

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY DMSc COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE REQUIRED COURSES (44 credit hours)

Evidence-Based Medicine in Medical Sciences (12 credit hours)

DMS 7100 EBM Principals – Cardiology (3 credit hours)

This course will systematically approach epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of diseases affecting the heart and vasculature as they relate to primary care. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, diagnostic studies, and pharmacotherapy to maximize its applicability in clinical practice.

DMS 7120 EBM Principals – Gastroenterology & Nutrition (3 credit hours)

This course will systematically approach epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of gastroenterological diseases and nutritional concepts as they relate to primary care. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, diagnostic studies, and pharmacotherapy to maximize its applicability in clinical practice.

DMS 7140 EBM Principals – Pulmonology (3 credit hours)

This course will systematically approach epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of pulmonary diseases as they relate to primary care. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, diagnostic studies, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the applicability in clinical practice.

DMSc 7200 EBM Principals – Endocrinology (3 credit hours)

This course will systematically approach epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of endocrinologic diseases as they relate to primary care. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, diagnostic studies, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the applicability in clinical practice.

Healthcare Leadership (6 credit hours)

DMS 7300 Self-Leadership Theory and Practice (3 credit hours)

This course will expose learners to effective leadership approaches to enhance self-leadership and team management skills as it applies to the healthcare environment, patient care, and the development of advocacy approaches that may impact healthcare policy development. Topics will include fundamentals of leadership, leadership and professionalism self-assessment, and leadership philosophy. Topics relating to team management skills will include best practices in hiring and retaining employees, conflict management and resolution, ethical leadership, understanding the process of fostering mentorship and encouraging employee professional development. Learners will model professionalism skills, best leadership practices and behaviors, and handling conflict. Learners will apply this to their personal and professional life through a series of practical exercises.

DMS 7320 Healthcare Population Health and Leadership (3 credit hours)

This course will expose learners to the role of leadership in creating a sensitive healthcare environment. Furthermore, the course will provide the learner with the tools needed for self-awareness towards recognizing issues related to respectful engagement, fairness, and acceptance including but not limited to varied backgrounds and experiences. Learners will explore the underlying causes for the lack

of respectful engagement and acceptance in the healthcare workforce and subsequent impact on patient care practice. In addition, learners will examine the role of healthcare organizations in promoting respectful engagement, fairness, and acceptance and identify avenues to drive organizational change through visionary leadership, respectful communication, and action plans.

Patient Safety (4 credit hours)

DMS 7400 Quality and Patient Safety (2 credit hours)

This course teaches learners about the impact of preventable, adverse medical events on patients and medical professionals. Furthermore, the course prepares learners to identify and participate in corrective strategies that improve quality and safety throughout their practice. Learners will develop and nurture a culture of quality and safety that enhances patient satisfaction and quality of care outcomes.

DMS 7420 Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare (2 credit hours)

This course will examine the legal and ethical considerations relevant to healthcare. Ethical dilemmas, personal and professional/corporate liability, the regulatory climate, contracts and binding agreements, and conflict management are examples of issues that contribute to an understanding of the legal and ethical obligations of healthcare leaders.

Research Methods (6 credit hours)

DMS 7500 Medical Writing (3 credit hours)

This course introduces the learner to topics essential to the success of a doctoral capstone project. Learners will develop skills that result in ongoing scholarly work that will serve to support the PA profession. The course will review research methodologies and research designs (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods) to assist the learner in identifying appropriate methodological considerations for a doctoral capstone project. Topics include content related to accessing educational resources in medical writing and editing, proper application of reference methods and AMA style citations, and discussing the conceptualization and organization for research topics for disseminating into various scholarly venues.

DMS 7520 Evidence Based Medical Statistics (3 credit hours)

This course provides the learner with an introduction to the biostatistical concepts and skills necessary to interpret data for Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) in healthcare. The course is designed to follow the “ask, acquire, appraise, apply” method of evaluating research. Content includes formulating appropriate research/clinical questions, techniques for successful acquisition of existing literature, requirements for critical appraisal of existing literature, and the application of the data to the research question. Learners will discuss the concept of “Real World Evidence” (RWE) in reviewing the medical literature and how these studies can be used to supplement data from randomized controlled trials. Topics include content essential for understanding the basic statistical methods supporting research including Hypothesis generation and translation into a search strategy (PICO), assessment of databases and appraisal for valid diagnostic and therapeutic information, appropriate study design, sample size calculation, assumption controls, endpoints, data management principles, data presentations, and analysis plans, methods for analysis and conclusions. In addition, learners will interpret and apply inferential statistics to assess applicability of evidence to a broad population of patients.

CONCENTRATIONS – Select One (12 credit hours each)

Health Professions Educator Concentration (12 credits)

DMS 7700 Principles of Adult Learning (3 credit hours)

This course is designed to examine the individual, institutional, cultural, psychological and social factors related to adult learning. Critical analysis of selected theories and concepts of learning are applied to the adult learning experience including learning styles, and motivation in adult education programs. Course topics will include theories of adult learning, the interrelationship between the nature of adult learning and the setting where learning occurs, as well as adapting the learning environment for the adult learner.

DMS 7720 Curricular Theory and Practice (3 credit hours)

This course is designed to provide the learner with concepts of curricular theory and practices used to determine educational outcomes. The learner will determine how to apply the curricular processes necessary to support academic mastery and achieve learning targets. Within this course learners will identify required areas of curriculum and instruction to establish and maintain accreditation. Additionally, it will provide fundamentals in teaching and learning that can be applied to instruction in both didactic and supervised clinical practice experiences within health professions education.

DMS 7740 Program Assessment and Evaluation (3 credit hours)

This course will identify best practices associated with performing an ongoing self-assessment designed to review the quality and effectiveness of educational programs, practices, policies and outcomes. Within this course learners will use the most current Accreditation Standards as it relates to their profession as the point of reference.

DMS 7760 Online Teaching Theory and Practice (3 credit hours)

This course will focus on instructional design for online teaching and the impact of technology on learning. This course emphasizes development of knowledge, skills, and disposition to effectively deliver curriculum in an online learning platform and utilize technology appropriately to enhance learning. Topics for discussion include theories and frameworks for instruction and assessment in online education.

Health Professions Administration Concentration (12 credits)

DMS 7800 Business Planning (3 credit hours)

This course explores necessary components of designing a business plan essential for the successful creation of or administration of a clinical practice. This course examines how market dynamics and government reforms are driving changes in revenue models including value-based reimbursements, bundled payments, and risk-sharing incentives. The course will analyze different types of integrated delivery models such as accountable care, medical homes, integrated delivery networks, and new legal entities to deliver care directly to employers. Learners will address how PAs and other healthcare providers are reimbursed within these models and how to incorporate these concepts into strategic planning. Additional topics include effective strategic planning, community needs assessment, location and site planning, and personnel management.

DMS 7820 Healthcare Finance (3 credit hours)

This course is designed to familiarize the healthcare administrator or practice owner with current topics related to financing health care. Topics include budget design, planning, and analysis for a specific practice setting. The course also provides a comprehensive analysis of current and proposed self-pay, third party, and single-payer (government) options.

DMS 7840 Operations Management (3 credit hours)

This course explores quality management concepts and tools with a focus on healthcare. Learners will develop an understanding of how operations management concepts and tools can promote quality, lower costs, and improve revenue. The course provides an overview of how to improve productivity, maximize asset utilization, reduce waiting lines, shorten throughput times, and enhance the overall patient experience.

DMS 7860 Healthcare Information Technology (3 credit hours)

This course introduces the student to topics relevant for an understanding of healthcare information systems, data acquisition and analysis, and information exchange. Topics include design of information, regulations surrounding data privacy and data-sharing, the use of electronic medical and health records, and applications of data for practice improvement and planning.

Capstone Course Series (4 credit hours)***DMS 7600 Proposal Development – 2 credit hours******DMSc 7620 Capstone Completion – 2 credit hours******DMSc 7640 Capstone Extension (optional) – 1 credit hour***

Unlike other courses offered in the DMSc program, the DMSc Capstone Course Series is offered in a sequential manner with timelines for completion to promote student success and project mentorship. The first course in the series is ***Proposal Development***. Learners may enroll in this course following successful completion of 15 DMSc credit hours of which 3 credit hours must be derived from the Medical Writing course offered in the program. Within the course, learners work directly with the DMSc Director of Research toward submission of Capstone Project Proposal documents to the DMSc program for approval to enroll in the ***Capstone Completion*** course. In the Capstone Completion course, learners work with the DMSc Director of Research on completion of the capstone project. At the completion of this course, learners will submit their final project for program approval. In the event a learner is unable to complete the project within the designated timeline, they may enroll in the ***Capstone Extension*** course with program approval.

Completion of the DMSc Capstone Project is a graduation requirement to ensure degree attainment and conferral.

Capstone Overview

Entry-level physician assistant program curricula must include instruction to prepare students to search, interpret and evaluate the medical literature, including its application to individualized patient care. As such, the Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) program builds on this existing scholarly knowledge by demonstrating the acquisition of continued knowledge and skill application in the form of a Doctoral Capstone project.

Under the guidance and mentorship of the DMSc Director of Research, each student will complete a Doctoral Capstone project that creates scholarship that systematically advances the teaching, research, and the practice of medicine through rigorous inquiry. Scholarship in the DMSc program is defined as activities that are significant to the profession, can be documented, and can be peer-reviewed through various methods.