

## **Amended and Restated Articulation Agreement**

**Between**

**Saint Francis University  
Loretto, PA**

**And**

**The District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College, Florida  
Miami, Florida**

This document amends and restates the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between Saint Francis University (SFU) on October 8, 2018 and pertains to the pathway for admittance into the SFU Master of Medical Science (MMS) Program for students participating in the Miami Dade College (MDC) Bachelor of Applied Science in Health Science with a concentration in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies. This Agreement is in effect December 31, 2020 and will remain in effect until December 31, 2023 or when either party requests amendment or termination of the agreement. This agreement excludes MDC Students beyond the class of 2022. A request of termination must be given in writing a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the termination date. The termination of this Agreement shall not take effect until enrolled students, at the time the notice of termination is given, complete the program outlined in this Agreement. The conditions of this Agreement will not be subject to change unless agreed to in writing by duly authorized representatives of the parties.

1. SFU will deliver thirteen (13) credits of Master of Medical Science courses to be taken by physician assistant students at MDC. The courses will be delivered according to a mutually agreeable schedule during each semester that this Agreement is in force.
2. SFU will be responsible for the delivery of all web-based instruction, examinations, and other instructional materials required for completion of the MMS degree as outlined in "The Program" below. If instructional technology fails at any point during the delivery of the course(s), SFU will make suitable alternative arrangements for completion.
3. It is the responsibility of the Students enrolled in the online MMS Program to have access to reliable Internet service and a personal computer/mobile device to access the Internet.
4. SFU will be responsible for evaluating student performance in the thirteen (13) credits of SFU-based courses. MDC's faculty/clinical preceptors will evaluate students on all credits related to clinical experiences as noted on Pages 2-3.
5. SFU will cover the cost of the development of all instructional materials for the SFU-based courses. Class materials developed by SFU for the delivery and instruction of the SFU-based courses will remain the property of SFU. Students will have access to all Internet-based material for one (1) year following the completion of the course.
6. MDC students will pay the prevailing per credit MMS tuition rate and any related fees for each of the thirteen (13) course credits required of the MMS curriculum.

7. SFU will accept MDC PA clinical credits sufficient (MDC clinical clerkship courses identified on pages 2-3 of this document) to cover the equivalent of 20 SFU Master of Physician Assistant Sciences (MPAS) clinical rotation courses (listed on Page 3 of this document).
8. The MMS degree offered through the affiliation between MDC and SFU is intended for MDC physician assistant students entering the clinical year of training, and/or students who recently completed the MDC Physician Assistant Program.
9. MDC PA graduates will be eligible to enroll in the MMS Program for up to two years from their PA Program graduation date, terminating with the MDC PA Program graduating class of August, 2022.
10. Each student upon being accepted into the SFU MMS program will submit a FERPA authorization, specifically authorizing SFU Registrar to obtain this information and official and unofficial transcripts at their request for the duration of the student enrolled in this program with MDC and SFU.
11. Prior to each MMS semester, MDC will be sent the Consortium Agreement from SFU Financial Aid and MMS Office. MDC's Director of Financial Aid Office or authorized designee must acknowledge receipt and accuracy of content by signing and returning by the designated date.
  - a. The Consortium Agreement is a document prepared by SFU Financial Aid Office that identifies the MDC PA students who are dually enrolled in the SFU MMS Program and MDC PA Program and will receive their financial aid disbursement through SFU. This document is updated and provided to the MDC Financial Aid office prior to each SFU MMS semester.
  - b. For the purposes of administering SFU Financial Aid for MDC students, MDC will provide census report information (confirmation of student's substantive interaction in the first start week of courses). This report will be in the form of a spreadsheet and will include the student legal name, ID (SFU/MDC) last activity date in the course for each student. This will ensure that SFU is aligned with all Financial Aid guidelines and can report on aid that must be returned to Title IV when necessary.
  - c. For students who withdraw/drop a course at any time during the semester, MDC must notify SFU via email and provide the student's legal name, ID and last date of substantive activity.
12. Prior to the start of the semester, students will receive a notice to sign a registration/financial agreement authorizing SFU to assign them to the correct cohort course at SFU.
13. MDC'S Registrar's Office must submit documentation to SFU's Registrar's office for the purposes of transferring MDC's credit to SFU and to confirm substantive interaction in the current courses at MDC no later than (7) days after MDC courses start date. Failure to do so in a timely manner can result in a financial hold for the MMS student and/or can delay the issuance of federal financial aid. The documentation that needs to be submitted includes:
  - a. A list of students who are continuing in the SFU/MDC program. The information must include
    - Student's legal name
    - SFU MDC ID (SFU will provide the SFU ID)
    - Student's current academic status (good standing, academic probation, etc.)
    - Last date of substantiated interactive
  - b. Official transcripts via electronic format (if possible) for each student showing the previous semester's grades and the current courses enrolled in at MDC. Financial aid will not be

processed until both the unofficial PA Program transcript showing both the prior semester earned grades and the courses registered for in the upcoming semester, and Consortium Agreement have been completed and returned by the date identified.

14. MDC PA Program faculty and staff will immediately share any information related change in academic status of any MMS student, a change in enrolled credits, changes in the curriculum, or any change in or accreditation status or PA Program administration.

### **The Program**

#### **MDC Clinical Clerkship Courses:**

The following credits in the MDC PA curriculum will be accepted for transfer credit into the MMS Curriculum, aligned with the paradigm of clinical rotation courses in the SFU Master of Physician Assistant Sciences (MPAS) program.

<b>PAS 3203C Surgical Problems &amp; Procedures</b>	<b>(5 credits)</b>
<b>PAS 4191 Internal Medicine</b>	<b>(4 credits)</b>
<b>PAS 4290 Surgery Clerkship</b>	<b>(2 credits)</b>
<b>PAS 4391 Pediatrics Clerkship</b>	<b>(4 credits)</b>
<b>PAS 4493 Family Medicine Clerkship</b>	<b>(4 credits)</b>
<b>PAS 4590 OB/GYN Clerkship</b>	<b>(2 credits)</b>
<b>PAS 4690 Emergency Medicine Clerkship</b>	<b>(2 credits)</b>
<b>PAS 4943 Selective Clerkship</b>	<b>(2 credits)</b>
<b>PAS 4940 Psychiatry Clerkship</b>	<b>(2 credits)</b>

The above clerkships are transferred into the MMS curriculum for the following SFU MPAS clinical rotation courses. These courses total twenty (20) credits and include:

<b>PA 510 Emergency Medicine I</b>	<b>(4credits)</b>
<b>PA520FamilyPracticeI</b>	<b>(4credits)</b>
<b>PA 530 Internal Medicine I</b>	<b>(4credits)</b>
<b>PA540 Pediatrics I</b>	<b>(4credits)</b>
<b>PA550 Surgery I</b>	<b>(4credits)</b>

#### **SFU (MMS) Courses:**

The following thirteen (13) credits will be offered by SFU, and will be required of all students for the Master of Medical Science degree.

#### **SFU Courses:**

<b>MMS 503 Research Methodology</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>MMS 507 Advanced Pharmacology</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>MMS 513 Clinical Residency Project</b>	<b>4 credits</b>
<b>MMS 521 Clinical Applications in Primary Care</b>	<b><u>3 credits</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 credits**</b>

\*\*These 13 credits will constitute the advanced master's coursework for the MMS degree. SFU may at their discretion substitute comparable master's courses to fulfill the 13 credits of coursework.

### **Philosophy of the Curriculum**

The MDC Physician Assistant Program provides comparable rotation experiences to those of the MPAS Program at SFU, as mandated by our mutual accrediting organization, ARC-PA. In this respect, clerkships are considered academically equivalent to the fifth year MPAS rotation experiences at SFU, and can be regarded as graduate level courses applicable to the MMS degree. Additionally, in order to verify clerkship equivalency, enrolled students will be required to successfully complete online clinical scenarios which are part of MMS 521: Clinical Applications in Primary Care.

Students will also engage in advanced master's coursework via distance learning, and will be required to complete thirteen (13) credits of MMS courses. Research Methodology is an important element of the student's master's preparation, focusing on the evaluation of the medical literature, research design, and evidence-based medicine. Advanced Pharmacology builds on the student's entry-level pharmacology experience, and will enable them to apply that experience to real clinical situations. This will be especially beneficial in that students will be taking Advanced Pharmacology concurrently with their clinical rotations, thereby providing them with ample opportunity to research and respond to the clinical problem-solving components of the Advanced Pharmacology course. The third element of the advanced master's component is the Clinical Residency Project. This course will provide the master's candidate the opportunity to focus on a clinical problem; research the problem; engage patients in the exploration and analysis of the problem; and provide practical and effective clinical solution(s) to the identified problem. The Clinical Residency Project is the "capstone" experience for the master's candidate. The final course is Clinical Applications in Primary Care; it serves to corroborate clinical competence.

Typically, all thirteen-advanced MMS credits will be achieved by the student cohort concurrent with the latter twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months of MDC/PA curriculum and/or during the students' clinical clerkships. Students will receive their Physician assistant degree/certificate from MDC and a Master of Medical Science degree from SFU upon successful completion of both programs. It is understood that students must satisfactorily complete all requirements for the physician assistant degree/certificate from MDC, along with the thirteen (13) credits of advanced master's courses from SFU, to be eligible to receive the Master of Medical Science degree. The MMS degree does not constitute the core physician assistant curricular content required to sit for the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) examination.

### **Selection of Students for the Collaborative Program:**

Selection of students for the collaborative master's program shall be the responsibility of the SFU Director of the Master of Medical Science Program, in consultation with the Director of the MDC Physician Assistant program. The minimum requirement for acceptance into the collaborative master's program is a 2.8 cumulative GPA in undergraduate and or the MDC PA Program.

### **Financial Implications**

All instructors for SFU-based courses will be paid by SFU, as well as other costs associated with the development of the courses via distance learning technology. All instructors for the MDC clinical rotation

courses will be coordinated, organized, and paid by MDC.

MDC students will remit fees to SFU for SFU-originated courses (13 credits) at the published tuition rate. As MMS students are dually enrolled in MDC PA Programs and the MMS Program, the MDC PA Program and the MMS Program Directors will communicate any change in academic status of any student to each other within 24 hours of such a designation.

**Accreditation of the Miami Dade College Physician Assistant Program**

It is understood that matters affecting the current and future accreditation of the MDC Physician Assistant Program are the sole responsibility of MDC. MDC must maintain accreditation in order to continue offering the affiliated MMS degree with SFU. Any change in accreditation status of the MDC PA Program must be reported to the MMS Program Director immediately. An overview of the accreditation plan of correction must also be reviewed with the MMS Program Director as soon as it is available. It is further understood that the thirteen (13) credits of master's courses supplied by SFU do not constitute any part of the core educational requirements for physician assistant education and that the MMS Program does not prepare students for eligibility to sit for the NCCPA examination.

**Effect of Agreement**

This Amended and Restated Articulation Agreement is the entire agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter hereto. The MOU is hereby amended in its entirety and restated herein. This Agreement is effective upon the being fully executed by all the signatories indicated below. Upon such execution, all provisions of, rights granted and covenants made in MOU are hereby waived, released and superseded in their entirety and shall have no further force or effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized officials who have signed below.

<u><i>Saint Francis University</i></u>	<u><i>The District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College, Florida</i></u>
<i>Karan Hinman Powell</i> 1/14/2021	<i>Julie Alexander</i> 01/06/2021
<b>Dr. Karan Hinman Powell</b> <b>Date</b>	<b>Dr. Julie Alexander</b> <b>Date</b>
Vice President for Academic Affairs	Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
<i>Malachi Van Tassel</i> 1/11/2021	<u><i>Bryan Stewart</i></u> 01/06/2021 <small>Bryan Stewart (Jan 6, 2021 08:25 EST)</small>
<b>Very Rev. Malachi Van Tassel, T.O.R., Ph.D.</b> <b>Date</b>	<b>Dr. Bryan Stewart</b> <b>Date</b>
President	President, Medical Campus