PA-C, MPAS; Christine Marriott, PA-C, MPAS; Vanessa Rogers, PA-C, MPAS; Pamela Wireman-Keller, PA-C, MPAS

Program staff:

Lona Blake, Clinical Coordinator; Mary Guzman, Admissions Coordinator; Valerie Pequignot, Office Assistant

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of the Kettering College physician assistant studies program is to provide, in a Christian environment, the academic and clinical experience necessary to develop competent empathetic professional healthcare providers who are dedicated to lifelong learning.

DEGREE DESCRIPTION

The MPAS degree is a clinically based program that provides the academic and clinical education necessary to become competent practicing physician assistants.

VISION FOR THE PA PROGRAM

The physician assistant course of study will produce outstanding new physician assistants. Using innovative learning methods and a commitment to mentor and empower students, Kettering College educates its PA students to exhibit the highest standards of intellectual, ethical, and spiritual maturity. They exemplify professional excellence and leadership in meeting the challenges of the profession in an evolving healthcare environment.

CREDITS AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

The MPAS degree requires a minimum of 98 graduate-level credits for graduation. All physician assistant (PHAS) courses must be taken at Kettering College.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSION

The Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Physician Assistant provides the following description of the profession:

The physician assistant is academically and clinically prepared to provide healthcare services with the direction and responsible supervision of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy. Within the physician/physician assistant relationship, they make clinical decisions and provide a broad range of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, and health maintenance services. Their clinical role includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practice settings. Physician assistant practice is centered on patient care and may include educational, research, and administrative activities.

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. The tasks performed by individual physician assistants cannot be delineated precisely because of the variations in practice requirements mandated by geographic, political, economic, and social factors. At a minimum, however, physician assistants are educated in areas of basic medical science, clinical disciplines, and discipline-specific problem solving. Physician assistant practice is characterized by clinical knowledge and skills in areas traditionally defined by family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, surgery, and psychiatry/behavioral medicine. Physician assistants practice in ambulatory emergency, inpatient, and long-term care settings. Physician assistants deliver healthcare services to diverse patient populations of all ages with a range of acute and chronic medical and surgical conditions. They need knowledge and skills that allow them to function effectively in a dynamic healthcare environment.

KETTERING COLLEGE PA GRADUATE COMPETENCIES

The PA program has determined that proficiency in the following competencies are prerequisite for graduation from the program:

Patient-Centered Medical Knowledge

1. Demonstrate adequate medical knowledge across the age and body system spectrum.
2. Make an appropriate referral and/or follow up of patients.
3. Incorporate understanding of medical science when determining disease etiology.
4. Utilize critical thinking skills to provide patient care.
5. Correctly order and interpret diagnostic tests.
6. Initiate appropriate interventions for preventable conditions.
7. Utilize screening recommendations for disease prevention.

8. Create an appropriate differential diagnosis.
9. Appropriately manage patients according to evidence-based guidelines.
10. Recognize the indications for principal therapeutic interventions

Interpersonal and Communications Skills

1. Appropriately document information regarding patient care.
2. Demonstrate professional composure.
3. Use effective listening and nonverbal communication skills to effectively communicate with others.

Patient-Centered Clinical Care

1. Elicit an accurate patient history.
2. Effectively perform a physical exam.
3. Demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families.
4. Communicate effectively so that patients can understand the information being conveyed to them.
5. Competently perform medical and surgical procedures considered essential in the area of primary care.

Professional and Legal Aspects of Health Care

1. Evaluate the impact of legal and regulatory requirements of the practice of medicine.
2. Demonstrate an adequate fund of knowledge regarding the ethical principles pertaining to provision of or withholding of clinical care.
3. Exemplify professional behavior as expected of a PA
4. Address personal strengths and weaknesses appropriately.

Healthcare Finance and Systems

1. Describe the funding sources and payment systems that provide coverage for patient care.
2. Summarize the larger context and systems of healthcare.
3. Appraise the resources within the system that aid in providing optimal quality health care.

ACCREDITATION/PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

The physician assistant program at Kettering College is accredited through the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant and the Higher Learning Commission. The physician assistant program is also an active member of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA).

CERTIFICATION

Successful completion of the program leads to a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS). Graduates are eligible for the examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Certification is a requirement for registration/licensure to practice in all states.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants who are not pre-PA students at Kettering College or enrolled in the Bachelor of Science human biology major “3+2”-year MPAS accelerated curriculum must apply through Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org. Applications must be officially submitted to CASPA no later than Oct. 1 of the year prior to matriculation.

All Kettering College students wishing to apply to the PA program must complete the MPAS application, which is available from the PA admissions coordinator. Applications are due in the PA office no later than Oct. 1 of the year prior to matriculation. For those Kettering College students considering the accelerated curriculum, please refer to the program of study for the human biology major.

International medical graduates: Applications are accepted from international medical graduates (IMGs). The following is important information pertinent to the IMG:

- Advanced placement is not offered for IMGs; all PA students must complete the entire curriculum.
- IMGs must meet all prerequisite coursework.
- International transcripts will need to be evaluated by a service to establish equivalencies to U.S. university courses and grades. Evaluations are currently accepted from:
World Education Services: www.wes.org (preferred)
Josef Silny & Associates Inc.: www.jsilny.com/html/foreign.htm
- Applicants who are not permanent residents should refer to the admission section of the undergraduate *Bulletin* for information for international students.
- IMG applicants who have completed the USMLE Step 1 must submit a copy of their Score Report and USMLE Step 1 Performance Profile to the PA admissions coordinator.
- The role of a PA is a dependent practitioner under the supervision of a physician. IMGs who have worked as physicians in other countries may have difficulty accepting this role change.

For all students, the application process is structured on a two-tiered system composed of a pre-interview selection process and selection for admission to the program.

A. Pre-interview process: Interviews are conducted from September through December. The following qualifications must be met in order to be considered for the interview process:

1. Only completed applications will be considered.
2. Applicant must have taken the Physician Assistant College Admission Test (PA-CAT).
3. Transcripts must reflect a cumulative GPA of 3.00 for all prerequisite courses with no grade lower than a C. Selection for the interview is based on the following:
 - Completion and nature of the degree:

- Completion of a bachelor's degree and prerequisite courses from a regionally accredited institution OR enrollment in the BS degree, human biology major
 - Nature of the degree (BA, BS, MS, PhD, etc.)
 - GPA analysis of complete academic history:
 - Prerequisite courses as listed below
 - Cumulative college GPA
 - Any grades of C and/or below on college transcript
4. **Prerequisite courses:** Completion of prerequisite courses/degree must be at a regionally accredited college or university. Prerequisite courses may be in process at the time of application; however, applicants must have completed at least 18 credits total with 12 of the natural science courses and 6 in the other courses.

5. **Natural sciences prerequisites** (all must include lab component except biochemistry):

General biology	4 semester credits
Organic chemistry (full sequence)	8 semester credits
Biochemistry (lab preferred)	4 semester credits
Human anatomy and physiology (full sequence)	8 semester credits
Microbiology	4 semester credits

TOTAL 28 semester credits

Note: Natural science courses need to have been taken within 10 years of date of application; if older than 10 years, please consult the PA admission coordinator.

Other prerequisites:

Psychology	3 semester credits
Developmental OR abnormal psychology	3 semester credits
Statistics	3 semester credits

TOTAL 9 semester credits

6. **Verification of prerequisite course completion:** Students must complete any outstanding prerequisite courses prior to the beginning of the summer semester with submission of the course grades to the admissions office prior to the end of the first summer semester of the PA program. Official transcripts need to be submitted to admissions to demonstrate completion of outstanding classes. Students will be blocked from registering for fall classes until completion of outstanding prerequisite courses is verified.

7. **Quality and quantity of healthcare hours:** Applicants will be rated on both the type of healthcare hours and the number of completed experiential hours at the time of application. It is highly recommended that applicants complete at least 1,000 hours, which could be obtained in, but not limited to the following roles: STNA, CNA, EMT or paramedic, lab tech/phlebotomist, medical scribe, EKG technician, surgical technician, pharmacy technician, respiratory care practitioner, radiological technologist, medical mission worker. It is also highly recommended that the applicant gain some exposure to the PA profession by shadowing a PA.

8. **Evaluation of recommendation letters:** Applicants will need to submit three letters of reference (to CASPA or directly to the PA department if a current Kettering College student). Letters must be written no more than 12 months prior to the application deadline. No more than one letter should be from a professor; one should be from a healthcare professional if possible.

9. **Bonus consideration** will be awarded to those students taking at least 7 semester credits at Kettering College.

- B. Selection is based upon the results of the pre-interview process evaluation and the interview.
- Evaluation of communication skills: Applicants must demonstrate strong written and oral communication skills.
 - Written communication skills will be determined from an essay to be completed at the time of the interview.
 - Oral skills will be determined during the interview process.
 - Documented plans for completion of any outstanding prerequisite courses (if applicable).
 - Results from an online computer-based assessment for non-cognitive skills and interpersonal characteristics (CASPer).

The PA admission committee selects and recommends applicants for admission to the PA program; this roster is shared with the College admission office for final acceptance.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Applicants will be notified by both the PA admission coordinator and the College admission director regarding their selection for admission to the PA program approximately three to four weeks following the interview process. Final selections will be made no later than Feb. 1. Each applicant has 10 business days to submit a \$500 nonrefundable deposit to secure a seat in the program.

All applicants must meet all other requirements for admission to Kettering College.

Pre-enrollment notes:

- Admitted students must have current CPR certification completed prior to the beginning of the first fall semester of the program.
- A criminal background check is required prior to beginning clinical rotations.
- A felony or misdemeanor conviction may result in denial to participate in clinical rotations and/or rejection by professional certification agencies and state licensure boards. Please contact program officials for details.
- Students must be able to perform the technical standards of Kettering College and the PA program. The standards will be distributed to each applicant selected for an interview; if accepted, the student must sign a statement affirming that he or she has read, understood, and is able to comply. Technical standards refer to the physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of the curriculum; they include motor, sensory, communicative, intellectual, behavioral, and social aspects.

Kettering College technical standards:

- a. Think critically with sound judgment, emotional stability, maturity, empathy, and physical and mental stamina.
- b. Learn and function in a variety of didactic and clinical settings.

- c. Communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, using appropriate grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.
- d. Immediately comprehend and respond to auditory instructions or requests.
- e. Think clearly and act calmly in stressful situations.
- f. Perform a clinical experience up to 12 hours long in a single 24-hour period.
- g. Work cooperatively, preserving relationships with others on the healthcare team.
- h. Perform fine and gross motor skills with both hands.
- i. Apply adequate pressure to stop bleeding.
- j. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Technical standards for graduate students in the PA program at Kettering College: The mission of the Kettering College PA program is to provide, in a Christian environment, the academic and clinical experience necessary to develop competent, empathetic professional healthcare providers who are dedicated to lifelong learning. In order to become a competent PA healthcare provider, the student, in addition to meeting academic and other entry requirements, must be able to demonstrate skills in the areas described below:

- a. **Observation/sensation:** Students must be able to acquire information in all didactic and clinical settings through sources including but not limited to oral presentation, written material, visual media, and live presentations/demonstrations. Students must possess function of visual, tactile, and auditory senses in order to perform necessary skills for physical examination.
- b. **Communication:** Students must be able to effectively communicate, both verbally and in writing, at a level consistent with graduate-level work, using proper English grammar, spelling, and vocabulary, which is needed both for patient evaluation and documentation. Additionally, students must communicate in a professional manner to all patients and their families, peers, and other members of a healthcare team.
- c. **Intellectual-conceptual abilities:** Students must be able to think critically, with sound judgment, in order to understand, assess, and solve clinical problems. This includes the ability to collect, organize, prioritize, reason, analyze, integrate, learn, and retain information, often in a limited time frame. Students must also be able to comprehend two- and three-dimensional structures and understand spatial relationships.
- d. **Motor functions:** Students must possess the motor skills to perform physical examinations, maneuver instruments or diagnostic tools, and perform medical procedures. Students must have

the physical capability, strength, and stamina to sit, stand, and move in classroom, laboratory, and clinical areas for long periods of time.

- e. **Behavioral/social aspects:** Students must demonstrate psychological and emotional stability at a level necessary to deliver sound patient care in all settings and to interact with interdisciplinary healthcare teams. Students must be able to tolerate physical, emotional, and intellectual stress during the educational period while responding appropriately and professionally and tolerate physically taxing workloads.

Note: Applicants whose responses indicate that they cannot meet the expectations will be further reviewed by the admissions committee to assess the extent of difficulty and the potential for compensating for such difficulty. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabling conditions.

PROGRAM COSTS

Please refer to the tuition and fee schedule on the Kettering College website (www.kc.edu) for details. PA students are required to have an electronic tablet (e.g., iPad) or a laptop computer as well as medical equipment. Medical equipment costs are included in lab fees. Incoming students are required to register with CastleBranch (<https://discover.castlebranch.com>) to complete an initial background check. Upon registration with CastleBranch, instructions and details will be made available. Students are responsible for uploading the required documentation and for any costs related to CastleBranch services. PA students are also responsible for AAPA and OAPA student membership fees as well as ACLS training fees. A complete breakdown of all costs related to the program is available at <http://kc.edu/academics/physician-assistant/cost/>.

PA PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

To progress in the physician assistant program, a student will:

- Continue to demonstrate professional and ethical behavior.
- Meet the standards for progression in each PHAS course. Each course syllabus delineates specific requirements as set by the department. All clinical medicine modules (CMM) have specific progression requirements; these are outlined in the student manual.
- Maintain a GPA of 3.00 in each term. Students with a term GPA below 3.00 will be placed on academic probation. Failure to achieve a 3.00 in any future semester will result in dismissal from the program. **Note about academic probation:** Only students meeting the progression requirements will be candidates for academic probation.
- Maintain compliance with technical standards.

CONDITIONS FOR DISMISSAL

A student will be dismissed from the PA program for:

- Failing to meet progression requirements.
- Earning a failing grade in two different clinical courses or the same clinical course twice.
- Earning a GPA lower than 3.00 during the academic probation term.
- Breaching professional ethics or exhibiting any behavior that might pose a threat to the student or others.

Students dismissed under the first three criteria may reapply. Those dismissed for ethical or behavioral issues forfeit the ability to reapply.

READMISSION CRITERIA

- A student wishing to reapply to the MPAS program must submit a readmission form to the director of admissions and records.
- A student may not enroll more than twice in any course.
- A grade of W does not apply.
- A grade of WP or WF counts as enrollment in a course.
- Students will be readmitted under the current academic year's *Bulletin*, curriculum, and policies. The decision for readmission will be based upon:
 - a. Available space in the program.
 - b. Review and evaluation of the student's standing relative to any revisions that may have occurred in the program.
 - c. Review and evaluation of academic and clinical performance.
 - d. Submission of evidence demonstrating potential for academic success.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MPAS DEGREE

- Satisfactorily complete all clinical rotations.
- Complete didactic and clinical courses as outlined in program of study.
- Successfully complete the summative evaluation for program competencies.
- Complete all other College requirements for graduation.

PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR MPAS: TRANSITION YEAR INTEGRATED SYSTEMS-BASED CURRICULUM

NOTE: To progress from summer to fall semester, official record of degree and/or prerequisite requirements must be documented in the admissions office prior to the end of the summer semester.

SUMMER I

PHAS 500	Introduction to the PA Profession	1
PHAS 502	Patient Interviewing and Documentation	2
PHAS 532	Introduction to Pathophysiology and Pharmacology	3
PHAS 512	CMM Dermatology	1
PHAS 570	CMM Hematology and Oncology	2
PHAS 551	Behavioral Medicine	2
PHAS 553	Clinical Genetics	2
RELP 507	Clinical Ethics I	1

TOTAL 14

FALL II

PHAS 508	Evidence-Based Medicine	1
PHAS 571	CMM Infectious Disease	2
PHAS 516	CMM ENT	3
PHAS 522	CMM Endocrinology	3
PHAS 529	CMM Nephrology	3
PHAS 517	CMM Cardiovascular Medicine	9

TOTAL 21

WINTER III

PHAS 518	CMM Pulmonology	5
PHAS 526	CMM Gastroenterology	6
PHAS 533	CMM Musculoskeletal Medicine	5
PHAS 534	CMM Neurology	6

TOTAL	22
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SUMMER IV

PHAS 561	Pediatrics	2
PHAS 574	Women's Health	3
PHAS 566	Surgical and Emergency Care	3
PHAS 567	Integration of Clinical Medicine Seminar	1
RELP 508	Clinical Ethics II	1
RELP 601	Applied Spiritual Care I	1

TOTAL	11
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FALL V

PHAS 632	Health Policy and PA Professional Practice I	0.5
RELP 602	Applied Spiritual Care II	1
PHAS 650-659	Clinical Rotations	9
PHAS 637	Capstone Prep I	1

TOTAL	11.5
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WINTER VI

PHAS 633	Health Policy and PA Professional Practice II	0.5
PHAS 638	Capstone Prep II	1
PHAS 615	Objective Structured Clinical Examination	1
PHAS 650-659	Clinical Rotations	9

TOTAL	11.5
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SUMMER VI

PHAS 6450-659	Clinical Rotations	6
PHAS 641	Capstone Project	1

TOTAL 7

TOTAL CREDITS FOR THE PROGRAM 98 (101)

Revised Course Descriptions

PHAS 632 Health Policy and PA Professional Practice I

0.5 credit

First half of a two-semester course that explores various professional topics that affect practicing physician assistants including laws and regulations that govern practice and current practice trends. This course also includes health policy and public health topics in healthcare and issues of coordination and quality of care, patient-centered medical homes, cost effectiveness, and access to healthcare across diverse populations, in addition to an emphasis on cultural competency as it relates to all manner of cultural subgroups. The course also covers a variety of professionalism topics related to interprofessional communication and collaboration, communication with patients and their families.

PHAS 633 Health Policy and PA Professional Practice II

0.5 credit

A continuation of PHAS 632 and continues to explore various professional topics that affect practicing physician assistants including further discussion of the laws and regulations that govern practice and current practice trends. This course also includes health policy and public health topics in healthcare and issues of coordination and quality of care, population health and basic disaster preparedness. It also focuses on how to succeed in the student's career as a practicing PA, focusing on how to find a job, professionalism in the workplace and teamwork.

PHAS 650-659 Clinical Rotations

Clinical experience education (40 weeks): The clinical phase of the physician assistant program. Each student must progress through 10 rotations (below). Each student must also complete three elective rotations. The clinical education is taught by physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other specialty certified health care providers. Each student is evaluated by the preceptor for the designated rotation. Students return to KC for testing and didactic and clinical skill workshops.

PHAS 650 Adult Inpatient Medicine Clinical Rotation

3 credits

A required 5-week hospital-based rotation that emphasizes pathophysiology, evaluation, diagnosis, and management of systemic diseases and conditions in the inpatient setting. Students will learn proper data collection through history and physical examination, formulation of accurate problem lists, accurate investigation, and treatment plans. In addition, student will learn about the day-to-day ongoing management of inpatients, and how assess and treat complications that occur. Emphasis is on adult in-patients with complex acute and co-morbid conditions.

PHAS 651 Family Medicine Clinical Rotation**3 credits**

A required 5-week rotation that emphasizes the pathophysiology, evaluation, diagnosis, and management of systemic diseases and conditions unique to the clinical practice of outpatient family medicine. It also includes proper data collection through history and physical examination, followed by formulation of accurate problem lists, accurate investigation, and treatment plans. There is a special focus on treatment of chronic disease and maintenance of health for patients from cradle to grave.

PHAS 652 Surgery Clinical Rotation**3 credits**

A required 5-week rotation providing an orientation to patients of various ages with surgically managed disease. The emphases of the learning experiences are the preoperative evaluation and preparation of patients for surgery; assistance during the intra-operative period to develop an understanding of team member roles and operative procedures; postoperative care, and the care of surgical wounds and post-operative complications.

PHAS 653 Behavioral Medicine Clinical Rotation**3 credits**

A required 5-week rotation designed to provide an understanding of the behavioral components of health, disease, and disability. Exposure to patients with a variety of emotional illnesses and disabilities is used to develop informed history taking and mental status examination skills; ability to recognize and categorize psychiatric disturbances; and techniques of early intervention and psychiatric referral.

PHAS 654 Pediatrics Clinical Rotation**1.5 credits**

A required 2½-week rotation emphasizing care of the child from birth through adolescence. Focus of the learning experience is on the recognition and management of common childhood illnesses; assessment of variations of normal growth and development; and the counseling of parents regarding immunizations, preventative health care visits, growth and development, nutrition, and common psychosocial problems. Teaching rounds and lectures introduce concepts of developmental disabilities and chronic care.

PHAS 655 Women's Health Clinical Rotation**1.5 credits**

A required 2½-week rotation that provides exposure to the spectrum of conditions and issues associated with women's health care. Learning experiences emphasize family planning and birth control; recognition and treatment of sexually transmitted disease; cancer detections; prenatal care, deliveries, and post-natal care; and the evaluation of common gynecological problems. An exposure to the surgical management of gynecological problems is also provided. Students will see patients throughout the various stages of life and reproduction experiencing acute, chronic, and emergent conditions, as well as those requiring health maintenance and preventative care.

PHAS 656 Emergency Medicine Clinical Rotation**3 credits**

Required 5-week rotation providing an in-depth exposure to the illnesses and injuries sustained by children and adults that necessitate emergency care. The educational experiences emphasize the focusing of interview and examination skills and performance of techniques and procedures essential to the proper management of life-threatening illness and injury. Ventilatory assistance, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, fluid and electrolyte replacement, and acid-base balance are also stressed.

PHAS 657 Elective Clinical Rotation 1**1.5 credits**

A 2½-week rotation in any medical or surgical specialty or sub-specialty chosen by the student or faculty, with final approval by the faculty. The rotation may be done in the United States, or internationally.

PHAS 658 Elective Clinical Rotation 2**1.5 credits**

A 2½-week rotation in any medical or surgical specialty or sub-specialty chosen by the student or faculty, with final approval by the faculty. The rotation may be done in the United States, or internationally.

PHAS 659 Elective Clinical Rotation 3**3 credits**

A 5-week rotation in any medical or surgical specialty or sub-specialty chosen by the student or faculty, with final approval by the clinical faculty. The rotation may be done in the United States, or internationally.