



Policy: MMC PA Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences Policy	Applicability: PA Sciences Program Students
Policy Owner: PA Sciences Program	Approved By: Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research
Effective Date: January 1, 2021	Last Reviewed: August 05, 2024
Next Review: August 05, 2025	Contact: (615)321-2933

PURPOSE:

To provide Meharry Medical College Physician Assistant Program (MMC PA) students with the MMC PA Program Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs) Policy.

POLICY:

The MMC PA Program coordinates all clinical rotation sites and preceptors for all required clinical rotations. Prospective or enrolled students are not required to provide or solicit clinical sites or preceptors (A3.03). Clinical rotation sites and/or preceptors may be suggested by students. In order for the student recommended clinical rotation site or preceptor rotation to be approved, the preceptor must agree to take a minimum number of students as determined by the MMC PA Program. The student may make the initial contact with the prospective preceptor or clinical site. The program will evaluate the request and make a final determination. Student who recruit new SCPE sites are not guaranteed placement at that site. All SCPE placements are determined by the clinical team under the direction of the Clinical Education Director. All Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE) must undergo a thorough vetting and affiliation agreement process to be a new site or retained as a site.

A signed clinical affiliation agreement or memorandum of understanding may specify that certain program policies will be superseded by those at the clinical site (A3.01).

DEFINITIONS:

Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPE): Supervised student encounters with patients that include comprehensive patient assessment and involvement in patient care decision making and which result in a detailed plan for patient management.

PROCEDURE:

1. Preceptor application is reviewed and evaluated in regard to the MMC PA Program's current SCPE needs. The preceptor's credentials are verified through the preceptor's State Medical Board, State Board of Osteopathic Examiners, the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), or the State Board of Nursing.
2. All SCPEs must occur with (B3.05, B3.06a-c):



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- *Physicians who are specialty board certified in their area of instruction,
- NCCPA certified PAs, or
- Other licensed health care providers qualified in their area of instruction.

*Preceptors who are not currently board certified must be evaluated and determined by the program faculty to be appropriate for their specified area of instruction.

3. SCPEs must occur in the following setting(B3.04a-d):

- Emergency department
- Inpatient
- Outpatient, and
- Operating room

4. The preceptor will be emailed the preceptor handbook and syllabi for the clinical course in their area of instruction.

5. MMC PA Program Affiliation Agreement template will be sent to the site/facility for signature through the MMC PA tracking system.

6. The site and preceptor will have separate affiliation agreements unless they are the same legal entity. The site and preceptor must return the signed MMC affiliation agreement template or forward their affiliation agreement template for the MMC Office of Legal Counsel to review. The affiliation agreement must be fully executed and in current standing in advance of student placement.