Department of Physician Assistant Studies

Program

The Physician Assistant (PA) Program at Idaho State University awards the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree and a PA certificate upon successful completion of its 24-month graduate curriculum. A new class of students is enrolled each fall semester. In addition to a baccalaureate degree, students must have a cumulative prerequisite GPA of 3.0 or higher for the following required prerequisite courses: Biochemistry, Microbiology, Human Anatomy (as a single course or as part of a two semester combined anatomy and physiology course), Human Physiology (as a single course or as part of a two semester combined anatomy and physiology course), Statistics and Abnormal Psychology. For information about requirements and courses, please refer to the Graduate Catalog (http://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate) or the program website, https://www.isu.edu/pa/.

Accreditation

The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on the Education of Physician Assistants, Inc. (ARC-PA). Graduates of this program are eligible to take the NCCPA’s Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE).

Faculty

Program Director and Associate Professor
Phelps, Paula,* Program Director and Chair/Associate Professor, Physician Assistant Studies. B.A., 1988, Earlham College; P.A. 1995, University of Utah; M.H.E., 2000, Idaho State University. (1995)

Associate Program Director and Assistant Professor
Sparrell, Marvin C., Associate Program Director and Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Studies. B.S., 1990, Boise State University; M.P.A.S., 2003, University of Utah. (2009)

Medical Directors
Caldwell: Anstett, Richard, MD
Meridian: D'Souza, Sherwin, MD
Pocatello: McClusky, David, II, MD

Assistant Professors

Clinical Assistant Professors
Johnson, Jeffery, Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Studies. B.S., 2002, Idaho State University; PharmD. 2000, Idaho State University. (2011)

Martin, David E.,* Academic Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Studies. B.S., 1980, University of Oklahoma; M.P.A.S., 2000, University of Nebraska. (2003)
Papa, Jared W.,* Service Learning Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Studies. B.S., 2001, Brigham Young University; M.P.A.S., 2003, Pacific University. (2008)
Smetanka, Rachel D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Studies. B.A., 1996, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Ph.D., 2001, University of Iowa; M.S., 2013, Idaho State University. (2013)
Talford, David B.,* Master’s Project Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Studies. B.S., 1999, Des Moines University; M.S. 2007, University of Nebraska. (2007)

Director of Clinical Site Development
Allen, Vicki, RN, CLNC

Visiting Professor and Research Coordinator
Domenech Rodriguez, Melanie, MS, Ph.D.

Emeritus
Whitaker, Kent B.,* Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Studies. 1998-2018

Courses

PAS 4489 Independent Problems in Physician Assistant Studies: 1-3 semester hours.
Explores the field of Physician Assistant through experiential learning predominantly by participating in research with PA program faculty. May be repeated for up to 3 credits. PREREQ: Instructor Permission Required.

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