



Wichita State University Libraries

Collection Development Policies

Physician Assistant Collection

A. Purpose of Collection

1. Program Information

The WSU Department of Physician Assistant offers a 26-month graduate course of study which leads to a professional Master Degree in Physician Assistant Studies. The course of study is divided into two parts: a 41 semester hour didactic phase and a 39 semester hour clinical/research phase.

The pre-professional curriculum includes requirements for a bachelor degree as well as prescribed courses in the natural and clinical sciences. Once applicants have met the minimal requirements, emphasis in selection is placed on academic performance, previous health care experience (strongly preferred), on-site interview, and a service orientation. Up to 42 students will be selected annually.

The professional curriculum is divided into two phases: a didactic phase and a clinical/research phase. Each phase lasts 12-14 months. The didactic year includes graduate coursework in the basic sciences (anatomy, pharmacology, pathophysiology), clinical sciences, research methods and statistics, epidemiology, behavioral medicine, ethics, preventive medicine and community health, social and legal issues, and clinical skills.

The clinical/research year is a series of clinical rotations in a variety of medical settings primarily in Kansas and directed studies in research leading to the completion of a final research project. Students are required to complete rotations in family practice, general internal medicine, pediatrics, prenatal care and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry and behavioral medicine, and geriatrics. Students complete nine rotations of 4-8 weeks each (approximately 50 total weeks). All students are required to complete a minimum of three rotations outside the city of Wichita with at least three rotations in a rural or urban underserved community.

2. Collection Description

The physician assistant profession stands on its own. It maintains its own professional associations, its own code of ethics, and its own standards. Its resource base, however, is borrowed from the other health care professions. The 2003 version of the "Brandon/Hill Selected List of Print Books and Journals in Allied Health" [1] listed only eight resources under the heading "Physician Assistant." These publications are core resources for PAs, and, although more and more books are being published each year, essential areas of study are not included. At the present time, medical texts are the best resources for physician assistant collections.

The library's monograph collection currently contains over 7000 titles in the main library of Congress call number relevant to General Medicine (R), Preventive Medicine (RA), Pathology (RB), Internal Medicine (RC), Surgery (RD), Ophthalmology (RE), Gynecology and Obstetrics (RG), Pediatrics (RJ), Dermatology (RL), and Pharmacology (RM). The collection also includes over 2500 additional titles in related areas as Biochemistry (QD415-436), Human Anatomy (QM), Physiology (QP), and Nursing (RT).

The library has subscriptions to three academic journals that specific on Physician Assistant professional and education. The library has all of them both in print and electronically. Actually, the journals that PA faculty and students have been really using a lot are those major medicine periodicals. The library has subscriptions to 165 medicine periodicals. 24 of them are available both in print and electronically. Also, there are 1615 electronic journals available under the subject section of Medicine.

Patrons have both on-campus and off-campus access to a number of high quality electronic databases on medicine. MEDLINE, CINAHL with Full Text, Cochrane Library, ProQuest Nursing are the primary databases for this discipline. Faculty had addressed that MEDLINE, CINAHL with Full Text, and Cochrane Library are the most important ones for their research and teaching needs.

3. Anticipated Trends

Faculty in the Physician Assistant department have noted several emerging trends in their field: 1) Increasing focus on the medical specialties 2) Increasing interest in more genetics education for primary care provider.

In terms of desirable formats of materials, most faculty have expressed strong interests on more electronic access to several major medical journals such as The Journal of American Medical Association, LANCET, British Medical Journal, etc.

B. Scope of Coverage

1. Chronological Focus

Emphasis is placed on current materials. Historical treatments will be acquired selectively.

2. Geographic Focus

Areas of emphasis will be primarily of those publications treating health care in the United States although materials reflecting geographical emphasis outside of the United States might be acquired selectively.

3. Formats and Materials Collected

Collecting emphasis is placed on current journals, monographs, reference works (including indexes to periodicals, encyclopedias, handbooks, rule books, etc.), and government publications, where applicable. Both paper and electronic formats will be collected. Materials such as videos and DVD's will be collected at the request of faculty.

4. Formats and Materials Not Collected

Materials in micro format (microfilm, microfiche) will be collected only when that is the sole format available. Textbooks are not normally acquired.

5. Publication/Imprint Dates

Primary emphasis will be on current publication; older materials in support of research or teaching will be acquired selectively.

6. Place of Publication

Primary focus will be placed on materials published in the United States. Materials published in other countries will be collected selectively.

7. Languages Collected

English is the primary language of acquisition, Materials in other languages may be acquired at the request of the faculty.

C. Summary of Subjects Collected and Collecting Levels (See Appendix A for Details)

The training for physician assistants is 108 weeks, compared to the 158-week medical program [2], and has often been compared to the middle two years of medical school [3, 4]. Although much of the same core material is covered, the PA curriculum does not include the in-depth research level knowledge that may be required at a full

medical school. Physician assistants must know a little about many different aspects of medicine. They must have the skills to make qualified diagnoses and to provide appropriate treatment, and they must have the knowledge to counsel and educate patients. Most importantly, they must have the expertise to make informed referrals of patients to other health care providers. To this end, physician assistant education stresses problem solving and critical thinking skills for effective clinical decision making. As such, physician assistants need practical, clinically oriented resources that provide a broad overview of a field of study.

Materials were collected in three related science areas and most medical subject areas -- Medical Biochemistry, Human Anatomy, Physiology, General Medicine, Preventive medicine, Occupational medicine/toxicology, Pathology, Internal medicine, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Gynecology and obstetrics, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Pharmacology, and pain medicine. **Among those areas**, faculty identified Human Anatomy, Preventive Medicine, Internal Medicine, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Pediatrics and Pharmacology as areas of major importance.

In **General Medicine**, core subject areas addressed by faculty included: physician assistant profession, primary care/family practice, and medical education. In **Internal medicine**, faculty identified diagnosis, critical care, emergency medicine, infectious diseases, neurology, psychiatry, cardiology, pulmonary medicine, gastroenterology, urology, and geriatrics as the key subject areas.

D. Subjects Excluded

Since physician assistants must know a little about many different aspects of medicine, the PA collection covers most major subject areas under Medicine (R) except Dentistry and Nursing. In the Science group (Q), Biochemistry, Human anatomy, and physiology are the only three subject areas that Physician Assistant collection currently covers.

E. Related Collections and Cooperative Efforts

Although the physician assistant program at Wichita State is the only one of its kind in Kansas, It doesn't necessarily mean that we can't take advantage of the library resources available for the medical students in KU. As we've discussed before, for the physician assistant profession, its resource base is borrowed from the other health care professions. At the present time, medical texts are the best resources for physician assistant collections. Farha Medical Library of KU school of medicine in Wichita and Dykes Library of KU Medical Center generously supplement the WSU Library's medicine collection.

The nursing collection here in WSU is also important to the research and teaching needs of the Physician Assistant program.

F. Related Collection Development Policies

Collection Development Policies related to all of the subject areas listed above would have an impact on the library's collection for Physician Assistant program.

G. Related Collection Evaluations

Physician Assistant Collection Analysis – Please see Appendix C

Summary of the Survey of Physician Assistant Faculty – Please see Appendix D

H. Other Factors

References

- 1 Hill DR, Stickell HN. Brandon/Hill selected list of print books and journals in allied health. *J Med Libr Assoc.* 2003. Jan; 91:(1):18–33.
- 2 Falligant L. Physician assistants (PAs) provide quality care. *Wis Med J.* 1997. Jun. 96:(6):13.
- 3 Minton DL. What is a physician assistant? *N C Med J.* 1990. Aug. 51:(8):391–2.
- 4 Benathen IA. The physician assistant program: training for a medical career without medical school. *Am Biol Teach.* 1989. Mar. 51:(3):162–4.

Appendix A. Specific Subjects Collected (with Collecting Levels)

Appendix B. Explanation of Collecting Levels and Codes

Appendix C Physician Assistant Collection Analysis

Appendix D Survey of Physician Assistant Faculty

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Revised on November 27, 2007

Appendix A --- Specific Subjects Collected (with Collecting Levels)

SUBJECT	LC CLASS	CL	GL
Medical Biochemistry	QD415-436	D	D
Human Anatomy	QM	C1	C1
Physiology	QP	C1	C1
General Medicine	R		
Physician Assistant Profession	R690-697	C2	C1
Medical Philosophy, Medical Ethics	R723-726	D	D
Primary care/family practice	R728-733	C2	C1
Medical Education	R735-854	C2	C2
Preventive Medicine	RA421-790.85	C1	C1
Occupational medicine/toxicology	RA1190-1270	C1	C1
Pathology	RB1-214	C1	C1
Internal Medicine	RC	C2	C1
Diagnosis	RC71-78.7	D	C2
Medical Emergencies, Critical Care.	RC86-88.9	C1	C1
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	RC86-88.9	D	C2
Neoplasms, Tumors, Oncology	RC254-282	D	D
Neurology, Diseases of the Nervous System	RC346-429	C1	C1
Psychiatry	RC435-571	C1	C1
Immunologic Diseases, Allergy	RC581-607	C2	C2
Diseases of the Blood and Blood-Forming Organs, Hematology	RC633-647.5	C1	C1
Diseases of the Circulatory (Cardiovascular) System, Cardiology	RC666-701	C1	C1
Diseases of the Respiratory System, Pulmonary Medicine	RC705-779	C1	C1
Diseases of the Digestive System, Gastroenterology	RC799-869	E	C2
Diseases of the Genitourinary System, Urology	RC870-923	C1	C1
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal, Rheumatology	RC925-935	C2	C2
Geriatrics	RC952-954.6	C1	C1
Surgery	RD	C1	C1
Orthopedics	RD701-811	D	C2

Ophthalmology	RE	D	C2
Gynecology and Obstetrics/women's health	RG	C1	C1
Pediatrics	RJ	C1	C1
Dermatology	RL	C1	C1
Pharmacology, Therapeutics	RM	C1	C1
Pain medicine	RT87.P35	C1	C1

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APPENDIX B – EXPLANATION OF COLLECTING LEVELS AND CODES

1. COLLECTING LEVELS*

Current Collection (CL) -- existing strength of collection (required)

Collection Goal (GL) -- desired or target collecting goal (required)

Acquisitions Commitment (AC) -- current collecting level or growth rate (optional)

Preservation Commitment (PA) – commitment to physical and/or content preservation (optional)

2. COLLECTING LEVEL CODES OR INDICATORS

Each collecting level is assigned one of the following codes:

A	Comprehensive Level
B	Research Level (doctoral)
C1	Advanced Study Level (advanced undergraduate, masters)
C2	Basic Study Level (undergraduate)
D	Basic Information Level
E	Minimal Level
NC	Not Collected

The following is a detailed definition of each code:

- A Comprehensive level.** A collection in which a library endeavors, so far as is reasonably possible, to include all significant works of recorded knowledge (publications, manuscripts, other forms) for a necessarily defined field. This level of collecting intensity is that which maintains a “special collection”; the aim, if not the achievement, is exhaustiveness.
- B Research level.** A collection includes the major published source materials required for dissertations and independent research including materials containing research reporting, new findings, scientific experimental results, and other information useful to researchers. It also includes all important reference works and a wide selection of specialized monographs, an extensive collection of journals and major indexing and abstracting services – including electronic resources -- in the field. Supports doctoral and other original research.
- C1 Advanced study level.** A collection which is adequate to support the course work of advanced undergraduate and master’s degree, or sustained independent study; that is, which is adequate to maintain knowledge of a subject required for limited or generalized purposes, of less than research intensity. It includes a wide range of basic monographs both current and retrospective, complete collections of the works of more important writers, selections from the works of secondary writers, a selection of representative journals, and the print and electronic reference tools and fundamental bibliographical apparatus pertaining to the subject.
- C2 Initial study level.** A collection which is adequate to support undergraduate courses. It includes a judicious selection from currently published basic monographs (as represented by Choice selections) supported by seminal retrospective monographs (as represented by Books for College Libraries); a broad selection of works or more important writers; a selection of the major review journals; and current editions of the most significant print and electronic reference tools and bibliographies pertaining to the subject. Not adequate to support master’s degree programs.
- D Basic level.** A highly selective collection which serves to introduce and define the subject and indicates the variety of information available elsewhere. It includes major dictionaries and encyclopedias, selected editions of important works, historical surveys, important bibliographies, a few major periodicals in the field, and a limited collection of basic electronic resources.
- E Minimal level.** A subject area in which few selections are made beyond very basic works.
- NC Not Collected.** A subject area in which no selections are made, i.e. out of scope.

* The collecting levels and codes assigned to each LC Class are derived from the WLN Conspectus.

