



Learning. Caring. Serving. Leading.

PAS 7800: Women’s Health

1.5 Credit Hours

Designated clinical learning site: Women’s Health Clinic

Course Coordinator	Office	Phone	Email
Cynthia C Bennett, MD	GFC - 219	336-278-6856	Cbennett14@elon.edu
Office Hours: M-F by appointment		336-266-9981	

Course Description:

The Women’s Health rotation is designed to give the student practical experience in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of problems and issues associated with women’s health care. Emphasis is placed on learning experiences in family planning and birth control, the recognition and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, cancer detection and prevention, prenatal care and the evaluation and treatment of common ambulatory gynecologic problems. During this rotation the students augment and strengthen their skills in regard to a wide variety of problems seen in the primary care setting. Prerequisites: PAS 5000-6800

Course goals:

The goals for this course are for students:

1. To apply the medical content and principles central to women’s health.
2. To provide opportunities for each student to develop the core PA competencies in a supervised women’s health setting.
3. To expose each student to an experienced and competent medical provider role model for the care of women.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

A: PA Student Behaviors:

1. Take a patient-centered and problem-focused history in patients presenting with prenatal or gynecologic concerns (1.2a) (2.1)
2. Perform problem-focused exam for patients presenting with prenatal or gynecologic concerns (1.2b) (2.1)
3. Assess the impact of psychosocial and cultural influences on health, disease, care-seeking, care compliance, and barriers to and attitudes toward care among patients with pregnancy or gynecologic concerns (2.5)



4. Analyze data collected in the history and physical exam to recommend an appropriate lab or diagnostic study for patients presenting with obstetric or gynecologic concerns (1.8) (2.1) (1.6) (2.3) (6.3)
5. Interpret lab and diagnostic studies commonly utilized by/for patients presenting with obstetric or gynecologic concerns (1.5)
6. Develop a differential diagnosis that is broad and deep enough to ensure effective diagnoses of obstetric or gynecologic concerns (1.4) (2.1)
7. Incorporate data obtained in the history, physical, and diagnostic evaluation to formulate a most likely diagnosis (1.7) (2.1)
8. Summarize messaging for successful communication with patients/families (1.9) (3.7) (4.1)
9. Based on patient age and risk factors, prepare appropriate plans of prevention and health promotion for a pregnant patient (1.8) (1.11) (2.4) (7.3)
10. Generate appropriate plans for the care of patients with obstetric and gynecologic concerns (1.8) (6.3) (7.3)
11. Facilitate effective patient care through recommended plans of follow up and/or referral (1.10) (2.3) (4.2) (6.2) (7.1) (7.2)
12. Organize findings into a comprehensive, legible documentation (4.3)
13. Organize and prioritize responsibilities to provide care that is safe, effective, and efficient (1.3)
14. Perform medical and/or diagnostic procedures considered essential to patients presenting with obstetric or gynecologic concerns (longitudinal skills assessment) (1.1)

B: Professional Behaviors

15. Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others (5.1)
16. Demonstrate responsiveness to patient needs (5.2)
17. Demonstrate respect for patient privacy and autonomy (5.3)
18. Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to disability or special healthcare needs, ethnicity/race, gender identity, religion/spirituality, sexual orientation, or social determinants of health (5.5)
19. Facilitate a climate of mutual respect, dignity, diversity, ethical integrity, and trust (7.1)
20. Self-evaluate skills, knowledge, and emotional limitations to engage in appropriate help-seeking behaviors (8.1)
21. Demonstrate the ability to address conflicts between personal and professional responsibilities (8.3)
22. Apply flexibility and maturity in adjusting to change (8.4)
23. Demonstrate self-confidence that puts patients, families, and/or members of the health care team at ease. (8.5)

Teaching Methodologies: The content of this course will be explored through hands-on supervised clinical practicums in the outpatient, primary care setting, serving primarily adult patients.

Accommodations: Students requiring academic accommodations must follow the “Academic Support” policy in the Elon University DPAS Student Handbook.



Academic Honesty: All Elon PA students acknowledged their commitment to abide by the Elon Honor Code by signing the Honor Pledge during orientation.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Program

Becoming a PA requires consistently training one's critical reasoning skills to problem-solve effectively. The use of generative AI in this context can impede your learning. The assignments in our program typically challenge you to develop skills that AI does not have. Our aim is to help you grow, rather than letting technology limit your capacity.

In many contexts AI-assistance can be used as a tool to support and amplify your own skills, and it can sometimes provide us with new understanding. Together we are all learning to navigate complex interactions with AI technologies as they are becoming a crucial component of practicing medicine in the 21st century.

AI-generated text should not be used as the source of content for any assignment in the PA Program unless clearly specified.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement: Elon University's physician assistant program strives to create a learning environment where diversity, equity, and inclusion are paramount. The Program values and supports diversity of thought, perspective, and experience. Physician assistant students, no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identity, socioeconomic class, sexuality, religion, or disability, are both welcomed and valued in this program. Our goal is that all students feel included so that they may have the best learning experience and outcomes possible. To help accomplish this:

- Please let the program administrative assistant and your course directors know of your preferred name and/or pronouns if these differ from that in your official school records.
- If your performance in class is affected by outside experiences, please do not hesitate to talk with your course director. Please know that program faculty and staff are happy to be a healthy resource for you. If you prefer to speak with someone outside of the course, please contact your academic advisor, the Program Director, the Elon Health and Wellness Center, and/or CREDE office.
- We, along with many other folx, are still in the process of expanding our learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something said in class (by anyone) makes you feel uncomfortable, please talk to your course director.
- As a participant in classroom discussions or assignments, please always strive to honor the diversity of your classmates.
- Please let your course director and/or Program Director know if you observe situations in which the above appears to not be the case.



Resources:

Required:

1. All required first year text books
2. CURRENT Diagnosis & Treatment: Obstetrics and Gynecology, 12e.

Recommended Resources:

1. Specific additional textbooks and resources to be determined through collaboration between the student and course directors based on elective discipline.

Other Helpful Resources:

1. *Moodle and Exxat: Please check sites frequently for new announcements, updated schedules, assignments and other course communication.
2. Practicing physician assistants, physicians, allied health care providers and laboratory teaching aids.

Grade Scale and Grade Points:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade points
89.50-100.0	A	4.0
85.50-89.49	B+	3.3
79.50-85.49	B	3.0
75.50-79.49	C+	2.3
69.50-75.49	C	2.0
Below 69.50	U	0

Note: For further information regarding academic standing in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, please see the DPAS Student Handbook.

Grading Criteria:

1. Demonstrate acquisition of a strong basic science and medical science knowledge base as demonstrated on the written examination/quizzes.
A blueprint and topic list for the PAEA EOR for pediatrics can be found on the course Moodle page.
2. Demonstrate satisfactory self-directed learning skills, clinical reasoning skills, commitment to patient-centered care and professionalism as evidenced by satisfactory performance on the preceptor evaluation.
3. Demonstrate a commitment to learning and professionalism by actively participating in all clinical activities and exceeding the professional behavior standards and minimum requirements for clinical rotations available in the Elon PA Student Handbook.
4. Demonstrate competency in creating written medical documents for the Women's Health setting as evidenced by submission of a Procedure note.



Assessment Activities: Student progress will be assessed in a variety of ways, which include the following:

Assessment component	Outcome(s)	# per course	% each
PAEA EOR Exam	1, 2 ,4, 5, 7, 9	1	35%
Final Preceptor Evaluation	1-10, 12, 14-23	1	55%
Rosh Review Assignment	20	1	5%
Written Deliverable (procedure note)	6, 7, 10, 11	1	5%
Student's Evaluation of Site	19 ACCOUNTABILITY	1	0 (C/I)
Longitudinal Skills Assessment	12, 14	1	0
		TOTAL	100%

Late/Makeup Work: The student will contact the Director of Clinical Education to determine the content and due dates for any late or make-up work that may be required.

Exam Review: The PAEA EOR exam provides each test-taker with a summary of their performance to guide learning.

Syllabus Modifications: Every attempt is made to construct a complete syllabus that provides an accurate overview of the course. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. This may depend, in part, on the progress, needs and experiences of the students. In special circumstances and at the discretion of the course director, assignments or the point distribution that is used to determine students' grades may be modified. In these instances, modifications must be for common benefit, and thus cannot penalize any students or render evaluation (i.e., grading) more severe.

Instructional Objectives

Upon completion of the clinical rotation phase physician assistant students will be able to:

1. Elicit and record a complete and focused history, appropriate for the patient's age, including chief complaint and history of present illness with pertinent review of systems, past medical, family and social history.
2. Perform a complete and focused gynecological examination, with a focus on ensuring patient comfort
3. Know the components of a complete and focused prenatal examination
4. Select and interpret diagnostic studies to evaluate the differential diagnosis, including the following for each study:
 - a. Risks and benefits
 - b. Sensitivity and specificity
 - c. Cost effectiveness
 - d. Informed consent
5. Describe the indications for colposcopic cervical examination following an abnormal PAP smear.
6. Perform or be able to describe diagnostic procedures under the direction of and according to standards as established by the clinical preceptor
7. Discuss the methods of contraceptives and family planning, including indications, contraindications, efficacy, advantages, disadvantages, safety, mutagenicity, patient education, cost and cultural/religious issues.
8. Discuss the physiologic changes that occur during menopause, competently prescribe therapies for the management of menopausal symptoms, and counsel patients on prevention of diseases that are more prevalent after menopause.
9. Recognize the presentation of common breast masses and identify the appropriate work-up and treatment.
10. List the physiologic changes and signs of pregnancy.
11. Describe routine prenatal care.
12. Define and discuss the use of screening and diagnostic instruments used in prenatal obstetrics, care paying particular attention to indications, timing, normal and abnormal findings and maternal risk factors (e.g., ultrasound, one hour post-prandial glucose tolerance test, maternal serum alpha fetal protein monitoring).
13. Identify medical problems that may result in complications during pregnancy.
14. Discuss and describe normal embryonic/fetal development.
15. Discuss the indications for, correct use and administration of obstetric pharmacologic therapies.



16. Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate gynecologic and obstetric (antepartum and postpartum) management plans, including screening, treatment, follow-up and patient education.
17. Discuss the appropriate use of medications for gynecologic and obstetrical patients including such issues as indications, contraindications, interactions, complications, dosage, metabolism, excretion and mutagenicity.
18. Identify first-line therapeutic recommendations for treating common or life threatening conditions when they occur in pregnant patients.
19. Provide and record pertinent patient education regarding disease prevention and health maintenance, which is clearly explained to the patient and checked for understanding, to include
 - a. Nutrition – including need for supplementation during pregnancy
 - b. Genetic counseling
 - c. Accident and violence prevention (e.g., seat belts, helmets, screening for domestic violence)
 - d. Physical activity, exercise
 - e. Pertinent risk factors, including occupation, environment, tobacco, alcohol, other drugs and genetic factors
 - f. Warning signs/symptoms of disease
 - g. Plan for age appropriate screening and periodic health assessment
 - h. Immunizations (HBV, rubella, Tdap)
20. Recognize and institute the initial management of emergency gynecologic and obstetric emergencies in the absence of a physician
21. Formulate a comprehensive management plan that is consistent with the diagnosis and includes diagnostic modalities, clinical therapeutics, clinical interventions, patient education, counseling, and proper referrals.
22. Prepare patient records that follow the SOAP format.
23. Effectively and efficiently communicate patient presentations to the clinical preceptor.
24. If presented with the opportunity, assist the gynecologist, as directed, during surgical procedures for suggestions.
25. Use the PAEA EOR exam blueprint and topic list to guide understanding of topics related to the care of women
 - a. [PAEA Women's Health EOR topic list](#)
 - b. [PAEA Women's Health EOR blueprint](#)