

Elective Rotation Manual

Rotation Description

This elective rotation is designed to give students an introduction to a medical specialty or sub-specialty of possible interest for future career. Students will work with the Bethel PA program clinical team to select from a variety of specialty and sub-specialty practice sites that is affiliated with the university. Students will spend time in either the inpatient (hospital and operating rooms) or outpatient (clinic) environments for their elective and will work with patients seeking a variety of medical evaluations and treatments. Elective rotations can vary in their length of time and can occur at any time during the clinical year (PHAS710, PHAS720 or PHAS730 courses). Each student will complete this rotation at least once during the clinical year

Potential Course Topics

- Cardiovascular
- Pulmonology
- Gastrointestinal/nutritional
- ENOT/ophthalmology
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Orthopedics/rheumatology
- Neurology
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology
- Psychiatry/behavioral medicine
- Urology/renal
- Hematology
- Infectious diseases
- Urgent care

Elective Rotation Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, the successful PA student will demonstrate competency in the following by achieving minimum scores as detailed in the course syllabus:

Knowledge

1. Demonstrate acquisition of medical knowledge necessary to provide appropriate care to the population that is served within the specific clinical setting chosen for the elective (K1)
2. Assess laboratory and imaging test results appropriately to aid in clinical decision making for patients in the specific clinical setting chosen for the elective (K2)

3. Provide effective, empathetic, and patient-centered counseling and education to patients in the specific clinical setting chosen for the elective (K3)

Clinical and Technical Skills

4. Demonstrate appropriate history taking and physical exam skills when caring for the patient population served within the specific clinical setting for the elective (CT1, CT2)
5. Safely and correctly perform clinical procedures within the scope of the specialty physician assistant role (CT3)

Clinical Reasoning

6. Assimilate clinical data to develop differentials diagnoses, and plans for patients, using evidence-based principles for care (CR1)
7. Utilizing evidence-based principles, assimilate clinical data to develop treatment plans for patients (CR1)
8. Utilize appropriate medical resources to improve delivery of patient-centered care in the specific clinical setting chosen for the elective (CR2)

Interpersonal Skills

9. Establish professional relationships and communication skills with patients, preceptors, and clinical staff (IP1, IP2)

Professional Behaviors

10. Assess ethical dilemmas encountered when in clinic, including analysis of how the patient and provider's worldview or faith perspective impacted the situation (PB1)
11. Demonstrate understanding of the PA profession, including ethical, legal, and regulatory guidelines for practicing (PB2)
12. Appropriately complete professional administrative requirements for each rotation including logging in the electronic tracking system and submitting required evaluations (PB2)

Rotation Grading

Please see Student Handbook for academic and progression requirements. Students in clinical rotation courses must achieve an 80% on all course assessments. Failure to achieve 80% or higher on an assessment will result in referral to the Progress and Remediation Committee. The course syllabi for PHAS 710, 720 & 730 Clinical Field Placements outline how rotation grade is weighted in overall course grade.

ASSESSMENT TOOL	COURSE OUTCOME MEASURED
Final Preceptor Evaluation	All LO
Self-Assessment and patient logging	All LO

Clinical Forum Posts and Assignments	9 – Ethical decision-making 10 – Understanding of PA profession 11 – Professional administrative tasks
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Elective Rotation Instructional Objectives

Knowledge

1. Demonstrate acquisition of medical knowledge necessary to provide care as a physician assistant
2. Order and interpret laboratory and imaging test results appropriately to aid in clinical decision making (K2)
3. Provide effective, empathetic, and patient-centered counseling and education to patients in the elective setting (K3)

Clinical and Technical Skills

4. Demonstrate appropriate history taking and physical exam skills when providing care as a physician assistant
 - a. Screen for medical conditions consistent with the patient’s age, gender, risk factors, and presentation
 - b. Conduct patient histories appropriate for acuity of care when applicable
 - i. Acute
 1. Recognize and efficiently approach emergent patients
 2. Identify “red flag” factors in a patient’s presentation
 3. Appropriately prioritize multi-purpose visits
 4. Utilize a staged diagnostic approach to address the differential
 - ii. Chronic
 1. Identify co-morbidities and incorporate past knowledge of patient
 2. Elicit history from specialists or other providers who may have knowledge of patient
 3. Assess patient’s understanding of the chronic condition and general approach to management
 4. Discuss patient’s health goals and opportunities for improved health
 - iii. Preventative
 1. Include history elements consistent with evidence-based recommendations based on individual patient characteristics and needs
 2. Identify common preventative counseling components including weight reduction and smoking cessation
 3. Screen for social determinants of health and psychosocial impacts on health
 - c. Conduct patient histories appropriate for age of the patient when applicable

5. Perform clinical and technical skills, including physical exams and procedures, safely and effectively
 - a. Obtain and/or verify informed consent prior to performing any invasive procedure
 - b. Identify key indications, contraindications, and risk factors for any procedures performed
 - c. Log all completed procedures to demonstrate safe and effective performance
 - d. Protect the modesty of the patient during exams as much as possible
 - e. Differentiate between normal and abnormal findings on exam, and use information to guide remainder of patient interaction
 - f. Demonstrate correct utilization of diagnostic equipment necessary for the practice setting
 - g. Protect patient safety, including positioning of patient, identifying fall risks, and maintaining clean and sterile technique when appropriate
6. Appropriately document and deliver oral presentations of patient encounters
 - a. Perform clear verbal patient presentations that accurately reflect the patient's condition
 - i. Present to other health care providers a brief synopsis of the patient's present illness; pertinent positive and negative history, physical exam and diagnostic findings; assessment; and recommended diagnostic and therapeutic approach to caring for the patient.
 - ii. Deliver complete and concise oral presentations using professional language.
 - b. Communicate necessary information to complete patient transfers with other healthcare providers or caregivers
 - i. Incorporate during change in level of care, admission of a patient, discharge of a patient, transfer of care to another department, or a change in provider
 - ii. Handoff communication includes, at a minimum, illness severity, patient summary, action list, contingency planning, and synthesis as a receiver of information

Clinical Reasoning

7. Assess lab and radiological test results appropriately to aid in clinical decision making
 - a. Order tests demonstrating understanding of the practice setting, availability of tests, and acuity of the patient
 - b. Follow evidence-based guidelines for preventative care screenings and monitoring of chronic conditions
 - c. Utilize and compare with previous results whenever possible
 - d. Demonstrate consideration of test sensitivity, specificity, and practicality in decision-making process
8. Integrate clinical findings to develop differential diagnoses with appropriate assessments
 - a. Determine additional data elements required to make effective patient management decisions
 - b. Generate a differential including consideration of possible atypical presentations

- c. Approach differential diagnoses with appropriate understanding of age-related diagnoses
- 9. Assimilate clinical data to develop preventative care and treatment plans for patients, using evidence-based principles
 - a. Create management plans that address all key elements of the patient's history, physical exam, and other data sources available
 - b. Incorporate patient preferences and needs when developing preventative care and treatment plans

Interpersonal Skills

- 10. Conduct patient education and counseling in an effective, empathetic, and culturally competent manner
 - a. Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills in all interactions
 - b. Utilize active listening skills during patient interactions
 - c. Approach patients with sensitivity to individual needs, understandings, and beliefs
 - d. Demonstrates a willingness to incorporate patient preferences during interaction
 - e. Approach culturally sensitive conversations with an awareness of individual needs and a curiosity to learn more about individual patients
 - f. Identify obstacles to obtaining medical care, including barriers with insurance and cost, rural location, and mobility
 - g. Appropriately tailor education and counseling to address acuity of the problem
 - i. Emergent and acute problems should be approached efficiently with sensitivity to ongoing needs
 - ii. Preventative counseling should include consideration of evidence-based recommendations and individual needs of the patient
 - iii. Chronic disease management should be conducted with sensitivity to the ongoing relationship between practitioner and patient
- 11. Establish professional interpersonal and communication skills with preceptors, clinical staff, and patients
 - a. Relate professionally in a working situation with other members of the healthcare team
 - b. Demonstrates effective and professional conflict resolution skills
 - c. Conduct counseling appropriate for patient's age
 - i. Children and adolescents:
 - 1. Include patient and parent in the conversation as appropriate
 - 2. Use age-appropriate language to encourage participation and understanding
 - ii. Adults and elderly:
 - 1. Demonstrate respect for individual needs and preferences
 - 2. Establish good rapport with patients based on trust and open communication
 - 3. Identify necessary resources to manage complex medical needs

4. Utilize SPIKES method, or other effective communication tool, when communicating difficult news with patients

Professional Behaviors

12. Assess ethical dilemmas encountered when in clinic, including analysis of how the patient and provider's worldview or faith perspective impacted the situation
 - a. Identify potential points of conflict for patients and providers in the medical setting
 - b. Analyze ethical situations with appropriate consideration of legal and regulatory guidelines
 - c. Examine personal beliefs and impact on approach to practice
13. Demonstrate understanding of the physician assistant profession, including ethical, legal, and regulatory guidelines for practicing
 - a. Demonstrate an openness to receive constructive criticism and incorporate feedback into future performance
 - b. Identify limitations and seek help from preceptor and appropriate reference materials
 - c. Maintain professional attitude and meet professional expectations such as regular attendance, punctuality, and dress code
 - d. Identify appropriate medical resources for obtaining information and guidance in the clinical decision-making process
14. Conduct self-assessment of academic progress and clinical performance, demonstrating an understanding of their own limitations and biases, leading to appropriate professional development and help-seeking behavior
 - a. Accurately report progress toward required minimum experiences and procedures
 - b. Develop a reasonable plan for obtaining any missed experiences
 - c. Identify gaps in knowledge and appropriate development activities related to these gaps
 - d. Thoughtfully assess their own performance in alignment with preceptor evaluation