

# Common Course Outline

PAST 237

## Advanced Physical Diagnosis

2 Credits

### The Community College of Baltimore County

#### Description

**PAST 237 – Advanced Physical Diagnosis** advances the diagnostic process focusing on specific systems' examination techniques and special populations, including obtaining, recording and presenting patient histories and physical examinations. This course advances interpersonal communication skills, presents a system-by-system approach to performing the physical exam with problem-focused symptomatology, and emphasizes physically-evident pathophysiology. Students are expected to serve as surrogate patients for other classmates in addition to practicing physical diagnostic techniques on their classmates in a supervised laboratory setting.

**2 Credits:** 2 hours lecture per week; 3 hours lab per week

**Prerequisites:** PAST 224; PAST 225; PAST 236

#### Overall Course Objectives:

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

1. conduct patient-specific interviews;
2. conduct problem-focused patient-specific interviews;
3. demonstrate sound communication skills, both oral and written;
4. demonstrate proficiency in performance of the complete physical examination;
5. identify and explain the significance of common abnormal physical findings;
6. perform problem-specific examinations;
7. perform specialized examinations for specific patient populations (e.g. newborn, pediatric, prenatal, aging adult, etc.);
8. perform specialized maneuvers and techniques to assess patient complaints;
9. educate the patient regarding self-examination for screening of breast and testicular masses;
10. accurately and appropriately document subjective and objective data in the patient record;  
and
11. record and present problem-focused patient histories, physicals, assessments and plans.

## **Major Topics:**

- I. Problem-focused diagnostic process
  - A. Data collection
  - B. Date recording
  - C. Assessment and plan
- II. Advanced medical interviewing
- III. Special considerations when conducting an interview
- IV. Clinician-patient relationships
  - A. Cultural competence
  - B. Confidentiality (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)
  - C. Development of clinician interview style
- V. Special considerations and techniques for physical assessment of the:
  - A. integument
  - B. head & neck
  - C. thorax & lungs
  - D. cardiovascular system
  - E. abdomen
  - F. musculoskeletal system
  - G. neurologic system
  - H. female reproductive tract
  - I. male reproductive tract
  - J. rectum (male & female)
- VI. Specialty Population Examinations
  - A. Newborn
  - B. Pediatric
  - C. Pre-natal/pregnant female
  - D. Aging Adult
- VII. Instructing patients in self-examination techniques

## **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. Mandatory attendance and participation in the laboratory;
3. Minimum of 5 written quizzes;
4. Minimum of 5 practical assessments;

5. Minimum of 1 written examination; and
6. Standardized patient examination.

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 demonstration, use of surrogate patients (students) for obtaining histories and performing physical examinations, videos of physical examinations and special maneuvers/techniques, role playing, fabricated model use, and formally-trained standardized patient examinations that are video-recorded for instructor review.

The standardized patient examination may be performed at a contracted, off-campus facility. Some surrogate history and physical examinations may occur at off-campus or other CCBC facilities.

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