Doctor of Medical Science

An online clinical doctoral program (30 credits)
Full-time or part-time flexible options for working professionals: up to two years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Shenandoah University's Division of Physician Assistant (PA) offers an innovative online graduate program leading to a Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) degree.

The Doctor of Medical Science program is designed to prepare graduate-level PAs with the advanced skills needed in today's dynamic healthcare environment as doctorally-prepared clinicians. The focus of this clinical doctorate program is to advance student knowledge in healthcare science, evidence-based practice, health equity and leadership. The program is offered fully online, with 100% of coursework completed asynchronously, allowing students the flexibility to earn this degree from any location.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- Completion of a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies or a related PA master's degree approved by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) from a regionally accredited institution.
- Admitted students must transfer 14 credits from master's degree.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate application and $30 application fee
- Unofficial transcripts from all institutions of higher education previously attended for initial review
- Resume or C.V.
- Personal Statement (250-300 words): Why would you like to pursue the DMS degree at Shenandoah University?
- Language Proficiency requirement must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students

CAREER OUTLOOK

In all areas of medicine including PA practice, there is a need for future leaders to advocate and shape the policies and programs that are impacting our local and global societies. The profession also needs practitioners who are prepared to design, conduct, and present new research that will advance the profession's understanding of evidence-based practice. Doctorally-prepared PAs have opportunities to advance in clinical, education, and non-clinical roles and expand the reach that PAs have in healthcare.

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term and Admission Deadline
Spring (January): December 1

Summer (May):
Priority Deadline March 1, 2024
Final Deadline: April 15

Fall (August):
Priority Deadline: June 15, 2024
Final Deadline: August 1, 2024

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort is full. We recommend submitting by the priority deadline as applicants may be waitlisted if a cohort reaches capacity

PREREQUISITES: Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies or related PA master's degree

Format/Location
Online

English Language Proficiency
Language Proficiency requirement must be met. TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students/

Foreign Transcripts
Must be evaluated by an accredited service. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org and http://aice-eval.org/.

How to Apply
Begin the online application process by going to https://www.su.edu/admissions/graduate-students/

Contact Us
Dr. Shea Dempsey
Assistant Professor
Director, Doctor of Medical Science Program
shea.dempsey@su.edu

Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-401-5709

Office of Financial Aid
https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/
finaid@su.edu | call: 540-665-4538

Dr. Shea Dempsey, DMSc, MBA, PA-C, EM-CAQ

Program Director

CURRICULUM

Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) students are required to complete 16 credits in the Shenandoah University DMS program in addition to the 14 graduate level credits that had been transferred in from their previous degree totaling the 30 credits. Only courses in which the student has earned the equivalent of a "pass" or "B" or higher will be considered for transfer credit.

The degree program layout is designed for working professionals to offer flexibility by offering accelerated courses lasting 7 weeks each. The courses may be taken full-time in as short as one semester or on a part-time enrollment spread out over two years.

Sample 10-Month Course Load (Recommended for working professionals):

Course	Title	Credits
First Seven Weeks, Semester One		
DMS 810	Evidence-Based Research	3
Second Seven Weeks, Semester One		
DMS 815	Leadership & Healthcare Principles	3
Third Seven Weeks, Semester Two		
DMS 820	Health Equity & Justice	3
Fourth Seven Weeks, Semester Two		
DMS 850	Doctoral Project	3
Fifth Seven Weeks		
DMS 870	Doctoral Capstone	4
	Subtotal	16
	Transfer Credit from MS PA degree	14
	Total	30

Sample One Semester Course Load (Recommended for recent graduates or students not employed full-time):

Course	Title	Credits
First Seven Weeks, Semester One		
DMS 810	Evidence-Based Research	3
DMS 815	Leadership & Healthcare Principles	3
DMS 850	Doctoral Project	3
Second Seven Weeks, Semester One		
DMS 820	Health Equity & Justice	3
DMS 870	Doctoral Capstone	4
	Subtotal	16
	Transfer Credit from MS PA degree	14
	Total	30