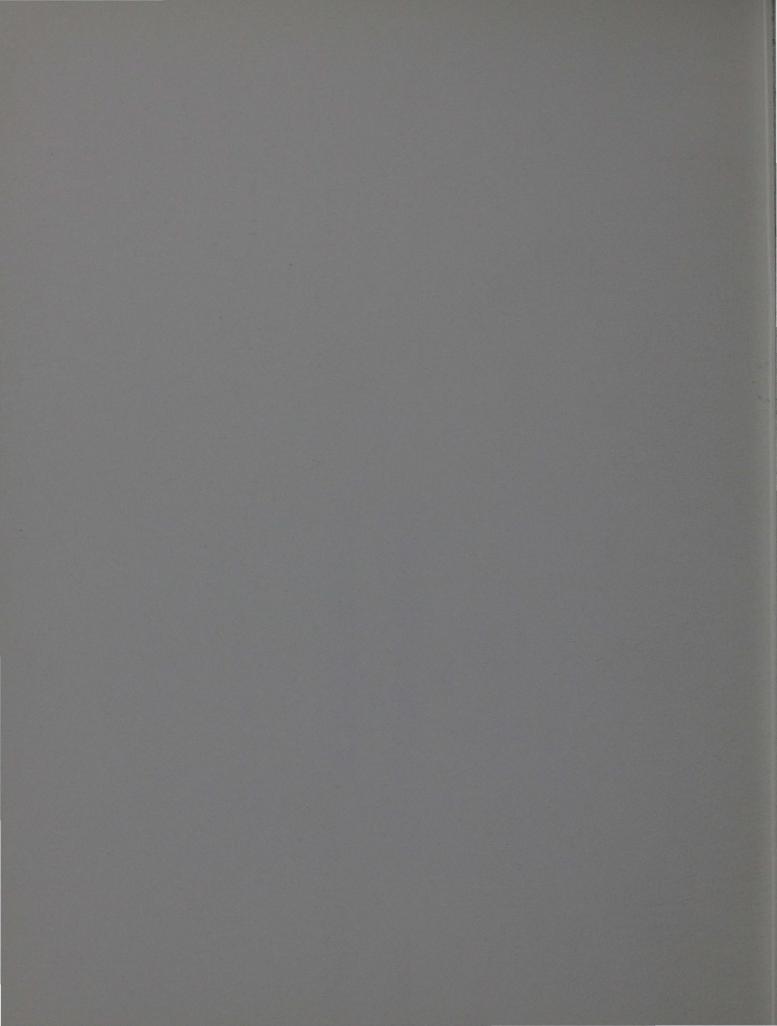
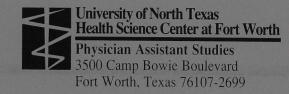


Physician Assistant Studies



1998-1999 Catalog





1998-1999 Catalog

This catalog is an official bulletin of the University of North Texas Health Science Center Physician Assistant Studies program and is intended to provide general information. It contains policies, regulations, procedures and fees in effect as of July 1, 1998. The health science center reserves the right to make changes at any time to reflect current board policies, administrative regulations and procedures, amendments by state law and fee changes. Information provided by this catalog is subject to change without notice and does not constitute a contract between the University of North Texas Health Science Center and a student or an applicant for admission. The institution is not responsible for any misrepresentation or provisions that might arise as a result of errors

Students are responsible for observing the regulations contained herein; therefore, they are urged to read this catalog carefully. This catalog does not contain all institutional rules, regulations and policies for which a student is responsible. Students should also consult the Student Handbook.

The health science center reserves the right to withdraw a student for cause at any time.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. It is the policy of the health science center not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era status, in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment policies. Questions or complaints should be directed to the Equal Opportunity Office, 817-735-2357.

On the Cover:

Heidi Horton, PA Class of 1999, observes surgery Chai Sam Buchanan, D.O., in a suturing demonstration.



President's Message

Welcome to the health care team of the 21st century.

As a physician assistant, you'll be an essential partner for expanding preventive and primary care services, assuring patient satisfaction and controlling costs. And because you'll be qualified to carry out many of the medical tasks that physicians have traditionally performed, your choice of workplace will be as broad as your responsibilities: private practices ... hospitals ... public health agencies ... HMOs ... nursing homes ... emergency rooms ... surgical wards ... industrial clinics ... veterans' facilities ... urban and rural clinics.

We believe you've chosen the right career, at the right time. And we believe you've chosen to prepare for youn lifetime commitment at an institution that's in the right place at the right time doing the right things. After all, we have our roots in the century-old osteopathic tradition of primary care, disease prevention and the

promotion of healthful living. Only 18 other academic institutions in the nation share this legacy. And since our founding in 1970, we've practiced what we teach: cost-effective, community-oriented patient care.

All of us who work, learn and teach at the UNT Health Science Center are dedicated to providing a healthier future for a changing world. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

DM. Richard

David M. Richards, D.O. President

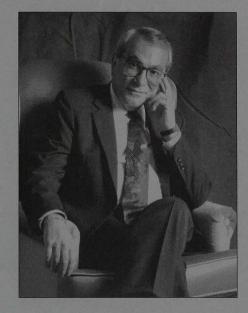


Dean's Message

Congratulations. You've chosen not only to enter one of America's fastest-growing professions, but also to help assure patient satisfaction, expand services and control costs in the medical practice of the future.

To succeed, you need a broad exposure to quality health care – which we pledge to provide – as well as a passion for helping others and a dedication to lifelong learning – which we pledge to nurture.

Our faculty members for the PA Studies curriculum support a team approach to health care and encourage student involvement in the clinical practice setting. Both our osteopathic medical students' and our PA students' clinical rotations are heavily weighted toward primary care and family medicine, including four weeks of clinical practice in a rural setting. Nearly half the PA classes are shared with medical students. Many clinical rotations allow you to work side by side with medical students, where you will sharpen your individual skills and experience the intricacies of medical practice. Our goal is to encourage this patient-care partnership, and to foster a mutual appreciation of each other's roles as practitioners.



Benjamin L. lohen D.O.

Benjamin L. Cohen, D.O.

Vice President for Health Affairs and Executive Dean

Director's Message

In the 1960s, a shortage of primary care physicians contributed to the emergence of a new health care professional: the physician assistant. Today, the United States has more than 30,000 PAs working in clinical practice under the guidance and supervision of licensed physicians.

Our accredited, 27-month PA Studies curriculum will prepare you to collect medical histories, perform physical examinations, order diagnostic tests, develop treatment plans, write prescriptions, assist in surgery, counsel patients and make appropriate referrals. The program is administered from within the Department of Family Medicine and awards the bachelor of science degree in physician assistant studies. Graduates are eligible to sit for the PA national certifying examination and to apply for state licensure.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center will provide you an exemplary PA education because our goals are aligned with your needs as well as the needs of the populations you will serve after graduation. We have the technology, the teaching skills and the student support services you need to become a successful practitioner of health care.

I hope you enjoy the responsibilities, challenges and rewards of your chosen career. Welcome.

Henry R. Lemke, M.M.S., P.A.-C.

Director, Physician Assistant Studies

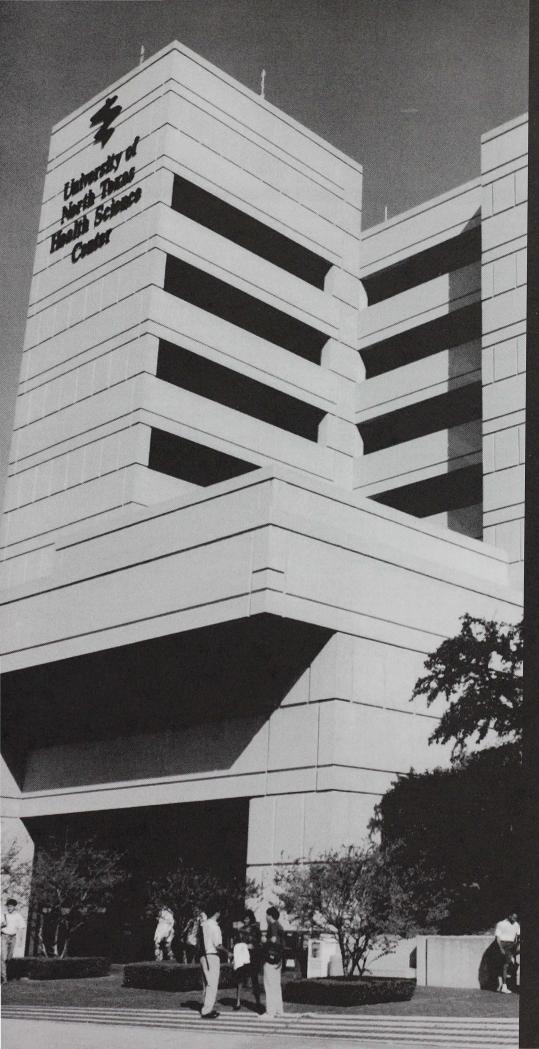
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Accreditation

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and is a member of the Alliance for Higher Education, the Association of Academic Health Centers, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, and the Council of Graduate Schools. The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award master's and doctoral degrees. Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine is fully accredited by the Bureau of Professional Education of the American Osteopathic Association which is recognized by the U.S. Office of Education. Provisional accreditation was granted to the University of North Texas Health Science Center Physician Assistant Studies Program by the Committee on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs in April 1997. Program graduates are eligible to sit for the national certifying examination. TCOM is approved by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

For further information regarding the institution's accreditations and state approval or to review related documents, contact the Office of Educational Planning and Development, Medical Education Building 1-864, 817-735-2510.



O N E The Health Science Center

Overview

The University of North Texas Health Science Center is one of the nation's distinguished academic medical centers, dedicated to the advancement of all three disciplines of medical science – education, research and patient care.

A 15-acre, \$71 million medical complex, the health science center is located in the heart of Fort Worth's Cultural Arts District. Our campus sits among parks, museums and tree-lined streets rather than in the concrete world of a central hospital district.

The health science center consists of two major institutions, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, with a combined faculty of more than 190, a staff of 900 and a cadre of some 300 volunteer community physicians.

TCOM is Texas' only college of osteopathic medicine, and one of only 19 in the nation. Roughly three-fourths of the almost 2,000 physicians who have trained at TCOM since 1970 practice primary care or family medicine – the highest proportion among the state's eight medical schools and one of the highest in the country. Since primary care is the linchpin of the medical managed care system now evolving, it is likely that most of our 454 current medical students will also pursue primary care careers, although their training prepares them to aspire to any specialty, from aerospace medicine to heart transplant surgery.

Since 1993 the graduate school has offered master's and doctoral degrees in the biomedical sciences, with specializations in anatomy and cell biology, molecular biology and immunology, pharmacology and integrative physiology. It also offers one of only two master of public health degree programs in Texas.

In 1997, the health science center launched its first undergraduate program, offering a bachelor of science degree with a

major in physician assistant studies.

Faculty members of the health science center's Physicians & Surgeons Medical Group practice in all medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties. More than 176,000 patient visits are logged each year at the health science center's network of 24 clinics and laboratories. A new 135,000 Patient Care Center opened on campus in 1997.

Among the health science center's physicians and scientists are nationally respected faculty members who are leaders in areas such as the biochemistry of aging, vision, heart disease, DNA and genetics, substance abuse, wound healing, osteoporosis and tuberculosis. This growing team of experts has fostered the creation of nine Institutes for Discovery and garnered over \$25 million in cumulative active research grants.

The health science center is also home to one of the most advanced medical libraries in the Southwest and the premier DNA identity testing laboratory in Texas.

Among a score of community endeavors the health science center is involved in is Fort Worth's medical and technology business incubator, MedTech. This singular project holds promise of creating new businesses and new jobs for the city, while taking medical discoveries from concept to development.

A recent collaboration between the health science center and a development corporation will result in Fort Worth becoming the hub for one of the largest sites in the nation for research, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's Disease. The project is expected to bring together the largest patient base for research in Alzheimer's Disease in the world.

Mission Statement

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is committed to achieving excellence in its programs of education, research and service. The health science center maintains the mission and traditions of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and a longstanding relationship with the University of North Texas. The center also shares programs with other health-related and academic institutions.

The health science center educates osteopathic physicians, biomedical scientists, public health professionals, physician assistants and other health professionals for careers in health care, teaching and research. Primary health care is central to the mission of the institution. The center has a special mission to meet the needs of individuals in the geographic areas, and within the age, ethnic and socioeconomic groups, in which primary health care is most needed. Health care education and services emphasize promotion of health, prevention of disease and public health issues affecting the patient and society. The institution supports a culturally diverse environment and advocates mutual respect for all members of the health science center community as they strive for excellence.

Education

Undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate teaching programs provide strong foundations of knowledge and skills in the basic and clinical sciences. Their focus is on the promotion of health and social, psychological, emotional and lifestyle factors that affect healthful living. Health care services delivered by the institution provide a critical educational arena where faculty serve as both teachers and role models in providing care. Each student is guided along a path of learning that has as its goals the development of critical thinking, problem

solving and independent lifelong learning. Particular attention is given to developing attitudes, ethical behavior and personal attributes that characterize a caring health professional sensitive to the special need for primary health care.

Research

The health science center is a community of scholars who are members of the international scientific community. As members of scientific societies and other professional groups, faculty contribute to national and international dialogues in the sciences, medicine and health care. By engaging in scholarly pursuits that contribute to further understanding of health and disease, the faculty and students serve the community, the state and the nation.

Service

The health science center serves the community, the state and the nation, contributing to the exchange of knowledge and its application. Faculty, staff and students take part in outreach programs providing health care professionals, clinical services and education throughout the community, including primary care to underserved individuals. The health science center serves as an educational resource to further the continuing education of practicing physicians and other health professionals. (Accepted by the UNT Health Science Center Board of Regents May 1996.)

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

The formation of America's seventh osteopathic medical school (there are now 19) began with the efforts of several osteopathic physicians who saw a need in Texas for a college of medicine that would focus its energies on the education of the

family medicine/primary care physicians who were so badly needed throughout the state. It was a bold response to a critical need as well as a natural outgrowth of the osteopathic medical profession's devotion to wholeperson, whole-family health care.

TCOM accepted its first students in 1970. In 1972, a relationship was forged that laid the foundation for the medical school's eventual evolution into a health science center. TCOM, then a privately funded school, contracted with North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) in nearby Denton to teach basic science courses to first- and second-year medical students. TCOM's first graduating class of 18 received their doctor of osteopathy (D.O.) degrees in 1974.

The successful collaboration between the two schools combined with TCOM's commitment to "specializing" in the education of primary care physicians earned the confidence of state government leaders. In 1975, TCOM became a state-supported medical school (separate from the university) under the jurisdiction of the North Texas Board of Regents.

In response to TCOM's remarkable growth and its achievements in health care and science, the Texas Legislature redesignated the medical school as a health science center in 1993. TCOM became the cornerstone component, retaining its osteopathic identity and focus. The second component of the center was created in October 1993 when the Department of Biomedical Sciences at UNT was transferred and redesignated as the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Today, TCOM is a state and national leader in training physicians skilled in comprehensive primary care/family medicine and disease prevention. Almost three-fourths of TCOM's graduates practice primary care medicine. Others successfully apply their extensive, unique training in specialty

careers as diverse as aerospace medicine and heart transplant surgery.

TCOM students perfect their medical skills under the supervision of physicians in 24 college clinics and laboratories, over a dozen affiliated teaching clinics and hospitals across Texas, and many community outreach activities. TCOM faculty physicians also provide support for the city/county public health department, the Tarrant County Hospital District and the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office, in addition to managing the corporate wellness programs for several large local employers and many small businesses.

Department of Family Medicine

The Department of Family Medicine's clinical and educational responsibilities have been an important educational component of TCOM since its inception. The department's 14 affiliated clinics (11 urban, 3 rural) form the largest clinical and educational network of ambulatory primary care clinics within the medical school. The department's vision is to improve the health of the people of Texas and the nation through leadership in exemplary osteopathic family medicine education, clinical practice, research and community service. To fulfill this vision, the department's activities include the following:

- Develop and maintain model osteopathic family medicine educational programs for medical students, resident physicians, and other faculty and practicing physicians who train future health care providers.
- Provide and teach comprehensive, highquality, cost-effective and humanistic health care in the department's network of ambulatory family medicine clinical education centers through interdisciplinary cooperation.
- 3. Promote the discovery and dissemination

- of new knowledge important to teaching, clinical practice and the organization of health care through research and other scholarly pursuits.
- 4. Work in partnership with individuals, urban and rural communities, organizations and government agencies to address unmet primary care needs through education, community service, and contributions to innovation and change in health care delivery systems.
- Provide a nurturing educational and work environment where creativity is encouraged and diversity is respected.

The department faculty represents a diversity of academic, clinical, ethnic and demographic backgrounds. The core faculty is-composed of 40 physicians, social scientists and physician assistants, and provides a continuous influence in the lives of TCOM students. The faculty teaches courses in medical interviewing, physical examination, physical diagnosis, ambulatory family practice and elective courses in sports medicine and emergency medicine. The department has also developed a rural medicine track and a separate track in cultural and minority health to acquaint medical students with the unique needs of these special environments. The projects link medical education and health care resources to build and strengthen community-based education programs.

The department administratively supervises five affiliated family practice residency programs in Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Dallas, Groves and Corpus Christi, Texas. The learning focus developed for the residents is broad in scope. In addition to teaching the management of common illnesses, the programs maintain an emphasis on problem solving, health maintenance promotion and illness prevention, and the relationship of psychosocial and environmental factors to health, illness and preparedness for the managed care market.

Physician Assistant Studies

Upon completion of all requirements for the Physician Assistant Studies program, the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth awards the bachelor of science degree in physician assistant studies.

Fostering the principles and spirit of teamwork in healthcare delivery is important to our program. One way we accomplish this is through judicious integration of students' scientific and clinical education. Many of the PA student's educational goals coincide with the educational goals of the medical students. As a result, PA and medical school faculty work together to develop a curriculum that meets the combined and unique needs of both groups of students. Our curriculum is distinguished from the majority of PA programs by instruction of the PA students in osteopathic principles. Clinical rotations are also weighted towards teaching the goals of primary care and providing for shared experiences between PA and medical

The mission of the Physician Assistant Studies program, which began in 1997, is a part of our commitment to achieving excellence in education and service. It is also a part of our commitment to serve the needs of our community, state and nation. Meeting the needs of individuals in the geographic areas, and within the age, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups that primary health care is most needed, is a special part of our mission. Our educational goals emphasize promotion of health, prevention of disease, concern for costs, and respect for the needs of the patient.

The overall goals of the Physician Assistant Studies program are to:

 Educate physician assistants who are qualified by academic and clinical

- training to provide patient care services with the appropriate supervision of a licensed physician.
- Provide a course of professional study that will provide graduates with appropriate knowledge of physical and mental disease, and the skills to accurately and reliably perform the range of health care procedures and duties customarily ascribed to the PA profession.
- Provide instruction that stresses the role
 of the physician assistant in health
 maintenance and preventive medicine;
 taking into consideration the social,
 economic and ethical aspects of health
 care delivery.
- Foster development of the intellectual, ethical, and professional attitudes and behaviors that generate trust and respect from the patient population served by the physician assistant.
- Provide educational experiences that promote understanding of the interdependence of health professionals and that foster participation in the interdisciplinary team approach to the delivery of primary health care.
- Provide didactic and clinical educational experiences sufficient to prepare physician assistants with the knowledge, technical capabilities and judgment necessary to perform in a highly professional capacity.
- Provide educational experiences that stimulate active learning in the science and art of medicine, and that foster a desire for continued learning as a practicing professional.
- Prepare graduates to perform successfully on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.
- Instill a desire and prepare students to enter primary care careers in rural and urban medically underserved areas.

Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library

The health science center's library supports the educational, patient-care, research and community-service missions of the institution by meeting the information needs of faculty, students, staff and the local health sciences community.

Featuring the latest information technology, this spacious and attractive facility provides the physical and intellectual resources needed for study, instruction and research. The library collection contains over 150,000 volumes and 2,280 journal titles in the basic biomedical sciences, clinical medicine and affiliated fields. Special Collections preserves historically significant materials, including over 2,300 volumes of osteopathic and nineteenth century medicine, The William G. Sutherland Collection, and institutional archives, photographs and oral histories documenting the school's first 25 years.

The library uses the Library Information System (LIS) to provide access to the library's collections and to the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE database. LIS may be accessed in the library, via telephone modem or through the Internet. Library instruction on LIS, MEDLINE and other library services, as well as reference services and mediated computer searches, are readily available.

Materials not owned by the library may be obtained through interlibrary loan from many sources. The library has been a resource library in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine since 1991. In addition, the library is a member of the South Central Academic Medical Libraries Consortium, which provides access to all 14 academic medical/health science center libraries in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

The library's Media Resources Center houses an audio-visual collection of over 5,700 titles, over 420 computer software programs and 116 anatomical models. The collection includes titles with a broad appeal to both medical/scientific users and the general public. Sixteen viewing rooms and 18 carrels are equipped with video playback and slide-tape projectors.

Three networked microcomputer labs, with Macintosh and IBM-compatible computers, are available in the MRC for student, staff and faculty use. Monthly computer classes are also offered. The Internet can be accessed in all three labs by users who have registered with Information Technology Services and have received a password. Portable computers are also available for overnight and weekend checkout.

All health science center students receive the full range of library services, including borrowing privileges, individual and group study areas, photocopying, computer searches, reference help, document delivery services, print indexes, personal instruction in the use of the library and access to the library's collections. Students must have I.D. badges to borrow materials and gain access to the library's various study rooms.

Copy cards are available for purchase. The library is a member in the Copyright Clearinghouse Center to ensure compliance with the copyright law.



T W O Student Affairs

Student Life

Division of Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs assists the president of the health science center in interpreting student needs, creating an atmosphere that stimulates learning and integrating extracurricular experiences into the formal learning programs.

The goals of this office are to encourage student participation in and contribution to the health science center's programs, to establish and coordinate a system of student academic advisement, and to interpret institutional regulations on academic and non-academic matters to students.

Staff members are available for general counseling or information and assistance with any phase of campus life. In emergency situations (such as a death in the family) special assistance can be provided for notification of professors, medical withdrawal, etc. The office handles disciplinary and social adjustment problems, and offers self-development opportunities and enrichment activities.

The Division of Student Affairs encompasses student development, academic support, admissions, financial aid and the registrar.

Academic Assistance, Guidance and Counseling

The Academic Assistance Office conducts learning strategies workshops for incoming students during the week of orientation. Included are learner-oriented activities, an anatomy lab introductory activity, as well as specific study and skills. Additional workshops and services are conducted on an as-needed basis.

Other academic assistance services available by appointment or on a walk-in basis include counseling in learning skills, time management, test-taking skills and a peer-tutoring program.

Counseling referrals for discussion of personal problems for students and their

families are available through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). For more information, contact the Student Affairs Administrative Office or the Student Development Office.

Student Development Services

The primary function of the Office of Student Development is to serve the students of the health science center. The office addresses student issues from prematriculation through graduation. The staff provides information on local housing, child care, employment and a variety of other student-related issues. The office advocates student rights and responsibilities. The Student Development Office supports all student organizations, programs and activities.

Health Insurance Program

As noted in the Academic Policies section of this catalog, it is compulsory for all students to carry medical and hospitalization insurance, and proof of insurance must be provided at each registration.

Although health insurance may be purchased from any insurance carrier, a group student health insurance plan is offered by a non-university-affiliated carrier for students enrolled at the health science center. Application forms are available in the Office of Student Affairs.

Health Services

Health care services are available to students and their immediate family members through the UNT Health Science Center's Central Family Practice Clinic, which is in the Patient Care Center on the northwest corner of campus. This clinic is a public family practice facility, however, and you must make an appointment for every

visit. You also must provide insurance information, and a claim will be filed. Students and their dependents are not charged general service fees. However, charges will be incurred for pathology, radiology and medications. Referrals to specialty areas are made as needed through the Central Family Practice Clinic.

Housing

The health science center does not have on-campus student housing. However, students will find a variety of housing opportunities in the area. Every student is responsible for making his or her own housing arrangements. The Student Development Office provides information on real estate, apartments, apartment locators and temporary housing.

ID Cards

Health science center identification cards are issued during fall registration. The card entitles the bearer to access health science center facilities and serves as an identification for clinic and library services.

A replacement for a lost or stolen identification card can be purchased for \$5. Contact Biomedical Communications for procedures and information. Report a stolen ID card to Campus Police.

The identification card is void upon termination or interruption of enrollment and when not properly encoded.

Fraudulent use of an ID card subjects the user to a fine of \$2,000 and up to one year in jail (Class A Misdemeanor). Anyone who uses the ID card to give false information to a police officer is subject to a fine of \$200 (Class C Misdemeanor).

Liability

The health science center is not responsible for and does not assume any liability for loss of or damage to personal property.

A student may want to provide personal insurance coverage for possessions on campus.

Recreational Facilities

The Founders' Activity Center, located on the north end of campus, is open seven days a week to students, faculty and staff. The center features aerobics classes, regularly scheduled recreational sports, a multipurpose outdoor court and recreational equipment. Cardiovascular exercise equipment is also available, as well as free weights and weight machines. Exercise and nutrition programs can be tailored to the individual by the center's health promotions manager.

Student Organizations and Activities

There are 32 student organizations on the UNT Health Science Center campus. These organizations represent a variety of interests within the health professions community. In cooperation with the Student Development Office, they sponsor programs and activities that promote the intellectual, professional, moral, social, physical and emotional development of all students. These organizations provide students with leadership opportunities at the local, regional and national levels.

The Student Development Office coordinates the student organization calendar and registration process. Students are encouraged to participate in campus organizations and events.

The health science center recognizes the right of any group of students, faculty members or staff to form a voluntary organization for purposes not forbidden by

the laws of the United States or the state of Texas. All campus organizations that include enrolled students as members must be registered with the Office of Student Development and the Division of Student Affairs.

Policies that regulate the functioning, sponsorship and privileges of registered and recognized organizations are available in the Office of Student Affairs. For more information, contact the Student Development Office.

Student Publications

The UNT Health Science Center annually publishes a student yearbook, The Speculum. All students are encouraged to participate in the production of the yearbook.

Student/Staff Lounge

The Student/Staff Lounge is on the first floor of Medical Education Building 1, Room 110, directly across from the Luibel Hall. The lounge has recreational games, vending machines and a relaxing atmosphere. The Student Development Office and the Medical Student Government Office are located in the lounge area.

Veterans Registration

The UNT Health Science Center is approved by the Texas Workforce Commission for training men and women who have served in the armed forces. Assistance is provided to students who are on active duty or who are veterans. To establish eligibility for assistance, a veteran should contact the Registrar's Office for the appropriate forms.

A student must maintain a minimum cumulative weighted average of 75 to remain eligible to receive veteran's benefits.

Veteran's benefit payments cannot be made

during any period of academic probation. All questions on veterans registration should be addressed to the Registrar's Office.

Admission, Financial Aid and Fiscal Policies

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Physician Assistant Studies program, a minimum of sixty (60) transferable semester hours of college credit from a regionally accredited institution is required. All candidates must meet institutional health and technical standards to be admitted and participate in the program. Passage or exemption of the TASP (Texas Academic Skills Program) examination is required. We recommend obtaining a strong background in science. Physical education activity courses and military science courses will not be counted toward the 60 hours. The minimum GPA required for admission is 2.85.

<u>Prerequisites</u>	Hours
English* (including composition)	6
US History*	6
US Government*	6
(must include a study of Texas constitut	ion)
General Biology** (including laborator	y) 8
Human Anatomy and Physiology***	4
Chemistry** (including laboratory)	8
College Algebra (or higher)	3
Psychology	6
Sociology or Anthropology	3
Statistics	3

Other Recommended Courses:

Biochemistry
Cell Biology
Computer Science
Genetics
Histology
Microbiology
Oral Communications

* Only three semester hours can be obtained from advanced standing examinations such as CLEP or its equivalent. Hours obtained through correspondence or television courses may be eligible. A study of the Texas constitution cannot be waived.

Non-residents may complete this requirement while enrolled.

** Courses offered for nonscience majors will not meet this requirement.

*** Must include a study of both human anatomy *and* physiology. The course or courses can not be used simultaneously to meet General Biology requirements.

Health and Technical Standards

All candidates must meet certain health and technical standards to participate in the physician assistant educational programs. Graduation signifies that the graduate is prepared for entry into the practice of medicine as a physician assistant with the requisite knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and provide a wide spectrum of patient care.

A candidate for the physician assistant degree must have abilities and skills in five areas: observation, communication, motor, conceptual, intellectual and behavioral. Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain areas, but for the majority of areas a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary requires that a candidate's judgment be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation.

1. Observation. Observation requires the functional use of vision and somatic sensations. The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experience lessons in the basic sciences including, but not limited to, physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance

- and close at hand. Observation is enhanced by functional use of the sense of smell.
- 2. Communication. A candidate should be able to speak, hear and observe in order to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity and posture; and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms with all members of the health care team.
- 3. Motor. Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers. This includes performance of basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, etc.), and may also include diagnostic procedures (proctoscopy, paracentesis, etc.), and reading EKGs and X-rays. A candidate should be able to execute movements that are reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required include the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
- 4. Intellectual. Candidates should possess conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities. These include obtaining measurements and performing calculations, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physician assistants, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

5. Behavioral. Candidates must have sufficient emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities in the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients in a mature, sensitive and effective relationship. Candidates must be able to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admission and education processes.

Application Procedures

To be considered for admission, all the following items must be received by the announced deadline for the year in which the student is applying:

- 1. A completed application for admission.
- 2. Filing fee, nonrefundable (check or money order).
- 3. Official transcript(s) from each college or university attended *.
- 4. At least three letters of evaluation, which can be from an undergraduate advisor; an instructor; an employer; a supervisor; physician or physician assistant; or a person who knows the applicant well. Letters from relatives are generally not acceptable (forms are provided with application).

Top competitive applicants will be invited to interview at the UNT Health Science Center.

Letters of acceptance are mailed on or about March 1 of the year classes begin.

Passage or exemption of the TASP (Texas Academic Skills Program) examination is required for admission.

*Transcripts listing classes taken in the

fall of the application year must be received by Feb.1 of the following year. Classes taken in the spring of the entering class year will not be considered or accepted.

Applicant Selection

In addition to the application, successful applicants will have completed a personal interview conducted at the UNT Health Science Center before selection. Only top competitive applicants will be offered an interview.

Although prior experience in a health care setting is not required, this experience is a preferred attribute and is viewed in a positive manner by the Admissions Committee.

Completed applications are due in the PA Studies office by the announced deadline for the year in which the student is applying. We prefer that all application materials arrive in one package. Transcripts of college courses must be received in sealed envelopes containing the official letterhead/seal of the issuing college/university attended. In cases where an institution will not release the transcripts to the student, the transcripts may be mailed directly to us. Transcripts received in opened envelopes will not be accepted.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center is committed to the policy that all applicants will be considered without regard to age, race, creed, sex, national origin, veteran's status, or disability provided the individual is otherwise qualified with or without a reasonable accommodation. As a state-supported school, we are required to admit 90 percent Texas residents for each entering class. All applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents in order to be considered.

The Admissions Committee selects applicants who are academically competent

to accomplish the work necessary to progress through the curriculum. Academic excellence alone does not assure acceptance. Evidence of personal integrity, maturity, creativity, motivation, dedication and the ability to work with others are factors that will be considered. These qualities and behaviors will be evaluated by several means, including letters of evaluation, the scope and nature of extracurricular activities (including work and volunteer experience), the breadth of education and personal interviews. The entire academic record will be considered.

Texas Residency

The rules and regulations for determining residency status are set forth by the Texas Higher Eduation Coordinating Board. Residency for the academic year is based on the student's status as of the annual registration day. Questions regarding these requirements should be referred to the Office of Medical Student Admissions.

An alien living in the United States under a visa permitting permanent residence, or one who has filed with the proper federal authorities a declaration of intention to become a citizen, has the same privilege of qualifying for Texas residency status for tuition purposes as has a U.S. citizen.

Financial Aid

The University of North Texas Health Science Center offers a number of scholar-ship and loan programs to assist students in meeting the costs of financing a medical education. Though financial aid is an alternative for eligible students, it should be considered a supplement to a student's own financial resources.

A student may apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This should be done immediately upon acceptance and yearly thereafter.

Federal Loan Programs

Students who complete the FAFSA, show financial need as determined by the needs-analysis service and meet all general eligibility requirements as outlined for each program may apply for federal financial aid. In addition, most aid programs require that the recipient adhere to academic and/or financial criteria in order to maintain eligibility. Some programs have limited funds; therefore, student files that are completed first are considered first.

Fiscal Policies

The UNT Health Science Center is a state-supported institution subject to state laws. However, students have an option to pay tuition and fees by installment. All other financial obligations to the college must be paid in advance. Fees are subject to change by the Board of Regents, the Texas Legislature or legal rulings of the Texas attorney general.

Tuition Refund Policy

A tuition refund is based on the date of withdrawal. A request for withdrawal must be submitted to the executive dean of TCOM, and a withdrawal form must be signed by the registrar. Upon official notification of withdrawal by the registrar, the Accounting Office will mail the appropriate refund to the student's forwarding address and/or to the applicable federal loan program. (See other withdrawal information elsewhere in this catalog.)

Payment plan fees, late fees and ID card fees are not refundable. By action of the Board of Regents, no part of the fees or tuition can be refunded to students who withdraw, for any cause, after the twentieth day of each semester except for those students attending their first semester at the UNT Health Science Center who receive financial aid. Those students will receive a

prorated refund based on the number of weeks remaining in the semester provided they leave before the 60-percent-completion point of the semester. After the 60-percent-completion point, the institutional refund policy described below will be followed.

The schedule for refunds under the regulations for all other students is 80 percent first week, 70 percent second week, 50 percent third week and 25 percent fourth week.

Tuition, Fees and Other Charges June 1998-August 2000

Tuition:

Texas Resident \$36 per hour Non-Resident \$249 per hour

Fees:

Student Service Fee: \$155 per academic year Building Use Fee: \$180 per academic year Laboratory Fee: \$25 per academic year \$50 per academic year Microscope Fee: Medical Malpractice Fee: \$200 per academic year Activity Center Fee: \$50 per academic year

Medical Service Fee: \$75 per year

Student Identification Card: \$5 (one-time charge) Property Damage Fee: \$10 (one-time charge) Computer Fee: \$50 per academic year

Installment Payment Plan Fee: \$15 Academic Course Fees: \$195 Clinical Course Fees: \$150

Other Charges:

Transcript Fee: \$4 Returned Check Service Charge:

Late Registration Fee: First day \$5; second day \$7.50; third day \$10; fourth day \$12.50; fifth/sixth days \$15. Late Tuition Fee: \$15 per month, to be applied as of the first day of the month following each

beginning semester date.

ID Card Replacement Fee:

Parking Fee (optional): Reserved parking with assigned space is available at \$75 per academic year;

restricted parking without assigned space is available at \$30 per academic year.

Health Insurance: Contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Special Examinations: These fees are based on the charge of the examining body or agency at the

time of the examination.

Graduation Fee: \$30

Tuition, fees and other charges are subject to change by legislative action, the attorney general, state of Texas legal rulings or by the Board of Regents. The Texas Legislature requires that a student cannot attend class until all tuition and fees are paid in full.

Academic Policies

Overview

Each student enrolled in the University of North Texas Health Science Center Physician Assistant Studies program is individually responsible for reviewing and knowing current academic policies, procedures and operational policies applying to enrollment in the curriculum. This catalog contains selected policies governing Physician Assistant Studies. Academic policies and guidance can also be found in the Physician Assistant Student Handbook and other official college documents.

The Physician Assistant Studies program reserves the right to amend or add to the academic policies and scholastic regulations at any time during the enrollment period. Changes and/or additions are normally intended to improve the quality of education in the program, and are introduced in a fair and deliberate manner with appropriate notice provided to all students affected.

Course Syllabus

The course syllabus contains specific educational requirements – assignments, evaluation, grading and other conditions of performance – that must be satisfactorily completed in order to receive a passing grade. Modifications to the requirements and procedures of a course may be made when judged necessary to improve instruction or to conform to scholastic regulations of the college.

Attendance

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in all scheduled activities. Participation in classes, laboratories or small group activities may be considered when assigning grades for a particular course or rotation. The individual course or rotation syllabus specify instructor expectations and grading policy.

Classroom and Laboratory Attendance

Participation in class and laboratory sessions is believed essential to good academic performance. Classes and rotations are typically offered only once during a student's enrollment period, therefore students are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance is required at all laboratories, small group sessions and clinical experiences. The program and/or course's director reserves the right to take attendance, and a student may be asked to affix his/her signature to attendance sheets. No student may sign on behalf of another student. Excessive absences may contribute to a failing grade and lead to dismissal from the program.

Each student is responsible for obtaining and learning all subject materials presented during any absence they may have. The PA Student Performance Committee considers an individual student's attendance record when making recommendations on probation, remediation and dismissal. Instructors and/or course directors are not obligated to provide make-up sessions to students who have missed lectures, laboratory sessions, small group sessions or clinical experiences.

Excused Absences

Excused absences may be granted for emergencies (such as a death in the family) or personal illness. Under certain circumstances, absences for special activities may also be approved by the PA Studies director. Generally, students having less than an accumulated average of 80 percent will not be granted excused absences for special activities. No absence will be considered "excused" without written approval from UNT Health Science Center or program personnel.

Clinical Rotation Attendance

Students are required to be available a minimum of 40 hours per week during clinical rotations. Some rotations may require the student to be available for more than 40 hours a week in order to meet educational and performance objectives. The clinical preceptors determine attendance requirements for clinical rotations beyond the minimum 40-hour requirement. Examples of activities that may require greater than 40 hours per week of attendance include taking call with preceptors, attending rounds, attending Continuing Medical Education, researching assignments and presenting case studies.

If a student is ill or has an emergency that requires him or her to be absent from a significant portion of clinical rotation, the student is expected to contact the preceptor as soon as possible. Students who are absent from clinical rotations for one day or more at a time are required to inform their preceptor and the Physician Assistant Studies office of the absence. Students who are absent for 20 percent or more time from a single rotation (for example, four days of a four-week rotation) are subject to failure of the rotation and will be referred to the PA Student Performance Committee for assessment of their performance. Under these circumstances, a student may be required to repeat a portion or all of the clinical rotation to continue in the program.

Leave of Absence

A student in good academic standing may request a leave of absence due to a prolonged medical problem, serious personal problem or pregnancy. Students seeking a leave of absence should seek and obtain assistance from the Office of Student Affairs. Requests must be submitted in writing. Leaves of absence will not be granted for reasons of poor academic standing. A request for a-

leave of absence due to a medical problem must be accompanied by documentation from a physician or licensed professional that describes the nature of the disability and the estimated length of time needed for recovery. A request for a leave of absence due to personal reasons or pregnancy also requires substantiating documentation. Students must sign an approved Leave of Absence Form (available in the Registrar's Office) before they can be officially placed in leave of absence status.

Before readmission after a leave of absence, a student must submit a written request for readmission. A letter substantiating the student's recovery and/or ability to participate in a full academic program is required. A leave of absence may not extend beyond one calendar year from the effective date for reentry into the PA Studies program to occur.

Religious Holy Day Request Policy

A student may request release from duties for observance of a religious holy day. The student must submit a request for an excused absence for a religious holy day by the end of the 14th day of the term in which he or she is requesting an excused absence. The Religious Holy Day Request Form is available from the Registrar's Office. Course directors may require a letter of verification regarding observance of the holy day(s) from the student's religious institution. Course directors make reasonable attempts to accommodate requests where possible; however, there is no guarantee that an individual request will be granted. Procedures for appeal of the decision of a course director are provided in the Grievance and Appeal Procedures for the institution. Students who do not attend class(es) due to an approved observation of religious holy days must take any missed examinations and/ or complete scheduled assignments no later than the end of the fifth day after their return to classes or rotations.

Registration

Registration is conducted at the beginning of each term. Registration consists of paying tuition and fees and completing registration forms for the Office of the Registrar, Financial Aid Office and Division of Student Affairs.

Students may register for and attend only those courses and clinical rotations listed on their official academic schedules of classes. Students may not be enrolled in two or more courses meeting at the same time

Only students properly enrolled by the registrar may attend classes. Any examinations or other materials completed by an individual who is not officially enrolled will be destroyed. No record will be kept of examinations or other academic work done by individuals whose enrollment in a course has not been authorized by the registrar. Examinations or other course materials completed by a dismissed student who is attending classes while under an official appeal will not be scored and will be retained by the registrar pending outcome of the appeal.

Late fees are assessed for each day following the designated date of registration. A check returned because of insufficient funds will incur a penalty and also may result in a charge for late registration. (See Fiscal Policies for more information.)

Immunizations

The Texas Department of Health requires that all students in higher education institutions must show proof of immunizations before registration. Any validated document of immunization presented by a student is acceptable provided it shows the day, month and year when each

immunization was received. Proof of required immunizations must be submitted to the PA Studies Office before matriculating.

Such proof is not required for an individual who submits an affidavit or certificate signed by a physician licensed to practice in the United States that states, in the physician's opinion, the required immunization would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of his or her family or household. Unless a lifelong condition is specified, the affidavit or certificate is valid for one year from the date signed by the physician and must be renewed every year for the exclusion to remain in effect.

The Texas Department of Health requires the following immunization conditions: All students born after January 1, 1957, who are enrolled in health-related courses that involve direct patient contact in medical care facilities must show proof of two doses of measles vaccine, one dose of mumps vaccine or proof of immunity to these diseases; and two doses of chicken pox vaccine. Students who have had chicken pox may provide a written statement from their physician or a parent. This is the only disease where a written statement from a parent can be considered proof of immunity. All students enrolled in health-related courses must show proof of one dose of tetanus/ diphtheria vaccine within the past 10 years. All students enrolled in health-related courses must show proof of either one dose of rubella vaccine administered on or after the first birthday or serologic proof of rubella immunity. All students, residents and interns shall receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine or show proof of serologic immunity. All students will be skin tested for tuberculosis using the two-step testing procedure in accordance with Section X of the Tuberculosis Control Plan Policy 96.001.26 of the UNT Health Science Center. This will be

done during the first month of classes.

Prospective students may be given provisional enrollment of up to one semester to attend classes while getting the required immunizations or documentation as long as no direct patient care is involved.

Student health care providers cannot be provisionally enrolled without the receipt of at least one dose of the MMR vaccine if direct patient contact will occur during the provisional enrollment period.

Hospitalization Insurance

All students are required to provide for their own health insurance while attending TCOM. Each student enrolled is required to show proof of health/hospitalization insurance at the time of registration. Recognized proof of coverage is a photocopy of the policy naming the student as insured or a letter from the insurance company stating that the student is insured for hospitalization care. Proof of coverage must be submitted to the registrar.

Students without insurance coverage may elect to purchase hospitalization insurance from a carrier of their choice or purchase the Student Hospitalization Plan endorsed by the college. Insurance information, rate of annual premium and applications may be obtained from the Division of Student Affairs.

Educational Records

Transcripts

The term academic transcript refers to a copy of the official permanent record of a student's approved academic course work, including academic marks, scholarships and degrees. At the student's request, a class rank may be shown on the transcript.

Class rankings are established twice a year, after the end of the fall and spring semesters. Class rank will not be available by

request at the Registrar's Office. Class rank will appear on the grade report that is mailed to each student following each semester.

Students may obtain copies of their transcripts by submitting written requests to the Office of the Registrar. The first copy of the TCOM transcript is free. A \$4 fee is charged thereafter for each official transcript. A \$1 fee is charged for each copy of an undergraduate transcript in a student's file.

Acts of the 61st Texas Legislature, Chapter 675, 1969 Regular Session, provide legal penalties for any alteration of academic records or transcripts with the intent to use such a document fraudulently. A person who violates this act or who aids another in violating this act is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and/or confinement in the county jail for a period not to exceed one year.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as the Buckley Amendment, grants students in institutions of higher education the right of access to their educational records. It grants students the right to inspect their educational records, with the exception of confidential letters and statements of recommendation that the student has waived the right to inspect.

Before disclosing any personally identifiable information, the health science center must obtain written consent from the student, except when otherwise allowed by law.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act considers certain information to be "directory information" and subject to disclosure without prior consent from the student. Directory information relating to students includes the following: the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, hometown, major field of study, participation in officially recognized

activities and sports (including weight and height of members of athletic teams), classification, degrees and awards received, the most recent educational agency or institution attended by the student and the dates of attendance.

Students who desire that all or part of their directory information not be released must submit a written request to the Office of the Registrar during the first 12 days of the fall semester. Forms for submitting the written request to withhold directory information are available in the student's fall registration packet and in the Office of the Registrar.

Grades and other academic evaluations will be made available to the vice president for health affairs and executive dean of TCOM and to other center personnel as the executive dean may direct so as to carry out administrative and academic responsibilities of the center.

The health science center will notify students in writing of the academic offices in which their educational records are maintained at fall registration each year.

Grades

All course and rotation grades are recorded on transcripts as letter grades, "credit," "no credit" or numerically using a 4.0 scale. Academic standards call for successful completion of each course or clinical rotation with a letter grade of "C" or better. Requisites for obtaining passing grades are contained within the course or rotation syllabus. Grades are converted as described below:

etter Grade	100-point scale	4.0 Scale	
Α	90 - 100	4.0	
В	80 - 89	3.0	
С	70 - 79	2.0	
D	60 - 69	1.0	
F	< 60	0.0	

Incomplete grades may be assigned when a student has not completed all academic requirements and assignments. A student must remedy the incomplete grade to a letter grade of A, B or C by the end of the fifth class day of the next academic term in order to be promoted to the next term or into clinical rotations. Students who receive an incomplete grade on any clinical rotation will have 12 months from the date of issuance to fulfill all requirements or assignments for that rotation. If all requirements and assignments for converting an incomplete course or rotation grade are not completed within 12 months of issuance, the grade will automatically convert to an "F" for that course or rotation. All remedied incomplete grades remain on the student's transcript with the earned grade recorded next to it.

Evaluation of Student Performance

Evaluation of Classroom and Laboratory Instruction

The primary method used for evaluating student performance during classroom instruction is by written examination, which typically consists of multiple choice, matching, true/false, short-answer and essaytype questions. Evaluation of student performance also occurs in the laboratory setting where students are required to demonstrate visual, somatic, communicative and behavioral discriminatory skills. Examples of performance include identifying and naming anatomic structures; setting up and using a microscope to identify organisms and tissues; suturing of materials and tissues together; medical interviewing and physical examination; and participating in group discussions. In some courses, written reports are also required. The frequency of examinations is determined by the course

and depends upon the volume and types of material covered.

Students are kept aware of their progress through formal and informal feedback and through the use of numerical grades.

Numerical grades are converted to letter grades for posting on their transcripts.

Course syllabi contain the value of each grade received during a course and the components of each course grade when indicated. Attendance at lectures and laboratory sessions may be incorporated into the student's grade.

Evaluation of Clinical Rotations

Students are evaluated through direct observation of performance and through the administration of written tests. Factors similar to those noted above are carried forth into the clinical rotations. Skills evaluated during clinical rotations also include communication skills; technical skills; problem-solving skills; interactions with patients and other health care workers; and the use of research tools (textbooks, journals and sources of medical information). End-ofrotation tests are administered at the end of each rotation, except electives. Since these tests are administered on the UNT Health Science Center Campus, students are required to return to campus at the end of each rotation.

An overall performance grade is assessed based on the above factors. The requirements for a passing grade are included in each rotation syllabus. Students are advised of their progress through interactions with preceptors and through feedback sessions. Students failing to satisfactorily progress during clinical rotations are referred to program administration for further actions. Attendance during clinical rotations is required to obtain a passing grade.

Examinations

Examinations are given at a scheduled time and date according to course content. Course directors determine examination formats. In general, students must take examinations at the time they are originally scheduled. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "zero" on the missed exam unless other arrangements have been made with the course director. No examinations will be distributed after the first student has turned in a completed examination or after a student has left the examination room for any reason. Students can not be exempted from taking final examinations, and they must be present for all announced and unannounced examinations or quizzes.

Make-up Examinations

Make-up examinations may be given in cases of an excused absence or leave. The student must request the make-up examination. Students are strongly encouraged to notify the course directors in advance or within five business days after having missed an examination. Make-up examinations are offered at the course director's prerogative, and the student must present the course director with a completed and approved excused absence form in order to request a make-up examination. Forms are available in the Registrar's Office. Requests require approval by the senior associate dean for student affairs and admissions and the appropriate course director. A copy of the approved request must be forwarded to the Registrar's Office. Make-up examinations evaluate the student on the same objectives as those in the missed examination. Scoring and grading standards also reflect similar standards.

Use of Examinations Obtained From External Sources

The UNT Health Science Center takes reasonable actions to ensure the security of testing materials obtained from external sources. Measures include, but are not limited to, a requirement for students to sign a statement that acknowledges the student's awareness that:

- External testing materials are owned and copyrighted by outside entities, and that any form of copying these materials is prohibited.
- 2. The student will not reproduce or distribute external testing materials that are owned and copyrighted by outside entities.
- 3. The student will not distribute any external testing materials (or portions thereof) to students at other schools or to any other people.

Promotion and Probation

Normal progression through the curriculum requires students to achieve a grade of "C," credit or higher to progress. Satisfactory completion of all course and clinical rotation requirements must be achieved in order to graduate. Standards for completion of each course and/or rotation are contained in the respective course/rotation syllabus. Good overall academic standing requires a cumulative grade point average of "C" (2.0) or better in all phases of the PA Studies curriculum.

Students in jeopardy of failing to meet academic standards may be placed on academic probation. The purpose of this action is to facilitate students' access to academic counseling or other forms of assistance. A student more than halfway through a course with an accumulated grade of "D" or "F" may also be placed on academic probation. Academic probation provides notice to the student that his or her

academic performance must improve in order to remain eligible for continuing in the program. Students who fail to improve their performance may be asked to withdraw or may be recommended for dismissal. Students on probation are not eligible to hold a student government office and may be asked to resign from any positions currently held. After successfully correcting academic deficiencies, a student may be removed from academic probation with approval of the executive dean.

Students may be subject to misconduct penalties and/or non-academic probation for breaches of any ethical, professional or personal standards held in esteem by the UNT Health Science Center. PA students are required to conduct themselves in a manner that is befitting the profession they have chosen to enter.

Remediation

Physician assistant students must achieve a grade of at least "C" in each academic course listed in the PA Studies curriculum in order to progress to the next academic term and/or clinical rotation and to graduate. Students may be given an opportunity to remedy deficiencies that contribute to an overall failing course or rotation grade. This opportunity is regarded as a privilege that must be earned by the student. The opportunity to remedy deficiencies often depends on whether the student has made serious efforts to earn a passing grade. These efforts generally include:

- Attending help sessions.
- Adhering to the attendance policy of the course or rotation.
- Participating in class, laboratories and small-group activities.
- Seeking help with study skills through the Office of Student Affairs.
- Notifying the course director of problems before a failing grade occurs.

• Seeking help from the PA faculty during the regular offering of the course.

In all cases, grading and learning requirements listed in the course or rotation syllabus will be used to determine a remedy plan for obtaining a passing grade. Students should examine each course/rotation syllabus to determine how grades will be assigned.

Advanced Placement/ Course Waiver

Advanced placement and/or course waivers are generally not available. Approval may be granted for a didactic course exemption if the PA student was a previous student on the UNT Health Science Center campus and successfully completed the exact same course with a letter grade of "B" or better within three years of entry to the PA Studies program. Course exemption might also be considered if the PA student holds an advanced degree in the subject area of an equivalent course from another accredited medical school or PA Program. Advanced placement is determined on a case-by-case basis. No advanced placement or course waivers are given for clinical rotations.

Academic Dismissal

The PA Studies program in no way guarantees that a student, once enrolled, will satisfactorily accomplish all degree requirements and graduate. Students who do not meet the standards specified for promotion and graduation may be given opportunities to correct deficiencies. A student may be academically dismissed if that student:

- Earns a failing grade in any one academic course or clinical rotation.
- Fails a course or rotation a second time.

 Fails to progress satisfactorily as outlined in a remediation plan.

After due consideration and process, the UNT Health Science Center reserves the right to require the dismissal of any student if circumstances of a legal, behavioral, ethical, health or academic nature justify such an action.

The academic record of any student who has been dismissed and later applies for readmission will automatically become a part of the data reviewed for readmission. Any student who withdraws or is dismissed due to poor academic progress, and later is readmitted and receives a failing grade in any course, may be recommended for dismissal without an opportunity for readmission.

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements are listed in the catalog at the time of entry into the PA Studies program. These requirements normally can be satisfied within 27-28 consecutive months. Rarely, students may be required to meet additional requirements to meet other regulations of the UNT Health Science Center, Texas or the United States. Students who have met requirements listed in the catalog and who have been recommended by the faculty may be awarded the bachelor of science (B.Sc.) degree in physician assistant studies, provided they meet the conditions listed below:

- Achieved grades of "C," "credit" or better in all assigned courses and clinical rotations.
- 2. Have completed four academic years of credit at an accredited college or university, of which at least the last two were completed at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.
- Have complied with all legal and financial requirements of the University

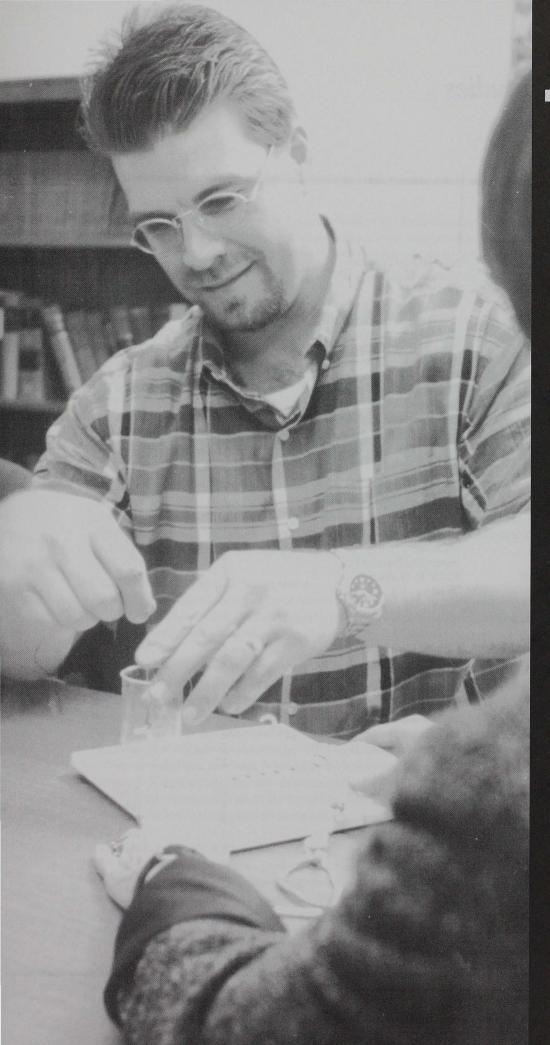
- of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.
- 4. Have exhibited the ethical, professional, behavioral and personal characteristics necessary for practice as a physician assistant.
- 5. Have completed and returned to the Registrar's Office an Exit Questionnaire and a Clearance Check Form.
- 6. Have attended the commencement ceremony at which the degree is awarded.
- 7. Have met the following requisites and time limits:

In the event a student withdraws and later re-enters the program, or if a student is granted an extension beyond 28 months, that student must meet the requirements listed for the class with whom he or she graduates.

A student who has been dismissed due to poor academic progress, and who later is readmitted to the program, has not more than 28 months from the date of re-entry to successfully pass any academic course that was failed as well as any subsequent incomplete courses.

A student who has been dismissed due to a failing grade in a clinical rotation, who later is readmitted to the program, has not more than 12 months from the date of reentry to successfully complete the rotation that was failed as well as any subsequent incomplete rotations.

The maximum time limit for completing all graduation requirements is 48 months. Students who do not fulfill all graduation requirements by the day of graduation will not be allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies. A degree will be awarded in absentia only in unusual circumstances, and with the approval of the UNT Health Science Center president. Students will not be considered graduates in any capacity until they have successfully completed all requirements.



THREE

Curriculum

Physician Assistant Studies Sequence of Courses 1998-2000

Summer				
	Course		SEM HRS	Lec/Lab Hrs
Term I June 3 - July 31, 1998	PA-3104 PA-3105	Basic Human Sciences Medical Terminology (self-study) Total	11 1 12	163/28 16/0
Fall		Total	12	
Term II Aug. 10 – Dec. 18, 1998	PA-2211 PA-2212 PA-2203 PA-3204 PA-3221 PA-4201 PA-4200	Medical Interviewing Physical Exam Skills PA Issues & Risk Management Microbiology & Immunology Fundamentals of Pharmacology Pathology I Osteopathic Principles Total	2 3 2 6 3 3 2 2	17/27 23/49 32/0 85/14 45/14 52/4 25/0
Winter/Spring		Total	21	
Term III Jan. 4 – May 14, 1999	PA-2306 PA-3307 PA-3322 PA-4302 PA-4304 PA-4321 PA-4341 PA-4432	Medical Ethics Nutrition Clinical Therapeutics Pathology II Human Behavior Medicine Supervised Practice I HPDP In Practice Total	1 1 4 7 4 8 2 2 2	16/0 20/0 68/8 105/2 64/0 125/0 0/52 34/0
Summer/Fall				
Term IV May 31 – Sept. 10, 1999 June 14	PA-4311 PA-4422 PA-4423 PA-4424 PA-4425 PA-4426 PA-4428 PA-4442	Clinical Decision Making Surgery OB/GYN Pediatrics Emergency Medicine Dermatology Radiology Supervised Practice II Total	2 7 3 3 2 1 2 2 2 2	34/0 105/0 54/0 55/0 32/0 16/0 28/0 0/52
Clinical Rotations Sept. 13, 1999 – Aug. 11, 2000	PA-551 PA-552 PA-553 PA-554 PA-555 PA-556 PA-557 PA-558 PA-559 PA-56x	Family Medicine Rural Medicine Internal Medicine Pediatrics OB/Gyn Psychiatry Surgery Orthopedics Emergency Medicine Clinical Elective Total Grand Total	10 4 8 4 4 4 4 4 4 50 134	0/100 0/40 0/80 0/40 0/40 0/40 0/40 0/40 0/

Course Descriptions

PA-3104. Basic Human Science

Basic Human Science is an integrated course offered by the Departments of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Integrative Physiology, and Molecular Biology and Immunology. Course content includes human anatomy, biochemistry and physiology. The approach used is the study of body systems, relating structure and biochemical processes to the function of each system as it strives to maintain homeostasis.

PA-3105. Medical Terminology

This self-paced course introduces students to the structure of words used in the practice of medicine and health care provision. Included in this self-study course is the identification of word parts, the definition of medical terms, and the knowledge necessary to build medical terms used in verbal and written communications within health care systems.

PA-2211. Medical Interviewing

This course is based on a series of lectures and application exercises that teach medical interviewing techniques and communication skills. The course is supplemented by a video-feedback lab experience. Lectures focus on patient-centered and provider-centered interviewing processes useful in obtaining information, defining symptoms, organizing data and documenting the patient chart.

PA-2212. Physical Exam Skills

This is a lecture and laboratory course that emphasizes inspection, palpation, percussion and consultation in a screening physical exam of the normal patient. Psychomotor skills for a given exam and verbal descriptions of the normal exam are equally emphasized. Accuracy, efficiency, thoroughness and reliability of a complete screening physical exam is stressed and carefully evaluated in this course.

PA-2203. PA Issues and Risk Management

This course examines a variety of issues related to the physician assistant profession, the role of the physician assistant in health care delivery and the historical development of the profession. Lectures focus on professional, legal, social and ethical issues related to the profession, including lectures on medical jurisprudence and principles of risk management.

PA-3204. Microbiology and Immunology

This course emphasizes knowledge that is a prerequisite to the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases and various immunological disorders, including allergy. This course provides the basic biology of pathogenic microorganisms and the basic concepts of immunology, including antigen-stimulated cellular responses, control mechanisms and the mechanisms of hypersensitivity reactions. Students study the genetics, growth, structure and biochemistry of microbial pathogens, as well as the interrelationships between microbes and humans, with emphasis on pathogenesis and host responses. A survey of the major components of immunopathology and various diseases is also presented. The signs and symptoms of infectious disease are presented in relationship to the basic aspects of medical microbiology and immunology. In the laboratory, students practice problem-solving skills used in the diagnosis of infectious diseases through case-oriented exercises.

PA-3221. Fundamentals of Pharmacology

The use of drugs in a therapeutic program requires a well-founded base of knowledge in pharmacology. This course provides an introduction to that body of knowledge and the skills to develop that database of knowledge throughout the PA's career. Objectives are to provide students with a foundation in three areas: general principles of pharmacology, including pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles and an introduction to prescription writing; drugs acting on the peripheral nervous system; and drugs acting on the central nervous system.

PA-3322. Clinical Therapeutics

This second course in pharmacology continues the examination and study of drugs most likely to be initiated, maintained or monitored by the PA. The course focuses on information essential to safe and accurate prescribing of a variety of drugs used in a typical primary care setting. The course is organized in a categorical manner, corresponding as much as possible with diseases addressed in PA-4302 and PA-4321.

PA-4201. Pathology I

This is the first of two courses in pathology for PA students, and it incorporates the general field known classically as basic pathology. After an introductory phase emphasizing fundamental pathophysiology, much of the course primarily focuses on the organ level. The field of molecular pathology, as it is applicable to the evaluation of genetic disorders, is illustrated in an introductory fashion. Throughout the course, the language of medicine is emphasized in conjunction with morphology, clinical features and differential diagnoses. Important pathologic aspects of clinical laboratory utilization are discussed. Autopsies are conducted by faculty as part of the course, and students will attend at least one.

PA-4302. Pathology II

This is the second of two courses in pathology for PA students. The course is organized by body systems and emphasizes a basic understanding of pathophysiologic processes as they relate to clinical diseases. The field of molecular pathology, as applicable to the evaluation of neoplasia, is illustrated in an introductory fashion.

PA-4200. Osteopathic Principles

This course provides the historical basis of the osteopathic medicine movement as well as an introductory look into the anatomical, physiological and philosophical basis for osteopathic medicine. The lab portion introduces principles of the musculoskeletal system assessment that serve as the foundation for the diagnosis of somatic dysfunction.

PA-2306. Medical Ethics

This is a case-based workshop course where current major ethical issues in health care are critically discussed. Students learn the process and skills of ethical analysis essential to making medical choices, and they have opportunity for critical reflection, both on their personal values and on their obligations as health care providers.

PA-3307. Nutrition

This course introduces students to the principles of nutrition and the rationale for promoting nutrition in the development of a positive health strategy. The course also provides an opportunity to apply those principles through a nutritional analysis of each student's personal dietary habits.

PA-4304. Human Behavior

This course provides a clinical introduction to the patient and the multi-determinants—biological, psychological and sociological—that shape his or her behavior. The material presented is especially important for the primary care provider and is divided into five major sections: psychiatric data gathering, human growth and development, clinical psychiatry, behavioral medicine and substance abuse. In addition to lectures there are case conferences that illustrate clinically relevant material through case histories and videotaped/simulated patient presentations.

PA-4321. Internal Medicine

This course introduces students to the nomenclature, basic pathopysiology, and diagnostic and therapeutic principles used in the care of the adult patient. Didactic lectures provide a broad survey of topics in the subspecialties of pulmonary medicine, cardiology, gastroenterology, endocrinology, geriatrics, nephrology, neurology, infectious disease, rheumatology, and hematology/oncology. The course ends with a collection of general internal medicine topics that cover common problems seen largely in ambulatory internal medicine and that may cross subspecialty interests. Lectures familiarize students with disease etiology, pathophysiology, symptoms, physical findings, laboratory and imaging studies, diagnosis and management. Instructors emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the primary care clinician.

PA-4311. Clinical Decision Making

This course is highly interactive, incorporating and integrating knowledge obtained in PA-3322, PA-4302 and PA-4321. To develop students' cognitive reasoning, emphasis is placed on facilitating problem-solving and analytical abilities. Activities are based on probable differential diagnoses and prototypical presentations of common presenting complaints.

PA-4341. Supervised Practice I

This course introduces students to direct patient-care learning situations. It provides a venue for the practice of medical interviewing and physical exam skills, with immediate confirmation of physical findings and assistance from preceptors on interviewing problems. The primary focus is eliciting and documenting a complete history and physical exam on actual patients.

PA-4422. Surgery

This is a lecture course covering a broad survey of topics related to evaluation and management of the surgical patient. Lectures familiarize students with disease etiology, pathophysiology, symptoms, physical findings, laboratory and imaging studies, diagnosis and management. Emphasis is placed on who needs surgery and why. The surgical aspect of common conditions is stressed.

PA-4423. Obstetrics and Gynecology

Obstetrics: This lecture-based course provides a broad survey of topics related to evaluation and management of the obstetrical patient. Lectures address normal and high-risk obstetrics, principles of prenatal care, assessment of the fetus during pregnancy, normal mechanisms of labor and delivery, selected complications of pregnancy and delivery, and postpartum care. Gynecology: This series of lectures introduces common topics related to evaluation and management of the gynecologic patient. Lectures address sexually transmitted diseases, the physiology of the normal menstrual cycle, embryologic and congenital anomalies of the female reproductive system, basic diagnostic methods for gynecologic evaluation, common variations in the hypothalomic-pituitary-ovarian axis and contraceptive methods.

PA-4424. Pediatrics

This lecture course focuses on the health of infants, children and adolescents, their growth and development, and their opportunity to achieve full potential as adults. The course is oriented towards children's physical, mental and emotional progress from conception to maturity. Emphasis is placed on the social and environmental influences that affect the health and well-being of children and their families, as well as particular organ systems and biologic processes.

PA-4425. Emergency Medicine

This course is an introduction to urgent and emergent conditions commonly seen in emergency rooms. It includes basic knowledge required to perform a rapid assessment, and to prioritize and initiate treatment in order to stabilize patients.

PA-4426. Dermatology

This is a brief introductory course with emphasis on visual identification of the common dermatologic conditions seen in primary care.

PA-4428. Radiology Course for PA Students

This course is an introduction to basic principles of diagnostic X-ray, computerized tomography (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound nuclear medicine scanning, angiography and interventional radiology. Emphasis is on clinical applications of these imaging methods in the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

PA-4432. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Practice

This interactive course stresses the role of the physician assistant in health promotion and preventive medicine. Students are encouraged to consider the social, psychological, spiritual, economic, cultural and ethical aspects of health promotion, and the challenges of the modern health care delivery system. Emphasis is added in the practical application of health promotion and preventive medicine principles and goals.

PA-4442. Supervised Practice II

This 15-week course provides students with continued exposure to direct patient care-learning situations, and provides a venue for the practice of problem-oriented medical interviewing and physical exam skills, with immediate confirmation of physical findings and assistance from preceptors on interviewing problems. The primary focus is on performing and documenting a problem-oriented history and physical exam, and presenting key findings to the preceptor. Students begin to develop the skills necessary to formulate a differential diagnosis, primary diagnosis and treatment plan.

Core Clinical Rotations

Clinical rotations are outpatient and inpatient experiences that provide students opportunities to apply the knowledge learned in didactic lectures, and to further develop interviewing and physical exam skills. Clinical rotations help students develop the skills necessary to evaluate, diagnose and manage problems commonly seen in a primary care practice. Clinical rotations also provide the settings necessary for students to recognize and comprehend their roles as physician assistants.

PA-551. Family Medicine

This rotation encompasses the treatment of patients in all age groups. The focus is on health maintenance, preventative care and the psychosocial aspects of illness as they relate to patients and their families. Students develop the skills necessary to evaluate, manage and monitor common health complaints and problems. Students also learn the techniques for handling stress and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

10 weeks.

PA-552. Rural Medicine

The focus in this rotation is on the unique relationship between primary care providers and their patient in the rural setting. Students develop the skills necessary to perform procedures commonly done in a rural practice, learn to determine and use the health care resources available in rural communities and adapt available resources to the needs of patients. To help students develop a clearer understanding of the PA's role in rural areas, every effort will be made to place students at sites that employ a mid-level practitioner.

4 weeks.

PA-553. Internal Medicine

This rotation is similar to the family medicine rotation with the exception of an exclusively adult patient population. The focus is on in-depth evaluation and ongoing treatment of patients with complex problems and/or chronic illness. Students learn the skills necessary to evaluate and manage the effects of chronic disease on multiple body systems and to perform or assist in procedures commonly done in internal medicine.

8 weeks.

PA-554. Pediatrics

The patient population includes infants, small children and adolescents up to age 18. Students learn to evaluate and monitor common pediatric problems and emergencies, and act as guides and resources to patients and their families through the development and growth during infancy, childhood, adolescence and teen-age years.

4 weeks.

PA-555. Obstetrics and Gynecology

The focus is on the female patient and the impact of disease processes on the reproductive system. Students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to evaluate, manage and educate patients in areas such as annual exams, birth control, infertility, menstruation, sexuality, pregnancy, prenatal and postnatal care, menopause and relationships.

4 weeks.

PA-556. Psychiatry

Students develop the skills necessary to evaluate and manage patients with a variety of psychiatric problems. The rotation provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the role of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and nurses in the care of psychiatric patients. Students also learn the appropriate use of selected psychoactive pharmaceuticals. There are opportunities for students to practice the skills necessary to perform a psychiatric interview and mental status examination, as well as make referrals for specialized psychiatric treatment. 4 weeks.

PA-557. Surgery

Students learn sterile technique, proper and efficient use of surgical instruments, and evaluation and management of preand post-surgical patients. Also addressed are the triage and initial management of traumatized patients and patients with "an acute abdomen." In the operating room, students learn the techniques of creating incisions, appropriate tissue retraction, gentle tissue handling, hemostasis, knot tying and wound closure. 4 weeks.

PA-558. Orthopedics

Students learn to evaluate and manage orthopedic emergencies, and develop the skills necessary for the primary care of orthopedic problems such as fractures, wounds, soft tissue injuries and degenerative conditions. By working with orthopedic surgeons and other professionals in orthopedic practice, students learn to identify the role of these individuals in the specialized care of orthopedic patients and are better prepared to use such resources when caring for patients with orthopedic problems.

4 weeks.

PA-559. Emergency Medicine

Students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to recognize conditions that have the potential to life-threatening if left untreated for several hours or longer than one day. Students learn to triage and stabilize patients with life-threatening conditions, use lab and imaging studies, and interact with families in extreme stress.

4 weeks.

PA-56x. Elective

Each student in good academic standing is provided the opportunity to take up to two rotations in areas of interest. Rotations must be at least two weeks long. The rotation site and goals must be approved by the Physician Assistant Studies program. If a student wishes to use a site that has not been used previously, he or she must submit a request to the clinical education coordinator at least six weeks before the rotation.

4 weeks.



FOUR

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Director of Quality Assurance

Information is current as of July 1, 1998

Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policies

Respect for Diversity

The Nondiscrimination/Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policy affirms the requirement for everymember of the UNT Health Science Center community to comply with existing federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations.

The UNT Health Science Center is committed to the philosophy of a multicultural environment. The institution prohibits harassment based on race, gender, disability, age, national origin, religion, veteran status or lifestyle.

The health science center has long been an open, tolerant and democratic institution, proud of its commitment to personal and academic excellence but unpretentious in the atmosphere of its campus in its willingness to accept all members of the health science center community on their value as human beings.

The increasing diversity of the UNT Health Science Center community is one of the institution's greatest strengths. Differences of race, religion, age, gender, culture, physical ability, language, nationality and lifestyle make it a microcosm of the nation as a whole, reflecting the values of our pluralistic society.

As an educational institution, the UNT Health Science Center is committed to advancing the ideas of human worth and dignity by teaching respect for human beliefs and values and encouraging open discussions. Hatred or prejudice and harassment of any kind are inconsistent with the center's educational purpose.

The UNT Health Science Center is strongly committed to the ethical principle that every member of the community enjoys certain human and constitutional rights, including the right to free speech. As a community of scholars, the health science center also is dedicated to maintaining a learning environment that is nurturing,

fosters respect, and encourages growth among cultures and individuals represented here. Individuals who work, study, live and teach within this community are expected to refrain from behaviors that threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves.

Sexual Harassment

A primary objective of the UNT Health Science Center is to provide an environment in which faculty, staff and students may pursue their careers and studies with a maximum of productivity and enjoyment.

Harassment of students on the basis of gender is a violation of Section 106.31 of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Harassment of health science center employees on the basis of gender is a violation of Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Texas Commission on Human Rights Act. Sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment.

It is the policy of the health science center to maintain a workplace and a learning environment free of sexual harassment and intimidation. Behavior or conduct that interferes with this goal is not condoned or tolerated.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The UNT Health Science Center does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability provided the person is otherwise qualified and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities.

The UNT Health Science Center provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law, who are otherwise qualified to meet the institution's academic and employment requirements. For assistance contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at the health science center, 817-735-2357.

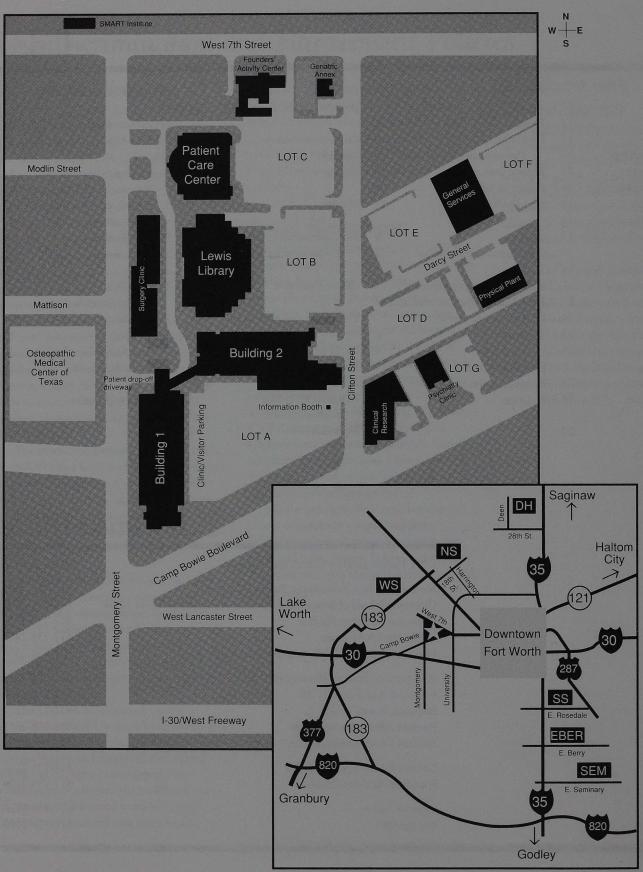
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Information Guide

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Campus Access Map







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