

Penn College Physician Assistant Major

Progression Through the Professional Phase

Students must complete all didactic course work (junior year) with a grade of 'C' or better in order to progress to the clinical internships (senior year). Because of the integrated nature of the curriculum, all Professional Phase course work must be completed in sequence. A deficient student who is unable to progress with his/her class may be permitted to re-enter the following class year on a space available basis.

A deficient student will fit into one of the following categories:

A. Fifth Semester Failure (Fall semester of didactic year)

Any student that receives a failing final grade in a fall semester course (fifth semester) will be dismissed from the major and can only be re-admitted through the admission screening process. Students in this situation will be required to repeat the failed fall semester course as a condition of re-admission. In addition, students will be required to repeat or audit all fall courses and/or other Pre-Physician Assistant courses that are beneficial in creating or maintaining a strong clinical knowledge base, as determined by program faculty and staff.

B. Sixth or Seventh Semester Failure (Spring or Summer semester of didactic year)

A student who receives a letter grade of F in **one** course during the Sixth or Seventh semester of the major will be considered for deceleration. Deceleration consists of withdrawal from the Program until the next semester that the course is offered. A student in this situation may be considered for re-entry under the following guidelines:

- i. Request re-entry, in writing, within three weeks of final notification of failure.
- ii. Granting of re-entry is based on space availability.
- iii. Enroll in and pass the previously failed course and courses with a B grade or higher.
- iv. Agree to a Physician Assistant re-entry/remediation plan.
- v. Repeat or audit courses that are essential for maintaining a strong clinical knowledge base as decided by faculty and staff.
- vi. Document current CPR certification, health insurance and malpractice insurance, and complete an updated Health Questionnaire (medical and dental exams) at the point of re-entry.
- vii. Demonstrate competency at 90% level for physical examination and clinical procedure skills. The specific physical exam components and procedures will be determined and evaluated by the PA program faculty/staff. Students will be advised of expectations in advance of evaluation.

The re-entry process is initiated on a space available basis only. (In order for a PA student to re-enter the Professional Phase of the program, a seat must be available at the beginning of the semester in which the deficient student needs to repeat course work.) The number of students in a given class year will not exceed the maximum limit designated through the accreditation process. A student may use the re-entry process **one time only**.

Should more than one former Professional Phase student seek re-entry for a single available class space, re-entry will be granted to the student attaining the higher grade-point average (GPA) in Professional Phase course work. If the GPAs of the competing candidates are equal, re-entry will be granted to the student attaining the higher GPA in both professional **and** pre-professional phase course work.

Should an insufficient number of seats or no seats become available in a given class year, re-entry will not be approved. Students affected in this situation must re-apply to the program through the admission screening process.

Failure to successfully complete all of the above requirements will result in termination from the program.

Accruing two or more final course grades of 'F' (in the same or different courses) during the Professional Phase of the PA major (HTH and PHA courses) will result in termination from the program (consideration for extenuating circumstances may be evaluated on a case by case basis).

For re-entry and re-admission purposes, all HTH and PHA designated courses **must** be completed at Penn College.

Students granted re-entry must return within the following academic year. A student granted re-entry who does not enroll in this designated time frame, will be terminated from the program.

C. **Clinical Year Failure**

If a student receives a failing grade in a clinical internship:

- i. The student must repeat the failed internship and must pass an end of rotation exam for that repeat rotation. The student should note that this will delay completion of the major, and may result in a delay in graduation and may result in a delay in eligibility for the National Certification Exam.
- ii. If the student fails two clinical internships (either same or different), he/she will be terminated from the program.
- iii. Clinical Directors have the authority to schedule repeated internships according to the timelines and availabilities of clinical sites.

Students who are unable to complete a clinical internship due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., accident, serious illness), will be required to complete the entire rotation at the end of the scheduled clinical year. The student should note that this will delay completion of the program, may result in a delay in graduation, and may result in a delay in eligibility for the National Certification Exam.

Withdrawals

Students that withdraw after being admitted to the Professional Phase of the Physician Assistant Program will not be permitted to continue in the program with their class. Students that withdraw may be permitted to re-enter the program on a space available basis. The guidelines for re-entry, [as outlined in the College Catalog](#), will be enforced for any withdrawal.