



M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies

Program Policies and General Information

ADHERENCE TO PA PROGRAM POLICIES

Yeshiva University's PA program policies apply to all students, principal faculty and program director regardless of location. In the event a clinical affiliate's policies supersede PA program policies, the signed clinical affiliation agreement or memorandum of understanding will specify that stipulation

HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION RECORDS POLICY

Healthcare workers are at risk for exposure to serious, and at times deadly, diseases. As such, immunizations are an important part of PA student requirements, to protect the health of the patient and to maintain personal wellness. PA students must complete a series of immunizations that is based on current Centers for Disease Control recommendations for health professionals. Yeshiva University PA program immunization policy also complies with NYS immunization laws for healthcare workers. CDC recommendations, with a link to NYS immunization laws, can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>.

Yeshiva University will require the following proof of immunizations from PA students:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella: MMR titers once upon PA program entry
- Varicella: Varicella titer once upon PA program entry
- TB: IGRA QuantiFERON or TB skin test (TST) annually
- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis: Tdap vaccination within 10 years
- Meningococcal vaccination: one dose recommended
- Hepatitis B: Complete vaccination series followed by Hep B Surface Antibody serum study 2 months after final dose
- Influenza: vaccination annually

Students must comply with policies and regulations in the healthcare agencies in which they are assigned for supervised clinical practice experiences. In clinical year, students must comply with agency policy. Failure to provide immunization records as directed may result in blocked registration, enrollment/matriculation and financial aid.

EXPOSURE TO INFECTIOUS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS POLICY

PA students must complete a mandatory online OSHA approved training program that addresses infectious and environmental hazards by September 1 of each year in the PA program. This course must include the following required topics:

- Introduction to OSHA
- Emergency Action Plans and Fire Protection
- Avoiding electrocution hazards
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Hazard communication
- Bloodborne pathogens
- Ergonomics
- Ergonomics Safe Patient Handling
- Preventing Workplace violence
- Biological Agents and Infection Control

An example of a ten-hour, OSHA approved, \$25.00 course for general course for healthcare providers in which students may enroll can be found at:

<http://www.careersafeonline.com/courses/healthcare-industry>.

Students must submit a course certificate of completion no later than September 1. Failure to submit a certificate of completion from an OSHA approved training program will preclude participation in an educational activity that places students at risk of exposure to infectious and environmental hazards.

Exposure to body fluid and bloodborne pathogens: It is possible for students to be exposed to hazardous substances, including body fluids and bloodborne pathogens, in the course of clinical work. If such exposure occurs, students should immediately undertake the following steps:

- Remove soiled clothing
- Wash exposed skin thoroughly
- If eyes were exposed, remove contact lenses and flush eyes for 15 minutes
- Notify your clinical preceptor immediately
- Obtain name and medical record number of patient, if known
- Immediately seek care at the appropriate clinical department. During regular business hours, this site is probably the Employee Health Service. After regular business hours, or on weekends, it is probably the Emergency Department. You will be offered testing for HIV and hepatitis C and may be offered post-exposure prophylaxis depending on the nature of the exposure and the serostatus of the patient. Updated guidelines on post-exposure prophylaxis are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5011a1.html>.

Reporting incidents/exposures: After seeking care for any exposures or other incidents in which the student is involved while on clinical rotation, the student must immediately inform the Program Director and/or Clinical Education Director of the event. The student should obtain copies of all relevant paperwork regarding the exposure and all treatment offered and/or administered to the student and send them to the Director of Clinical Education.

Financial responsibility post exposure: All Yeshiva University PA Students are required to purchase health insurance. Students may purchase health insurance through the University's partner, Gallagher Student Health or their own private insurance company. Students with medical insurance purchased through Yeshiva University's partner, Gallagher Student Health and/or private insurance may be subject to out-of-pocket expenses for fluid exposure incidents in school-related activities in a clinical setting. Students are responsible for contacting their insurance carrier for coverage details.

PA STUDENT HEALTHCARE PROVIDER POLICY

The PA program director, medical director and principal faculty must and shall not participate as health care providers for enrolled PA students, except in the case of an emergency.

PA PROGRAM CLINICAL SITE PROCUREMENT POLICY

It is the responsibility of the University and PA program to identify, recruit, and evaluate clinical sites and preceptors collaborating with the Yeshiva University PA program. The PA program will ensure that each site has an executed clinical affiliation agreement between the site and the university and that clinical preceptors have current valid licensure prior to assigning students for clinical experiences. Documentation is completed regarding all clinical sites and preceptors to prove and support their viability and validity.

Students are not required to identify, find or suggest sites or preceptors to the PA program. In the event a student wishes to suggest a clinical site or preceptor, the student must make an appointment to meet with the Program Director. The suggestion will then be evaluated and investigated by PA program faculty.

PA STUDENT EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

PA students are not permitted to work for the PA program in any capacity while enrolled in the program.

PA students must and shall not substitute for or function as instructional faculty. Students shall not be the primary instructor or instructor of record for any component of the curriculum. Students with specific prior knowledge, experiences and skills may assist faculty in didactic laboratory sessions to share their knowledge and skills.

PA students must and shall not substitute for clinical or administrative staff during supervised clinical practice experiences.

Due to the rigorous and demanding nature of the PA program, PA students are strongly discouraged from seeking or maintaining employment during their tenure in the program. Employed PA students are required to report their employment status and job/title responsibilities to the PA Program Director. Failure to disclose employment is a breach of professionalism.

PA STUDENT IDENTIFICATION POLICY

Yeshiva University (YU) PA students must prominently wear and display their YU PA Student identification badges in the clinical setting. If a PA student is incorrectly addressed as “doctor” or otherwise, the PA student must correct the error and clearly identify herself/himself as a PA student. Failure to clearly identify as a PA student is misleading and misrepresentation and is therefore a violation of the Yeshiva University code of ethics and PA program standards of professionalism. A violation of the code of ethics and standards of professionalism is grounds for dismissal from the Yeshiva University PA program

FINANCIAL STANDING AND TUITION INFORMATION

PA students must remain in good financial standing with the University in order to remain in good standing in the PA program.

The Office of Student Finance maintains current tuition and fees and refund policies/procedures for all graduate programs: <https://www.yu.edu/osf/tuition-fees/graduate>.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES INFORMATION

The PA program curriculum is an extremely rigorous course of study. The demands on the PA student are tremendous. During the curriculum, students may find themselves in need of psychological counseling. Students in need of personal counseling, psychological services or psychiatric care are advised to contact the YU counseling center. Students are counseled free of charge in a confidential setting. Offices are located on the Beren and Wilf campuses and operate during business hours. Students may make appointments or walk-in for urgent visits. After hours, students may call 1-888-NYC-WELL or text WELL to 61573 to speak with a counselor. PA students with emergencies are advised to call 911 or the Hatzalah ambulance service. For more information, please find the link to the website for the YU Counseling Center: <https://www.yu.edu/student-life/counseling>.

A3.11 The program must define, publish and make readily available to faculty and students policies and procedures for processing student grievances and allegations of harassment. The policies below may be found at: <https://www.yu.edu/hr/Equity-Compliance-TitleIX>.

PA PROGRAM DIDACTIC YEAR COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

To complete the didactic year, the student must complete the following:

- Complete all didactic year courses with a minimum course grade of C
- Earn a cumulative semester GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Obtain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the end of the academic/didactic year
- Pass Summative Didactic Year Examination
- Settle all financial obligations to the University
- Complete all health forms required by the PA program and the University Health Service

- Adhere to policies of the PA program
 - Maintain and demonstrate adherence to the Yeshiva University code of ethics and PA program standards of professionalism
-

PA PROGRAM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To graduate from Yeshiva University's PA Program, the student must satisfactorily complete the following:

- Complete all PA program courses with a minimum course grade of C
- Earn a cumulative semester GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 upon completion of all PA program curricular coursework
- Demonstrate all PA profession competencies as noted in the student handbooks and course syllabi
- Adhere to policies of the PA program
- Maintain and demonstrate adherence to the Yeshiva University code of ethics and PA program standards of professionalism
- Settle all financial obligations to the University
- Complete all health forms required by the PA program and the University Health Service
- Pass each component of the three-part PA program Summative Evaluation: a group OSCE, written/multiple choice curriculum summative examination, and individual OSCE
- Complete the Capstone Project
- Complete an exit interview

Last Updated: April 2021