

### **MAXIMUM HOURS/TIME-FRAME ALLOWED**

All students must complete the Program's degree requirements within 5 years of matriculation into the PA program. If it is determined at any time within a student's course of study that they will be unable to meet this expectation, the student will be withdrawn from the program. Any leave of absence, program breaks, or deceleration will be counted towards the maximum time frame allowed for Program completion.

Additionally, please refer to the [University Catalog](#) section titled "Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress" for details regarding the maximum hour/time-frame allowed for financial aid eligibility, which may differ from the time allowed by the Program to complete degree requirements as noted above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the Registrar, Bursar, and Financial Offices regarding their individual circumstances.

### **ACADEMIC STANDING**

Academic Standing is an indication of current progress toward completion of the program and is established at the end of each course. All students begin with good academic standing but continued poor progress can result in a classification of poor academic standing with its own implications. Of note, many scholarships require that students remain in good academic standing.

### **GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING**

To remain in good academic standing, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with the Joint Program professionalism requirements (i.e., students must not be on professionalism probation).
2. Have no designation of Academic Probation
3. Maintain a minimum Joint MSPAS/MPH GPA of 2.5 or higher.

To be eligible for clinical site placements and rotations, clinical-year students must be in good standing. This is defined as:

1. Professionalism: The student must not be on professionalism probation.
2. Academic Performance: The student must maintain a minimum Joint MSPAS/MPH GPA of 2.5 or higher.
3. Academic Probation Exception: If a student is on academic probation due to a rotation failure, they may still qualify as being in good standing if a clear remediation plan has been established by the program and/or the Student Promotion Committee (SPC). This plan must outline the students' path to successfully continue within the clinical curriculum.

This standard ensures students meet essential professionalism and academic criteria for clinical placements.

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS**

### **ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

Satisfactory academic progress must be evident and demonstrated by students in order to continue in the Program. Any Failure to progress academically may lead to a referral to the MSPAS Student Promotions Committee (SPC). The MSPAS SPC monitors academic progress for the entire program (refer also to the *Clinical Year Handbook* for academic progress policies associated with the clinical year) as outlined in this Student Handbook and the [University Catalog](#).

### **PROGRESSING FROM DIDACTIC TO CLINICAL CURRICULUM**

Students must complete and pass all PA and PH didactic courses in Terms 1 - 5 before they can progress to the clinical phase of the Program. If any Program and/or didactic course requirements have not been met by the end of Term 5, the student will be required to sit out for the first scheduled clinical rotation (a duration of 6 weeks) in order to complete the outstanding requirement(s). Students may not repeat more than 2 courses during this time prior to starting the clinical year. Upon successful completion of the requirement(s), the student will progress into the clinical curriculum no sooner than the second rotation block start date.

### **END OF DIDACTIC EXAM POLICY**

Before entering the clinical phase of the program, all students are required to complete an End of Didactic Exam. This is a mandatory program requirement, and students must achieve a minimum passing score of 75%. The exam will be comprehensive, covering material from throughout the didactic phase and is aligned with the PANCE Blueprint content and task areas.

Students who do not achieve a score of 75% or higher will be required to complete an extensive remediation assignment. The program will determine the remediation, which will cover a broad range of content and task areas. To successfully remediate, students must achieve a minimum score of 75% on any reassessment and complete all required assignments or modules. The remediation process may include various methods to address knowledge gaps, such as retesting, oral exams, quizzes, assignments, module completion, or utilizing resources like Aquifer, Osmosis, or Case Files. All components of the remediation plan must be successfully completed to advance to the next phase of clinical education.

Failure to pass the remediation will result in the student being unable to progress to the clinical year and will lead to referral to the Student Progress Committee (SPC) for consideration of dismissal.

### **MSPAS DISMISSAL**

If a student is dismissed from one of the Joint Programs for violating the university code of conduct, they are ineligible to continue in the other Program. If a student is dismissed from

the MSPAS portion of the Joint Program for other academic or non-academic reasons (professionalism), they may apply for consideration to the stand-alone MPH Program. However, acceptance is at the discretion of the MPH Program Director. If a student is dismissed for academic reasons from the MPH Program, they may not remain in the MSPAS component of the Joint Program and will, therefore, be dismissed as a Joint student.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **MSPAS REQUIREMENTS**

A student will be recommended for the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) degree provided they have fulfilled the following:

1. Successful completion of all prescribed academic requirements with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher in the MSPAS/MPH Program
2. Are in Good Academic Standing
3. Successful completion of the End of Didactic Exam (and remediation if necessary) and MSPAS Summative course
3. Successful completion of all MPH Program Requirements.
4. Demonstration of ethical, professional and personal conduct which would make it appropriate to award the degree and receipt of a final overall satisfactory rating on the Professionalism within the Preceptor Evaluation during clinical year
6. Compliance with all legal and financial requirements of Touro University California
7. Completion of the academic requirements within the required 150% of time 5 year time-frame following matriculation.
8. Completion and submission of the Application for Graduation to the Office of the Registrar.

### **DRESS CODE**

Your personal appearance is the first statement you make about yourself and your profession to patients, other health professionals and to the public. Our program is located both on campus and in off-campus settings that will bring you in contact with patients, health professionals and other visitors. Dress is an outward reflection of your professional attitude. As health professional students you are seen as representatives of the PA profession. Because of the importance of appearance in conveying a professional attitude, the Joint MSPAS/MPH Program has established dress standards that will be adhered to by all students to help ensure you represent Touro and present yourself in the best way possible. Dress standards may vary across academic activities and variations will be clearly spelled out below or in course syllabi and communicated by Course Directors. Please be mindful of the professional space as an inclusive space that is considerate of the perspectives and needs of all.

### **DRESS CODE DURING DIDACTIC PHASE**

Consistent with the [University Catalog](#), students must maintain a neat and clean appearance befitting students attending a professional school. While workplace-

appropriate, professional casual attire is acceptable during didactic training, professional attire may be required for certain situations. Students should practice good personal hygiene. Fragrances (perfume/cologne or aftershave) should not be worn. Nails should be short and clean. Attire should fully cover undergarments and genitalia, including in all positions required to conduct physical examinations.

In the anatomy lab, scrubs, eye protection, and close-toed/topped shoes are required.

For those participating in clinical activities during the didactic phase of the curriculum, please see requirements listed below under “Dress Code for Clinical Activities”.

The following are considered inappropriate attire. Such attire demonstrates inappropriate professional judgment that is subject to review and action by the Program.

- Clothing having caricatures, messages, symbols, etc., that can be construed, based on societal norms, to be vulgar, offensive, or contribute to creating a hostile learning environment.
- Spaghetti strap tops, crop tops, and strapless tops unless required for a physical exam lab.
- Tops that are low cut or do not fully cover the abdomen unless required for a physical exam lab.
- Shorts, skirts, or dresses that do not cover the top ½ of the thigh unless required for a physical exam lab.

### **DRESS CODE FOR CLINICAL ACTIVITIES**

For clinical activities including clinical rotations, students must dress professionally in a manner that reflects positively on the Program, the University, and the PA profession. This includes clean and conservative “business casual” attire, good hygiene, and short, clean fingernails. Clothing that is deemed inappropriate includes, but is not limited to: strapless tops, lowcut tops, halter tops, tee shirts, tank tops, tops that reveal a bare midriff, tops with spaghetti/thin straps, clothing with profane or offensive language or images, hoodies, trousers below the waist that reveal undergarments or bare skin, pants with holes or rips, shorts of any type, skirts above the knee, leggings/jeggings, and open-toed shoes. Attire should fully cover undergarments and genitalia, including in all positions required to conduct physical examinations and patient care related activities.

Hair should be well-kept and out of one’s face when giving patient care. Any hairstyle that requires repeated touching of hair during patient care is an infection control risk and should be avoided. Fragrances (e.g., perfume/cologne, lotions, smoke, strong deodorants, or heavy scents) should not be worn as they can be bothersome to others. Dangling earrings and long or excessive jewelry should be avoided because they can be a hazard (i.e., they can fall into a sterile field or be grasped by a child, etc.). Students may have beards and/or mustaches; however, they must be kept well-groomed and clean. Fingernails should be short enough so that they will not result in patient discomfort or injury during

physical exams. Artificial nails of any type are not allowed in a laboratory or clinical setting.

The following are required: a short, clean, and pressed student white coat, TUC-issued nametag, and close-toed/topped shoes. Some activities or rotations may designate other prescribed clothing, such as scrubs or tennis shoes, and facility-specific ID badges. You may be sent home to change if you do not meet the dress code of a rotation site. The Program and Preceptors reserve the right to ask any student to remove or cover anything that is deemed inappropriate or unprofessional. Failure to comply with the dress code policy may result in a referral to the Student Promotions Committee for Professionalism violation.