

# Common Course Outline

PAST 226

**Ethics, Trends and Professional Issues**

**3 Credits**

## The Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

**PAST 226 – Ethics, Trends and Professional Issues** examines the history of the Physician Assistant (PA) profession, professional practice issues and organizations, medical ethics, legal issues facing PAs, public policy issues, and cultural diversity. Students learn and apply ethical principles to ethical dilemmas to facilitate ethical decision-making strategies, and they learn and apply legal and medical ethics to informed decision-making for patients.

**3 Credits:** 8 hours lecture per week; 5-week course

**Prerequisites:** Admission to Physician Assistant Program

### Overall Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. explain the origin of the PA profession and the growth of the profession over its history;
2. examine the emergence of the PA profession as a highly-satisfying career in medicine;
3. evaluate current trends in PA education and PA practice both in the United States and internationally;
4. apply PA laws, regulations and policies as related to PA licensure, credentialing and practice;
5. discuss the concept of the PA-physician team and the role of the PA in that team structure;
6. describe the tenets of professionalism as they apply to the medicine and PA practice;
7. evaluate health care policy and regulatory issues that directly influence PA training and practice;
8. interpret quality assurance and risk management as they pertain to the PA practice of medicine as a member of the physician-PA team;
9. differentiate amongst constitutional law, legislative law, judiciary law and administrative law with respect to the practice of medicine;
10. explain the importance of PA professional organizations and other healthcare organizations in safeguarding the interests of the healthcare consumer and professional practice of PAs;

11. describe the importance of medical ethics in clinical practice;
12. apply the principles of medical ethics to ethical decision-making;
13. apply medical ethics and decision-making approaches to contemporary ethical dilemmas;
14. explain the concepts of clinician-patient privilege, patient confidentiality and patient consent;
15. describe the composition of a hospital ethics committee and its utilization; and
16. demonstrate the importance of cultural diversity and sensitivity in the practice of medicine.

**Major Topics:**

- I. History and development of the PA profession
- II. PA education and trends
- III. Credentialing
  - A. Accreditation
  - B. Certification
  - C. Licensing
  - D. Privileging
- IV. The political process
- V. Medical ethics
- VI. Contemporary ethical dilemmas
- VII. End-of-life issues and dilemmas
- VIII. Healthcare ethics committees
- IX. Development of law
- X. Introduction to medical law
  - A. Tort law
  - B. Malfeasance
  - C. Misfeasance
  - D. Nonfeasance
- XI. Government, ethics and the law
- XII. Organizational ethics and the law
- XIII. Physician and PA ethical and legal issues
- XIV. Professionalism and clinical ethics
- XV. Patient rights, responsibilities, consent and abuse
- XVI. Cultural diversity

**Course Requirements:**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. Mandatory attendance and participation in the classroom;

2. Minimum of 2 written exams;
3. Minimum of 2 written assignments; and
4. Minimum of 1 cultural diversity project.

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

**Other Course Information:**

This course is a required core physician assistant course whose successful completion is required to progress through the designed curriculum sequence.

Methods of instruction include lecture and provocative class discussions on controversial topics.

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