

Duke University Medical Center  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

May 8, 1972

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL  
AND ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION

CO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27705  
TELEPHONE - 919-286-8411 EXT. 571

TO: Dr. Kinney  
FROM: Dale R. Lindsay *drl*  
SUBJECT: The Physician's Associate Two-Year Course of Study

In the limited time available I was unable to devise a graphic presentation through time of this course of study but the following is an attempt to describe it in a narrative fashion.

The First and Second Semesters

The school year for 1972-73 starts on Tuesday, September 5 leaving only four days of the weekly schedule shown for the first semester in the most recent presentation. The hours shown in the course description section are the hours agreed to by the respective departmental chairmen involved and I found that they did not always agree exactly with the class hours shown by projection of the weekly schedule throughout the term. In general the latter were one to 20 hours less than the total hours stated; the total hours were the combined estimates of faculty and staff, from both the departments and the P. A. program, of the average hours required for each course. The total hours include examinations, special seminars, multi-media study time, and patient work-ups undertaken by the student following the patient evaluation session with the resident. In fact certain non-credit seminars are required, notably P. A. 205, Analysis of Health Systems Development, which is scheduled to fit between formal didactic and clinical rotation courses, as is a required completion of a library practicum called P. A. 303, Library Research. Much of this latter time is, quite frankly, the time that the university undergraduate would use for study and recreation.

In summary, the following listing shows the courses, the total hours, and the hours of scheduled classes for the two fifteen week semesters.

<u>1st Semester Course</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>	<u>Course Weight</u>	<u>Scheduled Class Hours per Week</u>
Epidemiology	40	$\frac{1}{2}$	2
Physiology	64	1	4
Anatomy	104	1	8
Clinical Medicine I	140	$1\frac{1}{2}$	8
Radiology I	15	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
Clinical Diagnostic Procedures I	60	1	3
Chemical Biology	30	-	2
Patient Evaluation	68	1	3
	<u>521</u>	<u><math>6\frac{1}{2}</math></u>	<u>31</u>

The standard university vacation period will be observed between semesters.

### 2nd Semester Course

Pharmacology	60	1	4
Clinical Medicine II	140	$1\frac{1}{2}$	8
Human Growth Development and Behavior	70	1	4
Microbiology	34	$\frac{1}{2}$	2
Radiology II	30	$\frac{1}{2}$	2
Clinical Diagnostic Procedures II	60	1	6
Patient Evaluation II	68	1	3
Animal Surgery	50	1	5 (10 wks)
	<u>512</u>	<u><math>7\frac{1}{2}</math></u>	<u>34</u>

Two elective first year courses for credit are open, one in each semester, to qualified students in Biochemistry, either of which may be substituted for the required non-credit course in Chemical Biology, as described on pp. 9 and 10. Dr. Hill has indicated some scheduling revisions will be necessary for any students to take either course. Your attention is called to a discrepancy in the tentative class schedule submitted which does not show Animal Surgery; the latter is a part of the Laboratory schedule shown.

Following completion of the second semester there is a vacation period of two weeks prior to entering the final 15 months which are considered semesters three and four.

### The Third and Fourth Semesters

As shown on pages 12 through 32 there are listed 68 elective clinical courses open to the Physician's Associates during their second and final year. These courses are built of 4 week units into 4, 8, or 12 week full-time rotations and, because of the diversity of the individual rotations in seven areas (Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Radiology, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Psychiatry and Pathology) there is no graphic presentation short of the actual projections by students. The clinical rotations

established for the first 8 weeks (May 29 to July 22) are:

Outpatient Service	5	Cardiology	1
Inpatient Service	15	Urology	1
Health Clinic	3	General Surgery	3
Endocrinology	11	Neurology	1
Pulmonary Function (I. T.)	1	Nephrology	2
General Medicine	1	Gastroenterology	1
Dermatology	1	Radiology	2
Rheumatology	1	Total	<u>41*</u>
Infectious Diseases	1	*One student is part time and now beginning his clinical rotations.	
General Pediatrics	1		


Two of the 8 week rotations, i. e. , (1) Inpatient Service and (2) Outpatient/ Emergency Clinical Service, are for credit and are required of all students. Obviously, however, each student can not, in only a little over 60 weeks, rotate through each clinical course. Courses must be selected in accordance with the student's interests and abilities and, for each specialty area, there are required courses. One of these, P. A. 302, Outside Physician, is an 8 week clinical experience with a community-based practitioner and is usually taken during the last two months of the program, and is required of all candidates regardless of speciality.

The entire 15 months of semesters three and four are rigorous and tightly scheduled. At the beginning of the Outside Physician rotation the student normally has a one week vacation which he uses for relocation and other arrangements, otherwise he is devoting full-time to his rotations and his studies.

There appears to be no way in which the 14 courses taken during the first 9 months can be spread into the succeeding 15 months without impairing these very important clinical rotations.

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ALLIED HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF MAY 8, 1972

It was moved by Dr. E. Harvey Estes that the course credits for the Bachelor of Health Sciences Degree be adopted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Samuel L. Katz. After extensive discussion the motion was approved without dissent.

  
DALE R. LINDSAY  
Chairman