

**Harris Department of Physician Assistant Studies**



**PA STUDENT HANDBOOK  
Class of 2022**

Effective August 2020 – December 2022

## **PREFACE**

The William and Loretta Harris Department of Physician Assistant Studies, dedicated on August 4, 2011, honors the Harris Family's encouragement and support of PA education. Their generosity allows Wingate University to pursue its goal of improving primary health care in the Carolinas and the Southeast. William and Loretta Harris are residents of Union County, North Carolina.

Wingate University is operated on a nondiscriminatory basis. Wingate University abides by the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Wingate University does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service, in its administration of education policies, programs, activities, or services.

In accordance with federal regulations, we've dedicated a Title IX Coordinator responsible for the administration and implementation of Wingate University's Title IX compliance efforts. If you have Title IX questions, complaints or concerns, please contact:

Title IX Coordinator:  
Nancy Horak Randall  
Efird Building  
704.233.8065  
nrandall@wingate.edu

Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX may be referred to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR). The OCR ensures institutions receiving federal funding comply with Title IX regulations.

If you feel you've been the victim of sexual harassment, misconduct, assault or violence or sex discrimination, we encourage you to reach out. That goes for students, faculty, staff, visitors and applicants for admission or employment. Federal and state laws prohibit retaliation against individuals who file a complaint in good faith or participate in an investigation involving an alleged Title IX violation.

Wingate University is committed to ensuring that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in University programs or activities due to his or her disability. The University is fully committed to complying with all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and its amendments and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and to providing equal educational opportunities to otherwise qualified students with disabilities.

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## WELCOME

Welcome to The William and Loretta Harris Department of Physician Assistant (PA) Studies at Wingate University. The faculty and staff extend their best wishes as you begin your graduate studies in preparation for a successful career as a physician assistant.

Recognizing the professional nature of this graduate course of study, the PA Student Handbook is designed to give you information and guidelines regarding Wingate University and the Department of PA Studies. You are responsible for knowing the policies, procedures, curricular requirements, and codes of conduct for the PA program and the University. PA students are expected to comply with all policies and procedures in this handbook, including appendices and any future addenda, and of Wingate University and to acknowledge their understanding and agreement to comply by signing a document provided by the PA program during the orientation session.

**Special Note:** It is important to recognize that there may be differences in the procedures described in the general university student handbook for non-PA students in comparison to the procedures for students enrolled in the PA Program. These differences are intended and have been carefully crafted based on the nature of the graduate-level PA program. In cases where procedures are different, those specific to the PA program take precedence over those described for the general undergraduate program.

## ACCREDITATION

The Physician Assistant Program at Wingate University received continuing accreditation through the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) in September 2014. The program is fully accredited through 2024 and is scheduled for its next accreditation site visit in the summer of 2024. The Program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Accreditation-History-Wingate-U-162.pdf>

Wingate University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters and doctorate degrees. More information about the University's accreditation can be viewed at <https://www.wingate.edu/about/accreditation>

## WINGATE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of Wingate University is to develop educated, ethical, and productive global citizens. Following its Judeo-Christian heritage, the University seeks to cultivate the following in its students: Knowledge, Faith, and Service.

## WINGATE UNIVERSITY GOALS

### **To promote knowledge, the University seeks to:**

- Provide programs of undergraduate, graduate and professional study
- Provide a faculty committed to teaching and learning
- Require an undergraduate core curriculum designed to develop:
  - aesthetic, cultural and literary appreciation
  - analytical and problem-solving abilities
  - critical thinking
  - effective communication
  - integrated perspectives on civilization, the individual and social group
  - wellness
- Offer majors and programs of study appropriate for society and the university's student population and resources that further develop students' knowledge and skills in focused areas
- Create opportunities for international study and travel
- Provide opportunities to explore and develop academic, career and personal goals
- Encourage participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular educational, cultural and recreational opportunities

### **To nurture faith, the university seeks to:**

- Sustain a community where the bases of faith are explored and where there is a search for truth and meaning
- Articulate the ideal of integrity in all relationships
- Encourage ethical application of knowledge informed by Judeo-Christian principles
- Create and support opportunities for worship and faith development
- Attract scholars for whom Judeo-Christian values and practice are important aspects of living

### **To encourage service, the university seeks to:**

- Emphasize the importance of service to God and humanity
- Facilitate opportunities to volunteer time, knowledge and labor beyond the campus community
- Sponsor organizations that coordinate service opportunities and foster leadership and teamwork

## **WINGATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES**

### **HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT**

In 2002, the President and Trustees began considering a Doctor of Pharmacy program based on their perception of a need for pharmacists in the greater Charlotte area and the incredible growth in the population in the Piedmont area of North Carolina. Wingate University School of Pharmacy, begun in 2003, continues to be successful. The Trustees directed University administration to explore other allied health programs. In April 2006, the Trustees funded the PA program initiative. In April 2007, 100 physicians and 100 physician assistants in the region surrounding Wingate University were surveyed to determine their perceptions of a need for a PA program and the extent of their support for this endeavor. The evaluation of the data supported the development of a PA program at Wingate University with a majority of those responding expressing an interest in assisting the program and affirming the need for such a program in the Piedmont area of North Carolina. SACS granted approval on January 10, 2008, for Wingate University to offer the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree. The Wingate University PA program received provisional accreditation through the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) on March 10, 2008.

In August 2008, the inaugural class for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree was admitted. Eighteen students in the inaugural class graduated on December 14, 2010. In 2008, the PA program classroom, lab, and administrative offices were located in the Hayes Building, named after Miriam Cannon Hayes. The program received continuing accreditation through the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) in September 2010. The Department of PA Studies relocated to the Levine College of Health Sciences in 2011. In September 2012, ARC-PA granted approval for the PA program's expansion to the University's distant campus in Hendersonville, NC joining the School of Pharmacy in offering graduate health sciences education in Western North Carolina. The first cohort of students matriculated to the Hendersonville campus in fall semester 2013 as part of the Class of 2015. The PA program received continuing accreditation through the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) in September 2014. In 2018, ARC-PA granted approval for change in class size to 60 effective August 2019. Enrollment for the Class of 2022 at the time of this publication are 41 students on the Wingate Main Campus and 17 students on the Hendersonville campus.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Wingate University Department of PA Studies is dedicated to developing educated, productive, and ethical PAs to serve the health care needs of the communities in which they practice.

### **PROGRAM GOALS**

1. Provide comprehensive education that ensures graduates possess core knowledge in established and evolving biomedical and clinical sciences and can apply this knowledge to decision-making in clinical practice
2. Provide a range of clinical experiences to ensure that graduates have the broad patient exposure necessary to develop essential clinical skills

3. Provide graduates with a strong foundation in health information technology, evidence-based medicine, and quality improvement practices aimed at improving the effectiveness and reliability of health processes and outcomes
4. Provide instruction and experiences that ensure graduates are prepared to work collaboratively in interprofessional, patient-centered teams

## **DEPARTMENT OF PA STUDIES TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

### Preface to Technical Standards

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is the primary non-discrimination law applicable to the admissions and post-secondary education of disabled persons. Section 504 of this statute prohibits discrimination solely on the basis of the disability of an “otherwise qualified” person seeking admission to any college, university, or other institution of higher learning.

The purpose of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enacted in 1990, as far as schools are concerned, is to assure a level playing field so that individuals with disabilities can compete with other applicants on the basis of their ability without being eliminated specifically because of a disability. Disability is defined in the ADA as a physical or mental impairment. The ADA requires that:

- Schools judge a person on the basis of his or her ability to complete the education program rather than on their status as a disabled person
- The person seeking admission must be able to perform the “essential functions” of the program in spite of the disability
- “Reasonable accommodations” may be needed and, if so, must be provided
- The “essential functions” of the educational program are matters for each school to determine
- Pre-admission inquiry as to whether a person is disabled is not permitted, but a school may seek as much information as needed to make a determination that an individual can perform the “essential functions” of the education program

The accreditation standards of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) state: “While physical disability should not preclude a student from consideration for admission, each school should develop and publish technical standards for the admission of handicapped applicants, in accordance with legal requirements.”

Any applicant who plans to enter the physician assistant program at Wingate University must possess certain abilities that will enable him/her to master the educational and clinical content of the program within a reasonable time frame and to function as a physician assistant after graduation.

Wingate University welcomes specific inquiries from potential students with disabilities regarding required technical skills and how mastery of those skills might apply to his/her unique situation. Federal law prohibits programs from making inquiries about specific disabilities prior to admission; however, applicants who are selected for admission must be prepared to meet the



educational and technical performance standards in order to complete the program. Students who are unable to master these skills will not be allowed to continue in the program.

*Preface of Technical Standards is used with permission of the Methodist University PA Program, June 2018.*

### Technical Standards

#### **Observation and Sensory Integration**

The student 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.
- Possess function of visual, tactile, and auditory skills necessary for physical examination and documentation.

#### **Communication**

The student must:

- Be able to communicate effectively verbally and in writing, at a level consistent with graduate-level work, using proper English grammar, spelling and vocabulary which is necessary for patient evaluation and documentation.
- Be able to communicate in a professional manner to all faculty, peers, health care professionals, patients and their families.
- Demonstrate the ability to record activity and account for allocation of time in the clinical setting.
- Confidently, concisely and professionally communicate relevant information regarding patient status with appropriate members of faculty and the health care team.

#### **Motor Coordination and Function**

The student must:

- Possess the necessary motor skills to perform a comprehensive physical examination, maneuver instruments or diagnostic tools, and perform medical procedures.
- Have the physical capability, strength and stamina to stand, sit, and move within the classroom, laboratory and clinical areas, including but not limited to, examination rooms, treatment rooms, confined spaces, and surgical suites for long periods of time.

#### **Intellectual/Conceptual Abilities**

The student must:

- Be able to think critically and with sound judgment in order to understand, assess, and solve complex clinical problems. This includes the ability to collect, organize, prioritize, reason, analyze, integrate, learn, and retain information, often in a limited time-frame.
- Must be able to apply basic principles of the scientific method in reading and interpreting professional literature, to integrate data, and to develop appropriate differential diagnoses.
- Be able to comprehend two and three-dimensional structures and understand spatial relationships of structures.

## **Behavioral, Emotional, and Social Abilities**

The student must:

- Be flexible and respond appropriately and professionally to stress during the educational period.
- Respect and work within the framework of individual, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences.
- Be capable of regular, reliable, and punctual attendance at classes and in regard to clinical responsibilities.
- Demonstrate emotional and psychological stability at a level necessary to deliver sound patient care in all settings and while interacting with interdisciplinary health care teams.
- Behave in an ethical and moral manner consistent with professional values and standards.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Any student who, because of disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the curriculum requirements, is expected to obtain approval for accommodations through the Director, Wingate University Academic Resource Center. Once accommodations are approved, the student must meet with the Program Director. Accommodations are for present and future activities and are not retroactive. Students will not receive special arrangements unless accommodations are approved by the University's Office of Disability Support Services.

Kristin Wharton, Ed.S

Executive Director of the Academic Resource Center

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## Academic and Professional Information

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition for the Class of 2022 is \$13,000 per semester. PA tuition increases once in the Fall of the 2nd year. Cost increase is estimated to be 2.0-2.5%

The student is responsible for any and all costs associated with coursework, including those involving clinical education experiences. Costs to each student may include room and board, transportation, health insurance, and other expenses.

### STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

The Federal Direct Loan Program allows students to borrow education loans directly from the federal government. Visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) or [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) for more information about Federal Direct Subsidized, Federal Direct Unsubsidized, and/or Federal Direct Plus Loans for Graduate Students.

#### Applying for a Federal Direct Student Loan

##### *New and Continuing Students*

- Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Direct loan eligibility will be determined by the Wingate University Office of Student Financial Planning and included on your financial aid award letter
- Complete and return the Graduate Loan Confirmation Form

##### *New Borrowers*

Not applicable to students who utilized the Federal Direct Lending Program during the 2017-2018 academic year.

- Visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) to complete the following loan documents
  - Graduate Student Loan Entrance Counseling
  - Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan Master Promissory Note

#### Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans

Graduate loans allow graduate students to borrow long term, low-interest funds to meet college costs. Graduate PLUS maximums are set at Cost of Education minus Aid received. Borrowers must maximize their Unsubsidized Loans in order to receive a Graduate PLUS Loan.

- Visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) to complete the following loan documents
  - Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Pre-Approval
  - Graduate PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note

#### Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS)

Established by the NC General Assembly in 2011, the FELS provides financial assistance to qualified students enrolled in an approved education program and committed to working in critical employment shortage professions in NC. Students must be NC residents. Students may be eligible for up to \$10,000 annually with a maximum aggregate limit of \$20,000. For more information or to apply visit [www.cfnc.org/fels](http://www.cfnc.org/fels)

### National Health Service Corps (NHSC)

The NHSC scholarship is a competitive program that pays tuition and fees and provides a living stipend to students enrolled in an accredited medical, dental, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, and certified nurse midwife training program. Upon graduation, scholarship recipients serve as primary care providers between 2 and 4 years in a community-based site in a high-need Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) that has applied to and been approved by the NHSC as a service site. Awards are made to applicants most committed to serving underserved people. Application instructions can be found at: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/>

### Other Potential Scholarship/Funding Sources

American Academy of Physician Assistant

<https://www.aapa.org/>

The PA Foundation

<https://PA-foundation.org>

Veterans Caucus of the AAPA

<https://veteranscaucus.org/index.php/service/scholarships/available-scholar>

NCCPA Endowment Student Grant

<http://ncapa.org/students/scholarships>

NC Department of Health and Human Services

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/providers/provider-info/health-care/recruitmentforproviders>

State Loan Repayment

High Needs Service Bonus

Metrolina Association of Physician Assistants (MAPA) provides a one-time \$500 annual scholarship to a Wingate PA student. Notification is sent to all students when the scholarship application is available. <http://www.metrolinapa.org/>

## **SEMESTER SCHEDULE AND CALENDAR**

The semester schedule listing class times, including important calendar dates, is distributed at the end of the preceding semester. Didactic (classroom, first-year) and Clinical (rotations, second and third year) calendars are NOT the same. It is the student's responsibility to review and follow the appropriate calendar. Please note that due to its intensive nature, the Wingate University PA program may not always operate on the schedule published by the University for undergraduate or other graduate programs. Schedule changes may be needed at any time during a semester. The PA program reserves the right to make changes as needed.

### **ACADEMIC CALENDAR for DIDACTIC STUDENTS Entering Fall 2020 (Clinical Students: Refer to Calendar in Clinical Handbook)**

#### **FALL SEMESTER 2020**

August 21, 24	First-year orientation
August 25-28	Building the Foundation
August 31	First-year regular schedule classes begin
September 7	Labor Day – no classes
November 25-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 14-18	Final exams
December 19	Graduation (Class of 2020)

#### **SPRING SEMESTER 2021**

January 4	Classes begin
January 18	MLK holiday - no classes
March 4-5	Spring Break
April 2-5	Easter Holiday
April 19-23	Final exams

#### **SUMMER SEMESTER 2021**

May 3	Classes begin
May 31	Memorial Day - no classes
July 4	Independence Day Holiday - no classes
July 12-16	Final exams

## **ADVISORS - FACULTY MEMBERS**

Upon matriculation, each student is assigned a faculty advisor to assist with issues involving curriculum, academic progression, professional growth, and career decisions. Students are encouraged to meet with faculty advisors regularly.

Appointments with advisors or course instructors should be requested by email. All students, even with a scheduled appointment, must check in with the department's administrative assistant who will notify the faculty member of the student's arrival.

While every effort is made to respond quickly and appropriately to students' phone calls and emails, this happens more routinely during the business day. Calls or emails sent after office hours will likely have a response on the next business day.

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRESSION**

The Progression Committee is charged with the maintenance of the academic and professional standards of the Wingate University PA program. The Committee is composed of the PA program's principal faculty members. The Program Director acts as chair. Student performance is reviewed at the end of each semester and as needed.

### Department of PA Studies Grading Scale

Grades on exams, projects, assignments, and final course grades are not rounded.

A = 90-100%	4.0 grade points
B = 80-89.99%	3.0 grade points
C = 70-79.99%	2.0 grade points
F = Below 70%	0 grade points

Good academic standing means that a student is not on academic probation. To remain in good academic standing, a student must:

- Receive a passing grade of "C" or higher in all courses
  - A student who receives a final course grade below "C" in any class will result in dismissal from the program
- Maintain a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

### Requirements for Program Graduation

A student must successfully complete all requirements for the first, second, and third year of the Program in good standing and fulfill financial obligations to the University to graduate. Graduates will receive a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree.

### Academic Probation

A student whose academic performance falls below the acceptable standards will be placed on academic probation and is no longer in good standing. The Program Director will notify the student of the probation in writing once the GPA and cumulative GPA have been confirmed. The student will be required to remediate deficiencies under the guidance of the Associate Program Director in the didactic year or the Director of Clinical Education in the clinical year. Failure to meet remediation goals will result in a review by the Progression Committee to determine terms of continuation in the program or dismissal.

A student who does not meet the minimum semester GPA of 3.0 and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the completion of the 7th semester will be required to remediate deficiencies prior to graduation from the program. This may include, but is not limited to, enrolling for an 8th semester. Additional tuition charges are the responsibility of the student. Failure to complete remediation successfully may result in dismissal from the Program.

Students not in good standing may not hold elected or appointed student leadership positions and may be subject to loss of financial aid and scholarship funding.

### Assessment

Faculty assess students on an ongoing basis during their enrollment in the program. Assessment includes but is not limited to, class participation and interaction, medical knowledge/integration of medical concepts, history and physical exam skills, and test scores. To guide the students' successful progression in the program, the course instructor/director or academic advisor may request to meet with a student to discuss concerns in one or more of these areas.

During the didactic year, a student who receives a grade less than 75% on any exam is required to meet with the course instructor or course coordinator. The purpose is to discuss and evaluate concepts the student may not thoroughly understand. A student scoring less than 75% must contact the instructor within 5 business days (Monday-Friday) of the date of the exam to schedule a meeting. Failure to contact the instructor is considered unprofessional behavior.

### Intervention

Any student with repeated test scores of less than 75% in one or more courses or a mid-term GPA less than 3.0 will be required to meet with his/her advisor to discuss and implement a plan to improve academic outcomes.

### Remediation

If academic outcomes do not improve with intervention or end of semester GPA is less than 3.0, the student will be referred to the Associate Program Director or Director of Clinical Education for remediation. Failure to meet remediation goals will result in a review by the Progression Committee to determine terms of continuation in the program or dismissal.

### Deceleration in the Didactic Year

The Department of PA Studies recognizes that there may be circumstances other than academic that require a student to alter his or her course of study during the didactic year. A student in good academic standing who experiences a significant interruption in the full-time plan of study may submit a written request to the Program Director to decelerate. The letter must have sufficient information to explain the request.

If deceleration is approved, the student will return to the program as a full-time student at the beginning of the semester in which he/she decelerated during the following year. For example, a student leaving the didactic portion of the program in the middle of the spring semester will return to the program at the beginning of the following spring semester. Due to didactic courses only being offered once per year, there is no option for a shorter absence in the didactic year.

The student will be required to demonstrate competencies prior to returning to the program by taking written competency examinations and/or practical clinical skills assessment. The student must achieve a score of 70% or higher on competency exams in order to return to the program. On return, the student is subject to the policies and procedures of the Handbook in effect for the class in which he/she will graduate.



### Leave of Absence in the Clinical Year

The Department of PA Studies recognizes that there may be circumstances other than academic that require a student to alter his or her course of study during the clinical year. A student in academic good standing may submit a written request for leave of absence to the Program Director. The letter must have sufficient information to explain the request. If leave of absence is approved, the student will return to the program as a full-time student at a time agreed upon by the Director of Clinical Education and the Program Director.

The student may be required to demonstrate competencies prior to returning to the program by taking written competency examinations and/or practical clinical skills assessments. The student must achieve a score of 70% or higher on competency exams in order to return to the program. On return, the student may be subject to revisions or additions to the program curriculum or policies.

### Withdrawal

Students are not permitted to withdraw selectively from courses in the PA program. A student who wishes to withdraw from the program must notify the Program Director in writing.

### Professional Development

Students in the PA program are expected to demonstrate high standards of professional behavior in all educational settings including the classroom and laboratories, professional and clinical sites and in non-educational settings. Professional development (professionalism) is considered and evaluated on an individual basis each semester or as needed.

Components of professional behavior include:

- Honesty and integrity
- Reliability and responsibility
- Respect
- Self-improvement
- Self-awareness/knowledge of limits
- Adaptability

Professional development (professionalism) is considered and evaluated on an individual basis each semester or as needed. The Progression Committee completes a Professional Development Evaluation (see Appendix). When a student receives a “needs improvement” or “unacceptable” on the evaluation, the student is required to meet with his/her advisor. Failure of the student to modify/correct behavior based on advisor feedback, or continuing to exhibit unprofessional behavior will result in the student being referred to the Program Director. The Program Director will meet with the student to discuss professional remediation, including but not limited to, professional probation.

A student may be immediately dismissed from the PA Program without probation if his or her actions are deemed dangerous, illegal, unethical or otherwise egregious.

### Appeal of Dismissal

A student dismissed from the Program for any reason may appeal the dismissal in writing to the University Provost within five calendar days of receipt of written notification of the dismissal. The Provost's decision on any such appeal will be final and will not be subject to further appeal.

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## **PA Program Information and Policies - Section I**

### **PA PROGRAM DRESS CODE**

Students are expected to dress in a manner that reflects maturity and matriculation in a professional course of study. Business casual is appropriate attire for students in class, clinical rotations, and when attending PA program events. Students are to refer to course syllabi for specifics of lab attire.

#### Women

- Slacks with blouse, sweater, jacket
- Skirts/dresses of modest length
- A tunic or dress must be worn over leggings

#### Men

- Slacks and sweater or shirts with collars and sleeves

#### **Business casual DOES NOT include:**

- Jeans, regardless of color, shorts, short skirts/dresses, exercise attire, clothing that shows bare midriffs, cleavage, or off-the shoulder tops, T-shirts, tops with hoods or "hoodies."

#### Hair and Beards

- Hair must appear clean and well-kept.
- Hairstyles which do not allow medically necessary headgear to be worn are prohibited
- Facial hair must be neatly trimmed; beards that interfere with proper wear of protective masks or equipment is prohibited.

#### Body Art and Jewelry

- Ornamentation on the face or in the mouth, aside from up to two piercings in the earlobe, is not permitted. (Examples include facial tattoos, tongue or lip piercings)
- Jewelry should be conservative as it presents a safety hazard when working with medical equipment and in labs.

Hats, caps, and other headgear are not permitted in the classroom unless worn for religious purposes.

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Due to the intensity and rapid pace of the PA curriculum, attendance for all classes and required activities is mandatory. Students are expected to be on time for class and should plan their schedules accordingly. Medical and other personal appointments should be scheduled during semester breaks, evenings, or weekends as much as possible.

All absences due to illness, accident, or other unexpected personal or family emergency must be reported via email or telephone to the Associate Program Director as soon as the student is aware that he/she will miss class time. These absences will be excused on a case-by-case basis and appropriate faculty will be notified. Students will be responsible for any missed content or assignments on these days. Any unreported absence will be considered unexcused. Excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused, may be considered unprofessional and treated as such at the discretion of program faculty.

While the program has a 100% attendance policy, each student is allowed three (3) discretionary personal days during the didactic year. The days can only be used one day at a time, once during each semester: fall (September-December), spring (January-April), and summer (May-July). The days cannot be used in increments or carried over to the next semester. Personal days must be approved in advance by the Associate Program Director. Students are responsible for any missed content or assignments on these days. Personal days cannot occur on days when there are group presentations, exams, quizzes, procedures or skills check-offs, or on days that involve specialized instruction in areas such as male/female exam training, and OR orientation classes.

Any discretionary personal day request must be submitted to the Associate Program Director during the business week and at least 48 hours prior to the absence. Forms must be submitted electronically or in person and should not be left at the front desk. A sample of the Didactic Year Absence Request Form is located in Appendix J and can be downloaded from the Didactic Year Home Page on Canvas. Clinical year students have different attendance requirements and complete a different form for any clinical education phase absences.

### Saturday and Evening Class Sessions

Students are required to attend Saturday sessions several times during the 27-month program. Attendance is mandatory and students will be notified of the dates as early as possible during the semester. Events include, but are not limited to:

- OR Orientation/Scrub Class taught in the first summer semester
- Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) administered during the final fall semester of the PA program

Evening sessions may occur during the didactic or clinical year and students will be notified as early as possible during the semester.

### Children

Student-parents should plan their schedules such that their children are not attending classes, labs, or clinical rotations. Students with children are expected to make child care arrangements to avoid conflicts with the educational experience.

## **WEATHER DELAYS AND CLOSINGS**

### Wingate Main Campus

On days when the weather is potentially hazardous, a message will be posted on the University's website stating whether classes will be in session that day. A message will be posted before 6:30 a.m. Without a posted message, classes are in session.

### Wingate Hendersonville Health Sciences Center

The Hendersonville campus usually follows Blue Ridge Community College for weather delays and closings. Students will receive an email from the Hendersonville campus with delay/closing details. Students can also check WLOS News or the website: <http://wlos.com/> for updates regarding campus operating details.

There will be occasions when classes are cancelled on one campus only, either Wingate Main or Wingate Hendersonville. When this occurs, students on the closed campus will have access to the recorded lectures.

## **ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY**

### Wingate Email

PA program news, information, and course updates are communicated through either email or Canvas announcements. Students should check email regularly. Use of your wingate.edu address is required for all program related correspondence.

### Zoom Session Login

Students must login to program-related zoom sessions/meetings using their Wingate credentials. Details of login will be provided by IT.

### Online Learning Management System

The PA program uses Canvas learning platform for all courses. Course updates, syllabi, information and general announcements related to a specific course may be posted on Canvas. Students are responsible for regularly checking individual course pages and didactic/clinical year home base pages.

### Laptop Computers/Notebooks/iPads

- Each student in the PA Program is required to have a laptop computer.
- Laptop computers, notebooks, tablets, and iPads are permitted to view course materials and take notes. Accessing other forms of information (i.e. email, internet search, g-chat, etc.) is strictly prohibited during class sessions and seminars.
- Most tablets, including iPads and Chromebooks, are not supported by the exam testing software and cannot be used for taking exams. Devices MUST support the latest Windows or MAC operating systems to function with testing software. Technology specifications will be distributed to each student prior to orientation.
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that laptops are fully operational within the Wingate network. Personal data/apps on a computer may interfere with effective use of the computer for educational purposes. It is the student's responsibility to ensure his/her computer is operable prior to the class and each exam.

- Course assignments are often required to be submitted via computer. A malfunctioning computer, internet connection failure, inability to upload, etc. is the responsibility of the student and not an acceptable excuse for late submissions.

### Personal Electronic Devices

In classroom and seminars, unless specifically instructed otherwise by the instructor, cell phones must be turned off (not on vibrate) and off desks/tabletops

- Video recording by students is strictly prohibited
- Students must ask permission from faculty or instructors for audio recording of lectures prior to the start of the semester. Any such recordings are for personal use only and not to be shared under any circumstances unless permission is sought and granted.

Students experiencing difficulty with email accounts or Canvas should contact the Information Technology Facilitators for assistance. Improperly functioning accounts are not acceptable excuses for missed information or announcements.

Kevin King (Levine College of Health Sciences, main campus 1<sup>st</sup> floor)

[k.king@wingate.edu](mailto:k.king@wingate.edu)

704.233.8968

Andrew Hutchison (Hendersonville Health Sciences Center)

[a.hutchison@wingate.edu](mailto:a.hutchison@wingate.edu)

828.697.0105

### Social Media

Electronic media are internet-based applications which support and promote the exchange of user-developed content. Posting or transmitting personal images, experiences, and information using services of this type poses a set of unique challenges for all members of the medical community, including employees, faculty members, volunteers, and students.

The Wingate University PA program is committed to supporting your right to interact knowledgeably and socially; however, these electronic interactions have a potential impact on colleagues, patients, your professional reputation, and future employers' opinions of you.

Incorporated within this PA Student Handbook is Appendix B titled "Electronic Media Guidelines" and its "Addendum." The principal aim of the guidelines is to identify your responsibilities in relation to electronic media and to help you represent yourself in a responsible and professional manner.

## **EXAMINATIONS/ELECTRONIC TESTING**

The following applies to all students taking examinations on campus:

- Have a working laptop computer compatible with ExamSoft testing software (iPad and Chromebooks are not supported)
- Download appropriate exam the night before the testing session
- Arrive 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the exam to set up laptop computers
- Backpacks, notes, cell phones, smart watches, bluetooth ear buds, and items other than the laptop computer must be turned off, removed from the desk or table, and placed on the floor at the side of the room prior to the start of the exam
- White boards and dry erase markers are allowed and will be provided if requested
- If computer problems occur during the exam, the student should notify the proctor by raising their hand
- Exam proctors will not interpret exam questions or otherwise speak with students during the testing
- All personal items including laptop must remain in the classroom if a student is granted permission to leave for any reason before finishing the exam
- Upon completion of the exam, students will submit the exam, show the successful submission screen to the proctor, and immediately exit the classroom

The following applies to all students taking examinations off campus:

- Have a working laptop computer compatible with ExamSoft testing software (iPad and Chromebooks are not supported) AND\_have a charged phone or other camera enabled device connected to Zoom
- Download appropriate exam the night before the testing session
- Log into Zoom (using Wingate credentials) 15 minutes before the exam start time. Be prepared to provide a brief 'tour' of your desktop or table area and, if using a white board, show the blank board to the proctor upon request
- Backpacks, notes, cell phones, smart watches, bluetooth ear buds, and items other than the laptop computer must be removed from the desk or table prior to the start of the exam
- During testing, your camera should remain on and audio is muted; communication with the proctor is via the chat feature
- If computer problems occur during the exam, the student should notify the proctor by chat
- If you should lose the Zoom monitor connection during the exam, don't take more than 1-2 minutes attempting to reconnect. Do not leave the room. Continue with the exam, be sure it uploads, then email/call your proctor to let them know what happened. The proctor will see the disconnect as well and will notify IT. Remember to focus on the exam and not panic about the lost zoom connection.
- Exam proctors will not interpret exam questions or otherwise speak aloud with students during testing
- All personal items including laptop must remain in the testing area if a student has permission to leave the room for any reason before finishing the exam
- Upon completion of the exam, students will submit the exam, show the successful submission screen to the proctor and sign off zoom when given the OK.

While graded exams are not returned, each student receives his/her individual scores, a class average and an analysis of individual performance. The *Strength and Opportunities* report identifies areas/categories of strength and weakness on a particular assessment.

### **SHADOWING AS A PA STUDENT**

Shadowing will not be facilitated by the PA program. Students who want to shadow a practitioner must make arrangements independently and be aware that they are not representing the Wingate University PA program, will not wear the white coat with the PA program logo, and are not covered by the program's liability insurance. Students are obligated to make this clear with the practitioner with whom the arrangements are made.

Students making shadowing arrangements independent of the program are advised that their status reverts back to that of a non-provider observer and even tasks considered routine for a PA student on an approved clinical rotation should not be performed.

As senior students approach graduation, they should be aware that the North Carolina Medical Board does not allow shadowing of a provider prior to employment. In addition, there are significant ethical considerations in "shadowing" a potential employer.

### **STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

PA students are strongly discouraged from any employment due to the academic and time demands of the didactic and clinical years of PA education. If students choose to have outside employment, PA program obligations will NOT be altered due to a work situation.

## **Program Information and Policies - Section II**

### **PA STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

The PA program at Wingate University has an active student government, the Wingate Physician Assistant Student Society (WPASS), a part of the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA).

Students are encouraged to participate in government locally as well as at state and national levels. Participation offers opportunities for leadership as well as involvement with fellow students, the PA profession, and the greater community.

### **HONOR CODE**

A crucial aspect of a physician assistant's professional development is to assign one's self to a life guided by an honor code, endorsing a commitment to ethical, moral, and professional standards. All students of the Wingate University PA Program are expected to pledge to uphold a professional honor code. Upon matriculation, every student is required to sign that they have read the Honor Code and will hold themselves to these standards.

### Honesty

I will not:

- Cheat or lie
- Alter or falsify academic, research, or patient documents
- Commit plagiarism or submit another individual's course work unless it is an accepted group learning exercise as defined by the course instructor
- Provide or gain access to academic or administrative files, research documents, or unauthorized patient medical records via computer or any other method
- Misrepresent myself as a licensed or certified health care professional

### Integrity

I will:

- Recognize the limitations of my knowledge, skills, or physical or emotional state, and seek advice or appropriate help from my advisor or the Program Director before acting
- Engage in responsible and ethical conduct while a student in the PA program
- Take responsibility for what I say and do

### Respect

I will:

- Respect the dignity of others, treating them with understanding and civility
- Not tolerate discrimination
- Contribute to creating a safe and supportive atmosphere for teaching and learning.
- Regard privacy and confidentiality as core obligations

## **REPORTING, INVESTIGATING SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS OF HONOR CODE**

When a student observes what appears to be a violation of the Honor Code, he or she should promptly seek help from a faculty member. The faculty member, at his or her discretion, will determine the proper steps to be taken to address the issue. The student may also file a written complaint with the Program Director.

## **HONOR COUNCIL**

The Honor Council is composed of three faculty members and one PA student. PA faculty members may include principal faculty and long term adjunct professors. The student member is an elected member of the student government. The council will elect a faculty chairperson. Any member of the council who believes they have a conflict of interest may disqualify him/herself. The Honor Council is a closed session and parties outside the university will not be involved. The Council will convene within 5 business day of receiving notice of a potential violation.

The Honor Council will review facts gathered and reserves the right to interview the complainant, alleged student and any witnesses. Faculty has the right to review academic and professional records of the alleged student.



Interviews will be held in private and conducted separately. Failure of the complainant, alleged student, or witness to appear for an interview will not stop the Honor Council from proceeding.

At the conclusion of the investigation, Council members will deliberate in private and make a recommendation by majority vote. The chairperson will not vote except in the event of a tie.

The Council may take one of the following actions:

- No corrective action if there is insufficient evidence to support the allegation of an honor code violation
- A written reprimand to be placed in the student's file that chronicles the violation; the reprimand will be destroyed after the student's graduation if there are no further honor code violations.
- A written reprimand to be placed in the student's file that chronicles the violation; this information can be included in the student's Performance Evaluations for potential employers and remain a permanent component of the student's file
- Require that the student seek professional assistance in order to remain in the program
- Require specific conditions must be fulfilled to continue in the program
- Dismiss the student from the PA program

## **PA Program Information and Policies – Section III**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

PA students must furnish, and keep current, contact information to the PA program including street address, mailing address, and telephone numbers. Each PA student must provide the name and telephone number of an emergency contact to be used if an emergency arises or the PA program is unable to contact the student.

### **STUDENT NAME BADGE**

All students are provided with a name badge during orientation into the program. The name badge is required to be worn during program functions and on the white coat during each clinical rotation. A hospital ID badge does not supersede the PA student name badge. A student can reorder a name badge at their own expense payable to Wingate University due at the time of the reorder.

### **MALPRACTICE INSURANCE**

PA students are covered by Wingate University's liability insurance policy. This coverage is effective only for program-approved activities.

### **STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE**

Students are required to maintain personal health insurance coverage during their enrollment in the PA program. Neither the University nor clinical practice sites bear any responsibility for healthcare costs of the student. Students are responsible for all health care costs associated with an illness or injury that results from any activity on campus or at an affiliated training site. Medical

costs for needle sticks and blood borne pathogen exposure while a student is on clinical rotation are addressed in the Clinical Year Student Handbook.

Unless the student provides proof of other health insurance coverage through the website link provided by Student Health, the student will be automatically enrolled in the student health insurance plan established for students of the university. Premiums will be billed through the student's university account. Information concerning enrollment or waiving university coverage will be provided to all students each year. More information about insurance coverage can be found at <https://www.wingate.edu/mygate/students/health-center/health-insurance-requirements>

Premiums for the insurance plan will be billed by the business office to each student and can be included in student loans. Family or major medical coverage will be paid by the student directly to the insurance provider.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Immunization requirements are reviewed annually to be consistent with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control as well as the general requirements of clinical affiliates.

Immunizations required prior to matriculation for PA students:

- DTP or Td (3 doses – month, day, year of each dose)
- Td or Tdap or Tdap booster (within last 10 years – month, day, year)
- Polio (3 doses – month, day, year of each dose)
- MMR (after age 1, 2 doses – month, day, year of each dose) OR
  - Measles (2 doses – month, day, year of each dose or titer date and result)
  - Mumps (2 doses – month, day, year of each dose or titer date and result)
  - Rubella (1 dose – month, day, year or titer date and result)
- Tuberculin test 2-step (within 12 months, mm induration and date read)
  - Chest x-ray if positive PPD (date and results)
  - Treatment for latent TB, if applicable (date)
- Hepatitis B series (3 doses – month, day, year of each or titer date and result)
- Varicella (chicken pox) (2 doses – month, day, year of each or titer date and result)

**\*Influenza vaccine and TB testing are required annually.**

Only laboratory proof of immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, or varicella is acceptable if the vaccine is not taken. Statement of disease is not sufficient for immunization record purposes.

## **BACKGROUND CHECK**

All students must complete a background check upon accepting an offer of admission to the Wingate University PA program. The background check will include a criminal records search and social security number trace. Matriculation is contingent upon completion of the background check with results deemed satisfactory and may be rescinded based on the background check report. Matriculation will be denied if a student refuses a background check.

The Department of PA Studies arranges for an outside vendor to conduct background checks and assumes the cost of this service. Clinical rotation sites may require background checks independent of the PA program. Associated costs are not the responsibility of the program.

## **DRUG SCREENING POLICY**

Students admitted to the PA program are required to have a drug screen during orientation of the first year. Students are subject to random and for cause drug screening during both the didactic and clinical semesters of the program. A urine drug screen result of “negative-dilute” will require repeat testing. A positive drug screen result for any substance not legally prescribed for the student will result in dismissal from the PA program. A refusal to comply with a request to submit to a drug screen at any time will result in dismissal from the PA program.

A clinical facility may require a drug screen independent of screening required by the Program. If a student has a positive drug screen while on a clinical rotation, the student will be placed on leave from the rotation by the clinical practice pending further investigation. The student must notify the Director of Clinical Education if he or she undergoes a drug screen while on rotations and is subsequently placed on leave by the clinical site pending finalization of drug screen results.

## **TOBACCO POLICY**

Because of the health hazards caused by exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and use of tobacco products, it shall be the policy of Wingate University and the Wingate University Physician Assistant program to provide a tobacco-free environment for all employees, students, and visitors.

Use of tobacco products is not allowed within the facilities or on the campus at any time. All tobacco use on University property or at University sponsored events is prohibited.

Physician Assistant students who desire assistance with discontinuing use of tobacco should contact student health.

## **ALCOHOL POLICY**

Wingate PA students are expected to behave in a manner that does not jeopardize the health or safety of others or themselves, fulfilling their role as examples of the benefits derived from a safe and healthful life.

- Wingate PA students are expected to follow local, state, and federal laws regarding the use, possession, and distribution of alcohol at all times, maintaining a view as to the future impact their choices will have on licensing and credentialing to work in healthcare.
- Alcohol misuse is any use that adversely impacts a student’s health, professional status, or leads to inappropriate or unsafe behaviors. Incidents of alcohol misuse will be evaluated and can lead to a range of actions, from professional probation up to and including dismissal from the program. Examples of misuse include:
  - Use of alcohol while performing a safety-sensitive action such as driving a motor vehicle
  - Disruptive or disrespectful alcohol-related behavior at any time
  - Provision of alcohol to underage individuals
  - Reckless alcohol consumption
- Presenting one’s self for participation in class, clinic, or other program activity while under the influence of alcohol will result in dismissal from the program.

- A Wingate PA student who is charged by civil or university authorities with an alcohol related offense must inform the program director immediately. Students who do not provide this information but who are later discovered to have an alcohol related charge or conviction (on a repeat background screen or through other means) will be dismissed from the program.

## **PA Program Information and Policies – Section IV**

### **MEDICAL TREATMENT BY PA PROGRAM FACULTY**

Accreditation standards set by ARC-PA do not allow faculty to treat students except in emergency situations.

### **CLINICAL ROTATIONS**

Clinical rotations are not sequential but all must be successfully completed to graduate. Clinical year curriculum will be delivered in affiliated sites such as hospitals, medical practices, and other health care related facilities. The PA program has established clinical rotation affiliations in the greater Charlotte and Hendersonville areas as well as other communities. It is the student's responsibility to plan in advance for transportation costs such as gas and a reliable vehicle. A student can expect to incur additional housing costs if a clinical rotation site is outside a reasonable commuting distance.

Students may request consideration for placement at specific approved practice sites but the PA program reserves the right to place students as necessary. Students may not solicit preceptors or sites without the permission of a Clinical Coordinator.

Following completion of each rotation, students will return to campus, take an end of rotation examination and participate in one or more days of medical or administrative education. Students who relocate after the didactic year are responsible for housing for these campus sessions.

Students are provided a clinical rotation manual at the beginning of the clinical year.

## **PA Program Information and Policies – Section V**

### **STUDENT HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION**

Students are responsible for housing and transportation arrangements and expenses during the full 27 months of PA education and for any extended curriculum situations.

### **LIBRARY RESOURCES AND REFERENCE MATERIALS**

Biomedical Informatics Center, Levine College of Health Sciences, Main Campus

Use of reference materials located in the Biomedical Informatics Center (BIC) is available for students Monday – Friday. The BIC will additionally be open for student access after-hours for a limited amount of time only if student workers are available. Resources can also be accessed at [https://library.wingate.edu/health\\_sciences\\_library](https://library.wingate.edu/health_sciences_library).

Reference materials in the BIC are the property of Wingate University School of Pharmacy and Harris Department of PA Studies and are not to be removed under any circumstances. Reference materials may only be removed with the permission of the Director of the BIC. Students found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Heather Kehr PharmD, Director of BIC, Room 301, Levine College of Health Sciences  
704.233.8974, [hkehr@wingate.edu](mailto:hkehr@wingate.edu)

#### Ethel K. Smith Library, Wingate University, Main Campus

The Ethel K. Smith Library, located on the quad of the main campus, maintains a collection to support the learning experiences of the students and the teaching and research activities of the faculty and staff of Wingate University. The primary focus of the collection is materials that serve undergraduate curricula, but as graduate programs increase, the Library will endeavor to support with appropriate additions to the collection.

In order to support this mission, the Library houses more than 100,000 print volumes in the facility, as well as database subscriptions which provide students online access to a variety of scholarly journal and newspaper titles beyond the Library's print periodical collection. Additionally, the Library's Interlibrary Loan Department enables students to research supplementary materials not held in the collection.

A variety of study options are available in the Library including individual study carrels in the Quiet Room, several group study spaces, and general areas for individual or group work. Wireless LAN access and wet carrels are available in several areas of the facility, including the Ethel K. Café coffee shop on the first floor.

Please visit <http://library.wingate.edu> for more information about the Ethel K. Smith Library.

#### **CAMPUS SAFETY**

Wingate University believes safety is a partnership between the community and its members; both have a responsibility to each other. Together, a safe environment can be created and maintained. A multi-layered safety system has been developed that proactively supports a safe community with the ability to respond to any emergency that may occur. Important campus safety information is available at <https://www.wingate.edu/campus-safety>

#### Wingate Main Campus

Blue light help phones are located through the campus including the parking lot of the Levine College of Health Sciences. These phones serve as a direct link to an emergency dispatcher. Never hesitate to contact emergency personnel if the situation warrants urgent attention.

Campus Safety is also available to assist with flat tires, dead batteries, and being locked out of one's vehicle or building. Campus Safety can be reached 24 hours per day.

- Campus Safety: [704-233-8999](tel:704-233-8999)
- Wingate Police (non-emergency): [704-289-1591](tel:704-289-1591)
- Police (emergency): 911
- Address: 204 North Main Street Wingate, NC 28174

## Hendersonville Health Sciences Center

Pardee Security (for outside and parking lot), 828.696.4730  
Hendersonville Police, 828.697.3025  
Police (emergency): 911  
Blue Ridge Community College Police Cell Phone, 828.674.5954

## **STUDENT HEALTH**

### Wingate Main Campus

In case of illness, students may contact the Health Center. The Health Center is located on campus in Holbrook and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Students can be seen by appointment from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Walk-ins are accepted as time permits. More information about the Health Center can be accessed at <https://www.wingate.edu/mygate/students/health-center>

After- hours options include:

- Minute Clinic (inside CVS-Hilltop)
  - 625 E Roosevelt Blvd, Monroe, NC 28112 (704-289-8513)
- Carolinas Healthcare System Urgent Care-Monroe
  - 613 E Roosevelt Blvd, Monroe, NC 28112 (704-283-8193)
- FastMed Urgent Care
  - 2242 W Roosevelt Blvd A, Monroe, NC 28110 (704-220-1904)

Emergencies are handled through the Emergency Department of Atrium Health – Union in Monroe. Emergency physicians are available 24 hours per day. The student assumes all responsibility for payment of services. Students are also responsible for payment when referred to off-campus offices for treatment or follow-up care.

## Hendersonville Health Sciences Center

Pardee Urgent Care  
212-A Thompson Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792  
Phone: 828.697.3232

Emergency services are available at Margaret Pardee Memorial Hospital adjacent to the Hendersonville Health Sciences Center. Address: 800 North Justice Street, Hendersonville, NC 828.696.1000.

## **COUNSELING SERVICES**

The Counseling Center, located in Holbrook, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Currently the Counseling Center is offering teletherapy sessions located to students located in NC. Information is available at <https://www.wingate.edu/mygate/students/counseling-services>

Additional services available to Hendersonville students:

Hendersonville Health Sciences Center

Employee Assistance Network

714 Oakland Street

Hendersonville, NC 28791

[www.eannc.com](http://www.eannc.com)

828.697.2953

**IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Wingate Main Campus

Personalized identification cards are made and distributed to new students during orientation. ID cards should remain in a student's possession at all times while in the PA program. The ID card is required for entrance into the Levine College of Health Sciences after hours and to use the copier/printer equipment. The ID card may also be used to add Secure Spending Funds which can be used in all dining facilities and the University Bookstore. Lost cards can be replaced at a cost of \$25 which is charged to the student's account in the Office of Residence Life. Any student withdrawing from the University or dismissed from the PA program must return his/her ID card to the Office of Residence Life.

Hendersonville Health Sciences Center

Student ID cards will be used to pay for printing. Lost ID cards, please contact Residence Life using this form: <https://www.wingate.edu/student-life/residence-life/contact-residence-life/>

Students have 24/7 building access via the door access pass issued by Blue Ridge Community College. An access pass will be issued when classes begin. Lost access passes should be reported to Regina Hutchison. There is a fee of \$8 for a replacement access pass.

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

Wingate Main Campus

Students provide license plate and driver's license information for parking registration. Parking stickers may be picked up at the office of Campus Safety. Students are not to park in marked visitor or faculty lots.

Hendersonville Health Sciences Center

Students provide license plate and driver's license information for parking registration. This should be placed on the rear window or bumper. You will need your license plate number and driver's license number for sticker registration. Please see Regina Hutchison for a form.

Parking is available in the lower north lot, west lot and unmarked spots in the east lot with overflow available in the St. Paul's Tabernacle lot. Handicap parking is on the northeast side of the building. Please do not park in marked Pardee patient or Medical Office Building (MOB) spots.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **SUMMARY OF HIPAA**

The HIPAA Privacy Rule establishes national standards to protect individuals' medical records and other personal health information and applies to health plans, health care clearinghouses, and those health care providers that conduct certain health care transactions electronically. The Rule requires appropriate safeguards to protect the privacy of personal health information, and sets limits and conditions on the uses and disclosures that may be made of such information without patient authorization. The Rule also gives patients' rights over their health information, including rights to examine and obtain a copy of their health records, and to request corrections.

Retrieved from <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/privacyrule/index.html>

### **SUMMARY OF FERPA**

FERPA refers to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. It relates to students' rights concerning educational records and information. It is also called the Buckley Amendment, which became law in January 1975.

FERPA gives students the right to inspect and review their education records, including grade transcripts and other academic records. It also outlines rules for releasing and disclosing students' information. If students believe their rights under FERPA have not been upheld, they may file a complaint with the United States Department of Education. If you wish to share your education records with anyone, including your family, you must complete the Student Waiver of FERPA Rights and return it to the Registrar for this purpose.

Retrieved from <https://www.wingate.edu/academics/the-registrar/ferpa>



## **APPENDIX B ELECTRONIC MEDIA GUIDELINE**

The following Guideline describes appropriate standards of conduct related to all electronic information (text, image, or auditory) that is created, transmitted, or posted internally or externally by faculty, staff, and students (hereafter “personnel”) affiliated with the Wingate University PA program. It applies whether personnel are posting to Wingate University-hosted media or external systems or sites; electronic media in which one’s affiliation is known, identified, or presumed; or self-hosted sites, distributions, or transmittal sites where the views and opinions expressed are not intended to represent the official views of the Wingate University PA program.

### Best Practices

Everyone who participates in electronic media activities should understand and follow these simple but important “Best Practices”:

Take responsibility and use good judgment. You are responsible for the material you transmit by email or post on personal blogs and other electronic media. Be courteous, respectful, and thoughtful about how other personnel may perceive or be affected by the postings. Incomplete, inaccurate, inappropriate, threatening, harassing, or poorly worded postings may be harmful to others. They may damage relationships, undermine the Wingate University PA program’s reputation, discourage team work, and negatively impact perceptions of the program’s commitment to patient care, education, research, and community service.

Think before you post. Electronic media is generally retained and subject to investigation, subpoena, discovery, or other legal actions. Further, the organization providing the service (email, social site, etc.) owns your material at the moment of posting or transmission. Thus, anything you post or transmit is highly likely to be permanently connected to you and your reputation. Future employers and patients may come across this information and may use it to evaluate you, making it important that you take great care and thought before placing comments in the public domain.

Protect patient privacy. Disclosing information about patients without written permission, including photographs or potentially identifiable information is strictly prohibited. HIPAA guides us to take extreme care when sending any information that could possibly be linked to a patient or patient’s family. These rules also apply to deceased patients and to posts in the secure sections of your electronic media pages that are accessible by approved friends only.

Protect your own privacy. Make sure you understand how the privacy policies and security features work on your own devices, the devices provided in workplaces and schools, and on the sites where you are posting material.

Respect work commitments. Ensure that your emailing, messaging, blogging, electronic networking, and other external media activities do not interfere with your work commitments.

Identify yourself. If you communicate in electronic media about the Wingate University PA program, disclose your connection with Wingate University and your role in the program. Use

good judgment and strive for accuracy in your communications. False or unsubstantiated claims and inappropriate, inaccurate, or inflammatory postings may create liability for you.

Use a disclaimer. Where your connection with Wingate University is apparent, make it clear that you are speaking for yourself and not on behalf of the Wingate University PA program. A disclaimer, such as, “The views expressed on this [blog, website] are my own and do not reflect the views of Wingate University or the Wingate University PA program,” may be appropriate.

Respect copyright and fair use laws. For Wingate University’s protection, as well as your own, it is critical that you show proper respect for the laws governing copyright and fair use of copyrighted material owned by others, including Wingate University’s own copyrights and logo brands.

Protect proprietary information. Do not share confidential or proprietary information that may compromise the Wingate University PA program’s practices or security. Similarly, do not share information in violation of any laws or regulations.

Seek expert guidance. Consult with the PA Program Director if you have any questions about the appropriateness of materials you plan to publish or if you require clarification on whether specific information has been publicly disclosed. Electronic media may generate interest from the press. If you are contacted by a member of the media about a Wingate University-related blog posting or program information of any kind, contact the PA Program Director before disclosing information to the media.

Failure to adhere to the aforementioned best practices will be considered a breach of appropriate professional behavior and can result in discipline, up to and including, removal from the program.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN NC**

#### **Alcohol**

Under North Carolina General Statute 18B-302, it is a Class 1 Misdemeanor to aid, abet, sell or give alcoholic beverages to anyone under the age of 21, or to attempt to purchase alcohol under the age of 21. Fines and community service sentences starting at \$250 and 25 hours respectively may be imposed for violations of this statute. North Carolina laws allow civil damages of up to \$500,000.00 per occurrence for cases resulting in serious injury or death. Felony penalties may also apply depending upon the nature of the violation. More information regarding violation of this statute can be found at:

<http://www.dmv.org/nc-north-carolina/automotive-law/dui.php>

#### **Controlled Substances**

Legal sanctions for the illegal possession or sale of controlled substances vary depending on the amount of the controlled substance. Information regarding Federal penalties for drug trafficking may be found at:

North Carolina has structured sentencing for the illegal possession or sale of controlled substances, with judges permitted to impose a sentence within a prescribed range, depending on the class of the offense, the number of prior convictions for the individual defendant, and whether there were aggravating or mitigating factors in the circumstances of the offense. Similar to the Federal Controlled Substance Act (1970), the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act (G.S. 90-86) defines controlled substances and places them into one of six categories called “schedules.” The placement of a controlled substance into a schedule is determined by a set of defined criteria that evaluate the substance’s potential for abuse, medical use, and safety or dependence liabilities. Minimum punishments for violations may also be found in the Act.

The Schedules, Controlled Substances and Penalties for Possession chart below describes the schedule system, gives examples of drugs in each schedule and outlines the minimum punishment for possession of any amount of the substance. The punishments for illegally trafficking controlled substances are much more severe than those for possession. The Illegal Trafficking Penalties chart below will describe the minimum amount of controlled substance that one must possess to be charged with trafficking. The North Carolina Controlled Substances Act (G.S. 90-86) may be found at:

[http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByArticle/Chapter\\_90/Article\\_5.html](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByArticle/Chapter_90/Article_5.html)

**APPENDIX D  
MPAS REQUIRED CURRICULUM  
CLASS OF 2022**

<b>Fall Semester</b>			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Fall Semester</b>		
PA 524 Topic Exploration I	0		3 Clinical Rotations	15	
PA 529 EKG/Radiology	1		PA 620 Capstone Project I	2	17
PA 530 Clinical Medicine I	6		ACLS		
PA 538 Patient Assessment I	4		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Semester</b>		
PA 541 Pharmacology I	3		3 Clinical Rotations	15	
PA 544 Clinical Anatomy	2		PA 623 Professional Development	1	16
PA 546 Pathophysiology I	3	19			
			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Semester</b>		
<b>Spring Semester</b>			2 Clinical Rotations	10	10
PA 525 Topic Exploration II	0				
PA 527 Health Care Issues I	1		<b>Final Fall Semester</b>		
PA 531 Clinical Medicine II	6				
PA 539 Patient Assessment II	4		2 Clinical Rotations	10	
PA 542 Pharmacology II	3		PA 624 PANCE Preparation (P/F)	2	
PA 547 Pathophysiology II	3		PA 710 Summative Evaluation	2	
PA 580 Research, Epidemiology and Statistics	2		PA 720 Capstone Project II	4	18
IPE 700 Interprofessional Teamwork	0	19			61
<b>Summer Semester</b>					
PA 521 Clinical Orientation (P/F)	1		<b>Clinical Rotations</b>		
PA 528 Health Care Issues II	1		PA 600 Ambulatory Medicine I	5	
PA 532 Clinical Medicine III	4		PA 610 Ambulatory Medicine II	5	
PA 540 Patient Assessment III	1		PA 602 Internal Medicine	5	
PA 543 Pharmacology III	2		PA 603 Pediatrics	5	
PA 550 Emergency Medicine	2		PA 604 Psychiatry	5	
PA 552 Medical Procedures	2		PA 605 General Surgery	5	
PA 553 Pediatrics	2		PA 606 Women's Health	5	
PA 554 Women's Health	2	17	PA 607 Emergency Medicine	5	
<b>FIRST THREE SEMESTERS</b>		55	PA 608 Elective Clinical Rotation I	5	
<b>LAST FOUR SEMESTERS</b>		61	PA 609 Elective Clinical Rotation II	5	
<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>		116			

## APPENDIX E

### MPAS CURRICULUM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### **PA 521 Clinical Orientation**

This course will provide didactic students with exposure to clinical year policies, requirements, expectations, and use of the Exxat learning platform that will be used during their clinical rotation phase of the PA Program.

#### **PA 524 Topic Exploration I**

This is the first of two courses that will engage students in small group discussion related to concurrent topics in Clinical Medicine, Pathophysiology, and Patient Assessment. The interactive discussion format will develop critical thinking skills as students review disease etiology, pathophysiology, pertinent history and clinical findings, pertinent physical exam, differential diagnosis, and treatment. In addition, students will be guided through refinement of taking an adequate disease history and making decisions based on key points uncovered in the history by experienced faculty facilitators.

#### **PA 525 Topic Exploration II**

This is the second of 2 courses that will engage students in small group discussion related to concurrent topics in Clinical Medicine, Pathophysiology, and Patient Assessment. The interactive discussion format will develop critical thinking skills as students review disease etiology, pathophysiology, pertinent history and clinical findings, pertinent physical exam, differential diagnosis, and treatment. In addition, students will be guided through refinement of taking an adequate disease history and making decisions based on key points uncovered in the history by experienced faculty facilitators.

#### **PA 527 Health Care Issues I**

This course is designed to present students with to a variety of topics that are both pertinent to modern health care and frequently stumbling blocks in the practice of medicine. The goal of the course is to both provide students with knowledge of underserved medical populations, but also with the tools to help improve patient outcomes by improving communication skills.

#### **PA 528 Health Care Issues II**

In this course, students explore the unique role of PAs and the ethical and professional challenges that may be encountered in the student experience and in collaborative medical practice. Through discussion and case analyses, students better understand the ethics of decision-making that affects others, as well as recognize external factors that influence such decision making. Students learn to identify, evaluate and manage ethical challenges and conflicts of values with a process that ensures critical reflection. In addition, students examine and model professional attributes of a *good clinician* – one who provides compassionate, comprehensive care and who recognizes the value of shared decision-making with patients, families and other members of an interprofessional healthcare team.

#### **PA 529 EKG/Radiology**

Electrocardiography and Radiology is a single semester course designed to develop techniques for the interpretation of electrocardiograms and radiographic results and images. The

electrocardiogram component of the course will integrate cardiovascular physiology with the interpretation of EKGs. This course will serve as a foundation for the cardiology section of Clinical Medicine. ***An equal emphasis will be placed upon cardiac physiology, cardiac pathology and tracing interpretation.*** An understanding of radiographic procedures is required for the diagnosis of many medical conditions. Some imaging procedures are interpreted by primary care providers. Other interpretations are provided by radiologists and the results are then applied by the medical provider to establish a diagnosis. The radiology course will introduce information that addresses both of these concepts.

### **PA 530 Clinical Medicine I**

Clinical Medicine I is the first of a series of three courses designed to provide the essentials of diagnosis and management of the most common clinical problems seen by primary care practitioners. Using an organ system approach, clinical information presented includes the etiology of disease, presentation, physiology and pathophysiology of disease (when not covered elsewhere), pertinent laboratory and radiographic concerns, treatment options (pharmacological and non-pharmacological), patient education and follow up care. Treatment and care options presented include: preventive, emergent, acute, chronic, rehabilitative, and palliative when applicable. The topics covered in Clinical Medicine I include: Dermatology, HEENT, Hematology, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Pulmonary, and Nutrition/Preventative Medicine.

### **PA 531 Clinical Medicine II**

Clinical Medicine II is the second of a series of three courses designed to provide the essentials of diagnosis and management of the most common clinical problems seen by primary care practitioners. Using an organ system approach, clinical information presented includes the etiology of disease, presentation, physiology and pathophysiology of disease (when not covered elsewhere), pertinent laboratory and radiographic concerns, treatment options (pharmacological and non-pharmacological), patient education and follow up care. Treatment and care options presented include: preventive, emergent, acute, chronic, rehabilitative, and palliative when applicable. The topics covered in Clinical Medicine II include: Neurology; Urology, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Rheumatology and Orthopedics.

### **PA 532 Clinical Medicine III**

Clinical Medicine III is the third of a series of three courses designed to provide the essentials of diagnosis and management of the most common clinical problems seen by primary care practitioners. Using an organ system approach, clinical information presented includes the etiology of disease, presentation, physiology and pathophysiology of disease (when not covered elsewhere), pertinent laboratory and radiographic concerns, treatment options (pharmacological and non-pharmacological), patient education and follow up care. Treatment and care options presented include: preventive, emergent, acute, chronic, rehabilitative, and palliative when applicable. The topics covered in Clinical Medicine III include: Psychiatry and Infectious Diseases.

### **PA 538 Patient Assessment I**

This is the first of three consecutive courses that develop foundational skills and techniques required to gather a complete medical history and perform a thorough physical examination. This course introduces the student to the art of history taking and physical exams of skin, eyes, ears, nose, throat, gastroenterology, cardiovascular, and pulmonary systems. A combination of lecture,

assigned readings, self-directed learning, and hands on experience in a laboratory setting will be used to develop student's ability to critically evaluate information obtained through patient interviews and physical exam in the formation of diagnostic possibilities. Laboratory sessions will emphasize the proper use of diagnostic equipment and techniques for performing a comprehensive physical examination. In addition, students will learn documentation skills needed to completely and accurately document a history and physical exam.

### **PA 539 Patient Assessment II**

This is the second of three consecutive courses that develop foundational skills and techniques required to gather a complete medical history and perform a thorough physical examination. This course continues the student's introduction to the art of history taking and physical exams. This semester we will complete the study of the neurological, musculoskeletal and male and female genitourinary systems. A combination of lecture, assigned readings, self-directed learning, and hands on experience in a laboratory setting will be used to develop student's ability to critically evaluate information obtained through patient interviews and physical exam in the formation of diagnostic possibilities. Laboratory sessions will emphasize the proper use of diagnostic equipment and techniques for performing a comprehensive physical examination. In addition, students will learn documentation skills needed to completely and accurately document a history and physical exam.

### **PA 540 Patient Assessment III**

This is the final of three courses focusing on the skills needed to gather a medical history and perform problem focused physical exam. In addition, this course focuses on formulating a differential diagnosis and patient work-up plans utilizing the history and physical exam skills learned in PA 538 and PA 539. Students will use skills and knowledge from Patient Assessment I/II, Clinical Medicine I/II/III and Pharmacology I/II to guide critical thinking skills required in this course. Students will continue to develop skills in oral presentation of patients and SOAP note documentation.

### **PA 541 Pharmacology I**

This is the first class in a three part series, based on the NCCPA blueprint, the AMSPC Knowledge Objectives in Medical Pharmacology, and nationally accepted competencies for Physician Assistants. Students will be introduced to pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and pharmacotherapeutic principles, and are expected to acquire knowledge and develop the skills that a physician assistant will need to enhance patient care in clinical practice focusing on efficient and efficacious use of pharmacologic materials.

### **PA 542 Pharmacology II**

This is the second class in a three part series. Students will be introduced to systematic pharmacology and pharmaceutical agent use. Combined lecture and active learning exercises are designed to develop the skills that a physician assistant will need to enhance patient care in clinical practice focusing on efficient and efficacious use of pharmacologic materials.

**PA 543 Pharmacology III**

This is the third and final class in a three part series. Students will be introduced to additional classes of medications and expected to apply accurate and appropriate pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and pharmacotherapeutic principles. Combined lecture and active learning exercises are designed to develop the skills that a physician assistant will need to enhance patient care in clinical practice.

**PA 544 Clinical Anatomy**

This course is designed to provide Physician Assistant students with a working knowledge of the major anatomical regions and structures of the body. Emphasis will be placed upon the relationships of components within a specific region as well as surface and functional anatomy as it relates to physical examination skills and clinical applications.

**PA 546 Pathophysiology I**

This is the first of two courses where students learn integrative human pathophysiology by studying interrelationship of function and dysfunction at the molecular, cellular, tissue, organ, and body system level. With emphasis on understanding homeostatic mechanisms that maintain health and alterations of function brought about by disease, injury and aging, students learn principles and develop conceptual models of pathophysiology that can be applied to decision-making in clinical practice.

**PA 547 Pathophysiology II**

This is the second of two courses where students learn integrative human pathophysiology by studying interrelationship of function and dysfunction at the molecular, cellular, tissue, organ, and body system level. With emphasis on understanding homeostatic mechanisms that maintain health and alterations of function brought about by disease, injury, and aging, students learn principles and develop conceptual models of pathophysiology that can be applied to decision-making in clinical practice.

**PA 550 Emergency Medicine**

Emergency Medicine is an advanced clinical course designed to explore the treatment of trauma and medical disorders commonly presenting to the emergency department. Taught in a classroom and case-based format, the emphasis is on priorities in stabilization of patients with life-threatening trauma or illness and on selection of appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic measures. The emergent presentation of diseases previously studied in the Clinical Medicine course are integrated in to the course material. Although the specifics of each disease process are important, an emphasis is placed upon the logical analysis of data followed by the application of this information to diagnosis and management issues. Basic principles of critical analysis of information taught in the Clinical Medicine series of lectures are applicable to this course.

**PA 552 Medical Procedures**

This course utilizes a combination of lecture and laboratory teaching methods students learn the indications, preparation, administration and potential complications of various clinical procedures. While utilizing standard precautions students learn to perform point-of-care ultrasound, injections, venipuncture, intravenous insertions, nasogastric intubations, urinary catheter insertion, suturing,



splinting, casting and wound care. Students will also learn the principles of surgery including pre-operative, intra-operative post-operative care, and minor surgical procedures.

### **PA 553 Pediatrics**

Students must understand the special needs of patients within the primary care subspecialty of pediatrics. This class is taught in modular format using a variety of learning methods, including traditional lectures and interactive techniques. By completion of this course the PA student will be prepared to perform a comprehensive pediatric history and physical exam, understand the components and rationale behind routine well child care, develop fundamental knowledge necessary to the care of the pediatric through adolescent population, recognize normal and abnormal findings unique to the pediatric age group, and demonstrate understanding of normal growth and development.

### **PA 554 Women's Health**

Students must understand the special needs of patients within the primary care subspecialty of women's health. This class is taught in a comprehensive approach to women's healthcare by exploring issues that primarily impact women's health, including reproductive health. Upon its completion, students will be able to perform a thorough OB/GYN history, understand the skill of performing a thorough, painless OB/GYN examination, continue to develop the skills of formulating a diagnosis and management plan as it pertains to Obstetrics and Gynecology, understand the mandate and guidelines to practice preventive care and health maintenance for women, and demonstrate a foundational fund of knowledge in obstetrics, gynecology and women's health necessary for all physician assistants (regardless of career specialty).

### **PA 580 Research, Epidemiology and Statistics**

The Research, Epidemiology, and Statistics course provides an introduction to basic methods for undertaking research and program evaluation to include: methods and measures, epidemiology, critical evaluation, and analytical concepts. Also included are modules covering critical evaluation of printed and presented materials, basic epidemiology, and evidence based medicine.

### **PA 600 Ambulatory Medicine I**

This course will provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in primary care medicine that build upon the knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year. The rotation will take place in an outpatient setting and may include a family medicine clinic, an internal medicine clinic, or an urgent care facility. The student will gain knowledge, clinical skills, and experience in the evaluation and management of a wide range of medical problems seen in primary care. There will be emphasis on the comprehensive care of patients, including chronic and acute disease management, preventive care and health maintenance, and patient/family education.

### **PA 602 Internal Medicine**

This course will provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in inpatient internal medicine that build upon the knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year. The rotation will take place in an inpatient hospital setting. The student will gain knowledge, clinical skills and experience in the evaluation and management of a wide range of medical problems seen in internal medicine. There will be an emphasis on comprehensive care of the patient, including chronic and acute disease management, preventive care and health maintenance, and patient/family education.

**PA 603 Pediatrics**

This course will provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in pediatrics that build upon the knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year. The rotation will take place in hospital, outpatient clinic, or private practice settings. The student will gain knowledge, clinical skills and experience in the evaluation and management of a wide range of medical problems seen in pediatrics. There will be an emphasis on comprehensive care, including chronic and acute disease management, preventive care and health maintenance, and patient/family education.

**PA 604 Psychiatry**

This course will provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in general psychiatry/ behavioral health that build upon the knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year. The rotation will take place in inpatient or outpatient settings. The student will gain knowledge, clinical skills and experience in the evaluation and management of a wide range of medical problems seen in psychiatry/behavioral health. There will be an emphasis on comprehensive care of the patient, including chronic and acute disease management, preventive care and health maintenance, and patient/family education.

**PA 605 General Surgery**

This course will provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in surgical care that will build upon the knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year. The rotation will take place in surgical outpatient and inpatient facilities as available. Regardless of setting, there will be an emphasis on the medical management of a surgical patient including: preoperative care (history, physical exam, risk assessment, recognition of surgical emergencies), perioperative care (antibiotic and thromboprophylaxis, scrubbing, sterile field/technique, retraction, hemostasis), and postoperative care (wound management, fluid, electrolyte and acid-base balance, blood products, management of complications, nutrition, patient education).

**PA 606 Women's Health**

This course will provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in women's health that build upon the knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year. The rotation will take place in hospital, clinic, or private practice settings and will include prenatal care, gynecology, and in some practice settings, labor and delivery. The student will gain knowledge, clinical skills and experience in the evaluation and management of a wide range of medical conditions seen in women's health. There will be an emphasis on comprehensive care of the patient, including chronic and acute disease management, preventive care and health maintenance, and patient education.

**PA 607 Emergency Medicine**

This course will provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in emergency medicine that build upon the knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year. The rotation will take place in emergency department settings and students may be required to participate in rotating shifts. The student will gain knowledge, clinical skills and experience in the evaluation and management of a wide range of medical problems seen in emergency medicine. There will be an emphasis on emergency care (ranging from routine to life-saving) as well as patient and family education.

**PA 608 Elective Rotation I**

This course will provide advanced training and clinical experience in a medical/surgical field of interest to the student. The student will engage in all appropriate aspects of patient care from initial patient evaluation, diagnostic workup, assessment and management. A variety of outpatient and inpatient clinical sites will be used as appropriate to the medical specialty. The goal of the elective rotation is to provide the student with practical experience and exposure in a medical field of interest which will build upon knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year and in completed required clinical rotations.

**PA 609 Elective Rotation II**

This course will provide advanced training and clinical experience in a medical/surgical field of interest to the student. The student will engage in all appropriate aspects of patient care from initial patient evaluation, diagnostic workup, assessment and management. A variety of outpatient and inpatient clinical sites will be used as appropriate to the medical specialty. The goal of the elective rotation is to provide the student with practical experience and exposure in a medical field of interest which will build upon knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year and in completed required clinical rotations.

**PA 610 Ambulatory Medicine II**

This course will provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in primary care medicine that build upon the knowledge and skills gained in the didactic year and in PA 600 Ambulatory Medicine I. The rotation will take place in an outpatient setting and may include a family medicine clinic, outpatient internal medicine clinic, or an urgent care facility. The student will gain knowledge, clinical skills and experience in the evaluation and management of a wide range of medical problems seen in primary care. There will be an emphasis on the comprehensive care of patients, chronic and acute disease management, preventive care and health maintenance, and patient/family education.

**PA 620 Capstone Project I**

PA 620 is the beginning course in your Capstone project required for completion of your MPAS degree. It is designed to be a cumulative process using knowledge acquired during the didactic and clinical phases of your PA education. This knowledge is then applied using basic research techniques and quality improvement to complete a research paper and an oral presentation.

**PA 623 Professional Development**

Students will continue to build on their foundation of the Physician Assistant profession by looking at topics such as resume development, employment strategies, completing of state applications, medical malpractice, and reimbursement issues. This course is designed to promote collaborative learning and to cultivate effective communication skills to successfully transition from a student to a certified PA.

**PA 624 PANCE Preparation**

This course prepares students to successfully complete the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE), necessary for entering medical practice. Review material uses a systems approach, integrating all aspects of medicine including medical and surgical disorders encountered

in general adult and pediatric medicine. Topics also include typical clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, lab interpretation and management of disorders.

**PA 710 Summative Evaluation**

This course provides a series of summative evaluation events that are used to measure cognitive, motor, and affective domains in the final semester of the program.

**PA 720 Capstone Project II**

PA 720 is the second of two courses dedicated to the student Capstone project and is designed to be a culminating experience in our graduate program. Together with PA 620, this course represent a process of developing scientific writing skills, correlating academic knowledge of medical disease with the clinical approach and incorporating quality improvement in everyday medical pr

**APPENDIX F**

**EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONALISM  
Harris Department of PA Studies**

Student \_\_\_\_\_

<b>COMPONENTS of PROFESSIONALISM</b>	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Unacceptable
<b>Honesty/integrity</b> Is truthful with peers, faculty and staff (ex: communication, documentation, presentations, academic integrity).			
<b>Reliability/responsibility</b> Is accountable to peers, faculty and staff. Complete assigned duties and tasks on time. Accepts responsibility for errors and performance. Is on time and prepared for the start of class lectures, labs and examinations.			
<b>Respectful of others</b> Talks about and treats all persons with respect. Works cooperatively to promote relationships with peers, faculty and staff. Is attentive during class lectures and presentations. Maintains confidentiality.			
<b>Self-improvement</b> Contributes to discussions and question/answer sessions in class. Seeks to learn from errors. Aspires to excellence through self-evaluation and acceptance of the critiques of faculty. Understands the goal of PA education is the accumulation of knowledge for patient care.			
<b>Self-awareness/knowledge of limits</b> Recognizes need for guidance and supervision. Is insightful of the impact of one's behavior on others and cognizant of appropriate professional boundaries, demeanor, and appearance.			
<b>Adaptability</b> Accepts changes in scheduling, environments and new information.			

**APPENDIX G**  
**HARRIS DEPARTMENT OF PA STUDIES HONOR CODE PLEDGE**

A crucial aspect of a physician assistant's professional development is to assign one's self to a life guided by an honor code, endorsing a commitment to ethical, moral, and professional standards. All students of the Wingate University PA Program are expected to pledge to uphold a professional honor code. Upon matriculation, every student is required to sign that they have read the Honor Code and will hold themselves to these standards.

Honesty

I will not:

- Cheat or lie
- Alter or falsify academic, research, or patient documents
- Commit plagiarism or submit another individual's course work unless it is an accepted group learning exercise as defined by the course instructor
- Provide or gain access to academic or administrative files, research documents, or unauthorized patient medical records via computer or any other method
- Misrepresent myself as a licensed or certified health care professional

Integrity

I will:

- Recognize the limitations of my knowledge, skills, or physical or emotional state, and seek advice or appropriate help from my advisor or the Program Director before acting
- Engage in responsible and ethical conduct while a student in the PA program
- Take responsibility for what I say and do

Respect

I will:

- Respect the dignity of others, treating them with understanding and civility
- Not tolerate discrimination
- Contribute to creating a safe and supportive atmosphere for teaching and learning.
- Regard privacy and confidentiality as core obligations

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**APPENDIX H**  
**Didactic Year Absence Request Form**  
**Absence Information**

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

Type of Absence Requested:

Personal Day     Family Emergency     Illness/Accident     Other

Date of Absence: From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Absence:

*You must submit requests for absences, other than illness/accident and family emergency, at least two days prior to the day you will be absent.*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Associate Program Director Approval**

Approved  
 Not Approved/Unexcused

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Associate Program Director Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Attendance Policy Summary (See Student Handbook for complete policy)**

1. Attendance for all classes and other required activities within the PA program is mandatory. Students are expected to be on time for class and should plan their schedules accordingly.
2. Students must notify the Associate Program Director of any absences due to illness, accident, or family emergency via email ([r.boeschel@wingate.edu](mailto:r.boeschel@wingate.edu)) or telephone (704-233-8095) as soon as the student is aware that he/she will not be in attendance. The Associate Program Director will notify appropriate faculty members. These absences will be excused on a case-by-case basis.
3. Request for approval of all other absences must be submitted to the Associate Program Director during the business week and at least 48 hours prior to the absence using the Didactic Year Absence Request Form. The Associate Program Director will notify appropriate faculty members. All absences that are not pre-approved by the Associate Program Director will be unexcused.
4. Students are allowed one discretionary personal day during each of the three didactic semesters. The days cannot be used in increments or carried over to the next semester. The absences must be approved in advance by the Associate Program Director and cannot occur on days when there are exams, quizzes, procedures/skills check-offs or days involving specialized instruction with standardized patients or surgical scrub classes that cannot be made up. Students are responsible for any material missed during a personal day.
5. Unexcused absences, repeated absences, or repeated tardiness are considered unprofessional behavior and can be grounds for remedial action or dismissal from the program.

## APPENDIX I



WINGATE UNIVERSITY  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT  
PROGRAM

# REFERENCE ONLY

## Clinical Rotation Agreement

Clinical rotations are designed to provide the student with clinical instruction and hands-on experience in a variety of settings such as hospitals, public health facilities and private practices.

I understand that I may need to travel to distant locations, including those located out-of-state, to fulfill program requirements. Following the completion of each rotation, I will return to campus to complete end-of-rotation activities. **Transportation, living arrangements, and all other expenses related to clinical rotations are my responsibility.**

I understand that the clinical faculty reserves the right to place students at any clinical site, as necessary, and to determine in which order the rotations occur. In addition, I may have to repeat a required rotation in place of one, or both, of my electives if it is determined that there is an area of deficiency.

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Signature

Print Name

Date