

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Saint Francis University

Loretto, PA

And

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Williamsport, PA

This document provides a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Saint Francis University (SFU) Master of Medical Science (MMS) Program and Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCT) Physician Assistant (PA) Program. The MOU will be in effect beginning May 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021, or when either party requests amendment or termination of the agreement. A request of termination must be given in writing 30 days in advance of the termination date. The termination of this agreement shall not take effect until the enrolled students, at the time the notice of termination is given, complete the program outlined in this agreement. The conditions of this MOU will not be subject to change unless agreed to by SFU and PCT.

1. SFU will deliver 13 credits of Master of Medical Science courses to be taken by physician assistant students at PCT. The courses will be delivered according to a mutually agreeable schedule during each semester that this MOU 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. Students enrolled in the online MMS Program must 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. PCT faculty/clinical preceptors will evaluate students on all credits related to clinical experiences as noted on pp. 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. PCT students will pay the prevailing per credit MMS tuition rate for each of the thirteen (13) course credits required of the MMS curriculum.
7. SFU will accept PCT PA clinical credits sufficient (PCT clinical clerkship courses identified on pages 2 and 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 PCT and SFU is intended for PCT physician assistant students entering the clinical year of training, and/or students who recently completed the PCT Physician Assistant Program.
9. PCT graduates will be eligible to enroll in the MMS Program for up to two years from their PA Program graduation date but should complete the MMS degree on or by 12/31/2021. PCT PA Program alumni will be offered eligibility to enroll in MMS but must do so within five years of their PA Program graduation date. For students who matriculate into MMS Program after 8/31/2020 (per ARC-PA Accreditation Standards, 4th Edition), SFU reserves the right to utilize substitutions from a menu of available online graduate health courses.
10. Prior to each MMS semester, PCT will be sent the Consortium Agreement from the Saint Francis University Financial Aid and MMS Office. The Director or authorized designee of the Financial Aid Office at the PCT must complete and return by the designated due date.
11. Prior to the start of each new MMS semester, PCT PA/MMS students must submit unofficial PA Program transcripts which show both the prior semester earned grades and the courses registered for in the upcoming semester. PCT will facilitate submission of unofficial transcripts for all MMS students as requested throughout each semester for the purpose of academic status and progress verification. 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.
 - a. 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.
12. PCT will facilitate submission of final PCT transcripts to SFU showing the PA curriculum complete and the degree conferred. Any applicable fees associated with submission of official transcripts will be the responsibility of the student.
13. PCT will immediately share any information related to a change in academic status of any MMS student, a change in enrolled credits, changes in the curriculum, or any change in accreditation status or PA Program administration.

The Program

PCT Clinical Clerkship Courses:

The following credits in the PCT PA curriculum may 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.

PHA 372 Principles of Clinical Medicine III	(5 credits)
PHA 411 Family Practice Internship	(4 credits)
PHA 412 Internal Medicine Internship	(4 credits)
PHA 421 Pediatrics Internship	(3 credits)
PHA 415 Emergency Medicine Internship	(4 credits)
PHA 416 Psychiatry Internship	(3 credits)
PHA 419 Obstetrics and Gynecology Internship	(4 credits)
PHA 417 Surgery Internship	(4 credits)

PHA 418 Elective Internship

(3 credits)

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

PA 510 Emergency Medicine I	(4 credits)
PA 520 Family Practice I	(4 credits)
PA 530 Internal Medicine I	(4 credits)
PA 540 Pediatrics I	(4 credits)
PA 550 Surgery I	(4 credits)

SFU (MMS) Courses:

The following 13 credits will be offered by Saint Francis University, and will be required of all students for the Master of Medical Science degree.

SFU Courses:

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

**These 13 credits will constitute the advanced master's coursework for the MMS degree.

Philosophy of the Curriculum

The PCT 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.

It is expected that all thirteen-advanced master's credits will be done by the student cohort concurrent with the latter 12 to 18 months of PA curriculum, typically during the students' clinical clerkships. With successful completion of both programs, upon graduation, students receive their physician assistant degree/certificate from Pennsylvania College of Technology and a Master of Medical Science degree from Saint Francis University. It is understood that 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. It is further understood that students must satisfactorily complete all requirements for the physician assistant degree/certificate from PCT, along with the 13 credits of advanced master's courses from SFU, to be eligible to receive the Master of Medical Science degree.

Selection of Students for the Collaborative Program:

Selection of students for the collaborative master's program shall be the responsibility of the Director of the Saint Francis University, Master of Medical Science Program, in consultation with the Director of the Pennsylvania College of Technology 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 PCT PA Program.

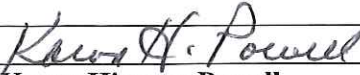
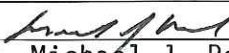


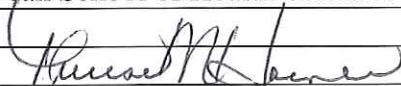

Financial Implications

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 PCT clinical rotation courses will be coordinated, organized, and paid by PCT.

PCT students will remit fees to SFU for SFU-originated courses (13 credits) at the published tuition rate. As MMS students are dually enrolled in PCT PA Programs and the MMS Program, the PCT 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 Pennsylvania College of Technology Physician Assistant Program

It is understood that matters affecting the current and future accreditation of the PCT Physician Assistant Program are the sole responsibility of PCT. PCT must maintain accreditation in order to continue offering the affiliated MMS degree with Saint Francis University. Any change in accreditation status of the PCT 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 Saint Francis University 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.

<u>Saint Francis University</u>		<u>Pennsylvania College of Technology</u>
 7-16-19		 7-2-19
Dr. Karan Hinman Powell Date		Dr. Michael J. Reed Date
Vice President for Academic Affairs		Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
 7-16-19		 7/8/19
Dr. Donald Walkovich, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA Date		Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour Date
Dean School of Health Sciences		College President
 7-16-19		 6/24/19
Dr. Theresa M. Horner Date		Mr. Joshua Bower Date
Program Director, MMS		Physician Assistant Program Director