

## UTRGV Bridge Program

The Bridge Program is designed to offer previous graduates of bachelor's physician assistant programs the opportunity to obtain a professional Master's in Physician Assistant Studies. The goal of this option is to provide an opportunity for practicing Physician Assistants to increase and enhance their medical knowledge and clinical skills.

### Bridge Program Courses

#### **PHAS 7415 Bridge Clinical Track I**

**(0-0-4)**

This is an advanced clinical course designed to augment and update the existing clinical skills and knowledge of the primary care Physician Assistant. Learning objectives will focus on increasing the core competencies for the PA profession with focus on the medical knowledge competency in the area of medical concentration track the student has chosen.

*Prerequisites: Acceptance to Bridge program.*

*Note: Only Bridge program students are eligible for this course.*

#### **PHAS 7416 Bridge Clinical Track II**

**(0-0-4)**

This is an advanced clinical course designed to augment and update the existing clinical skills and knowledge of the primary care Physician Assistant. Upon completing this course, students will be able to understand and clinically apply the core competencies of interpersonal and communication skill as well as patient care in the area of medical concentration track the student has chosen. Evaluation of advanced case studies and discussions highlight this area of concentration.

*Prerequisites: Acceptance to Bridge program.*

*Note: Only Bridge program students are eligible for this course.*

#### **PHAS 7417 Bridge Clinical Track III**

**(0-0-4)**

This is an advanced clinical course designed to augment and update the existing clinical skills and knowledge of the primary care Physician Assistant. Upon completing this course, students will be able to understand and clinically apply practice base and system base practice competencies in the area of medical concentration track the student has chosen. Evaluation of "best practice" case studies and discussions highlight this area of concentration.

*Prerequisites: Acceptance to Bridge program.*

*Note: Only Bridge program students are eligible for this course.*

#### **PHAS 7418 Bridge Research Experience (0-0-4)**

This course acquaints the student with the philosophy and principles of the research process with emphasis on scientific methods of inquiry. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate current literature from the medical journals in light of research design and data collection. This course introduces students to the concepts of evidence-based medicine and medical research design, while stressing the examination of evidence from clinical research as a basis for clinical

decision-making. Physician Assistant students learn how to construct well-built clinical questions based on patient problems and to perform medical literature searching strategies that yield optimal results. Students research and prepare a written paper on a topic of relevance to clinical medicine using the principles of evidence-based medicine. Students utilize data gathered during their Bridge Clinical Tracks I, II and III (PHAS 7415, 7417 and 7418) to plan, formulate, write and report their findings.

*Prerequisites: Acceptance to Bridge program.*

*Note: Only Bridge program students are eligible for this course.*

<b>Total of 16 SCH will be credited</b>
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