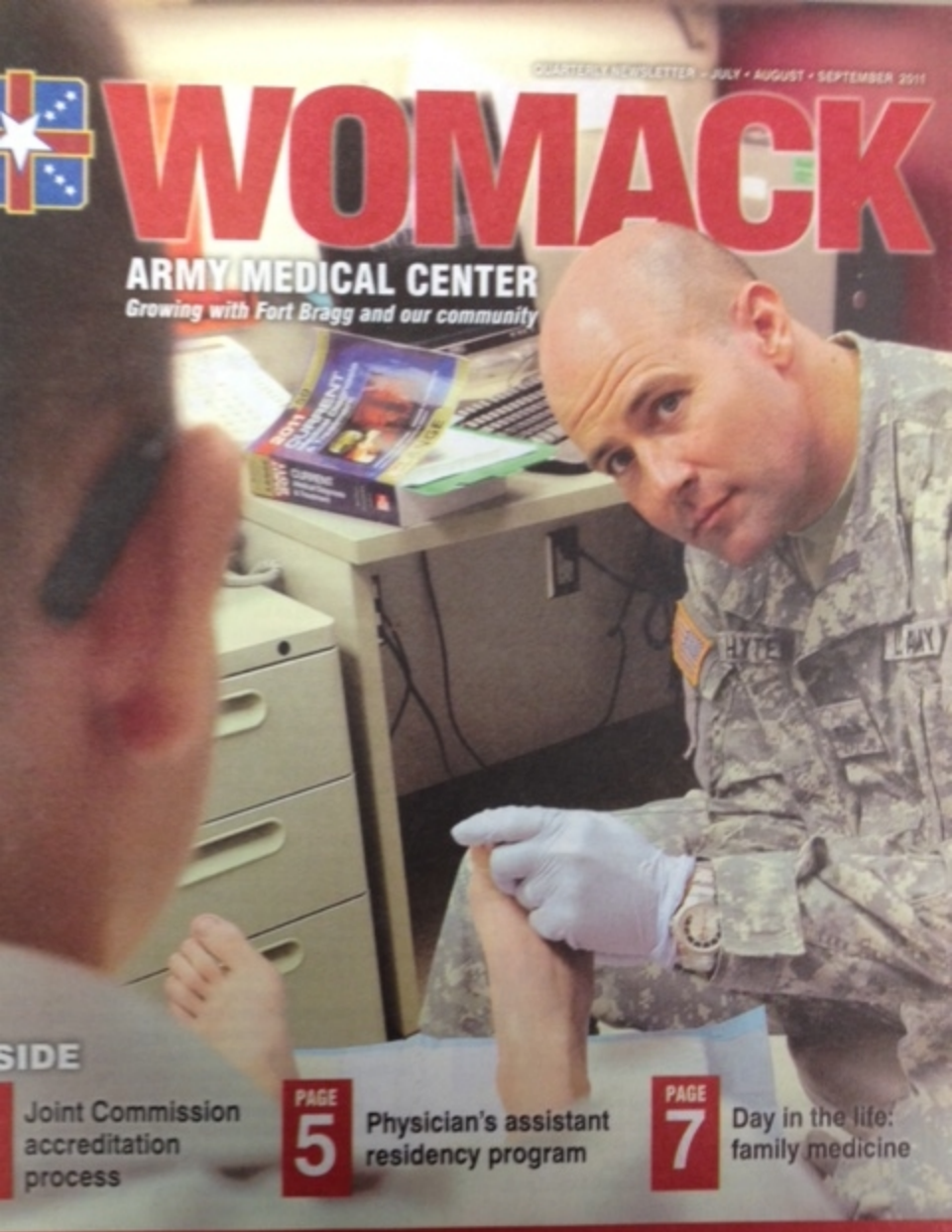
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2011

WOMACK

ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

Growing with Fort Bragg and our community



SIDE

Joint Commission accreditation process

PAGE 5 Physician's assistant residency program

PAGE 7 Day in the life: family medicine

Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP)

The Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) includes students from the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Coast Guard. The IPAP curriculum consists of two phases. Phase 1 is the didactic phase at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Phase 2 is in a clinical setting in one of the military medical centers across the country, which includes Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg. In Phase 2 the students put into practice what they learned in the classroom during Phase 1 while they rotate through different specialty and subspecialty clinics. They are precepted and mentored by physicians and physician assistants who are subject matter experts in their field.

PHOTO BY CINDY BURNHAM

Dr. Asim Raja, right, views x-rays with CWO William Kilgore, a resident in the Interservice Physician Program.

The students are a combination of officers, warrant officers and officer candidates (non-commissioned officers.) They rotate through the following clinics: general surgery, orthopedics, podiatry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral health, ENT (ear, nose and throat), allergy, dermatology, ophthalmology, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, family medicine, radiology and emergency medicine. The Internal Medicine and Long Term Care rotations are done through the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Fayetteville.

The students have two additional elective rotations, of which cardiology and operational medicine (working with a practicing physician assistant on Fort Bragg) are the most popular. The Phase 2 students are required to perform at least 160 additional emergency medicine hours outside of their specific emergency medicine rotation, perform at least 120 procedures and complete at least 1,200 patient encounters.

Additionally, the students have a four-component directed study course. The first component is a master's level paper presentation where they discuss their thesis that they completed during Phase 1. The second is a professional topic of benefit for the physician assistant profession. The third is a medical topic of personal interest to the student. The fourth component is a culmination of their professional attributes based on their performance throughout Phase 2. Upon successful completion of Phase 2, they all receive a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

Additionally, the officer candidates and warrant officers are commissioned as first lieutenants. Once UNMC and the IPAP confirm their completion, they are able to take the PANCE (Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam), a computer-based, multiple-choice test administered by the NCCPA (National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants). They must pass this difficult exam in order to practice as a certified physician assistant not only in the military but in a civilian setting as well.

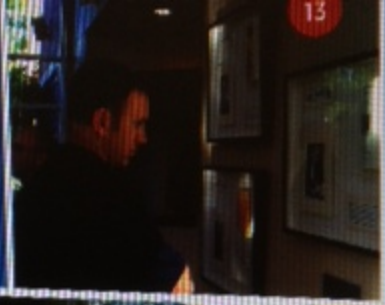
There are currently 19 students in the Phase 2 program at Womack Army Medical Center. Fourteen are currently rotating through various clinics; five recently graduated and the newly commissioned officers are awaiting their attendance to the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sam Houston prior to going to their first duty stations as PAs.

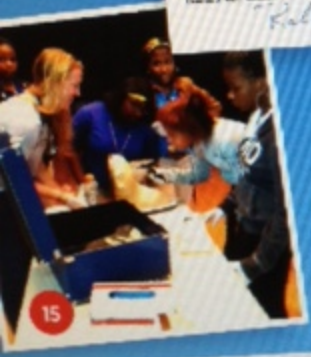
"Our students are highly qualified to treat our patients because of their well- rounded education and experience," said MAJ (Dr.) Amelia Duran-Stanton, the IPAP clinical coordinator at WAMC. "We hope to incorporate everything they learn into delivering the best patient care. They are also required to maintain a higher standard of conduct and professionalism during their program because not only are they students, they are also in the military during their matriculation."

The IPAP is currently ranked 13th nationally according to the 2011 U.S. News and World Report. Womack Army Medical Center, along with Phase 1 and other Phase 2 sites, have a goal to become ranked on the top five in the near future by developing students to become future leaders and confident physician assistants.

"We train them to represent the professions of arms, medicine and teaching, and to provide the highest quality of health care while in a quality learning and teaching environment," said COL (Dr.) Frank Christopher, Deputy Commander for Clinical Services, Womack Army Medical Center.

The Womack Army Medical Center IPAP Phase 2 website can be accessed through www.wamc.amedd.army.mil/dme/GME/IPAP. For more information on becoming an Army PA, this link has up-to-date information on how to reach this goal: www.usarec.army.mil/armypa/.





12 A few of the many PA Week and PA Day proclamations signed by elected officials.

13 A Womack Army Medical Center Interservice Physician Assistant Program student reads about the founder of the PA profession during a PA Week trip to the Eugene A. Stead Jr. Center for Physician Assistants in Durham, N.C.

14 University of Michigan Health System PAs Jason Grove and David Vera help renovate a house for Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley.

15 A South University Savannah PA Program student talks about the PA profession with Beach High School students.

16 Congresswoman Karen Bass, PA, on the House floor recognizing PA Week on Oct. 12. See the video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGRcVG3706Y.

17 San Joaquin Valley College PA program student Daniel Vallenagas, right, receives a PA Day proclamation from Stuart Anderson, who was representing California Assemblywoman Connie Conway.

PA Day 2011

Our annual PA Day Celebration was held on October 5, 2011 as part of National PA Week. Alumni, students, staff, and faculty joined together for the Hall of Fame induction and reception. Among the speakers were E. Harvey Estes, Jr., MD, one of the founders of the PA profession, and Susan Blackwell, MHS, PA-C ('89), Alumni Steering Committee Chair. Michael G. Phillips, BHS, PA-C, DFAAPA ('73) and James H. Carter, Jr., MHS, PA-C ('86) were inducted into the Hall of Fame. We were honored to have special guests MAJ Amelia Duran-Stanton, PhD, DScPA, PA-C and four PA students from Womack Army Medical Center.

MAJ Amelia Duran-Stanton, PhD, DScPA, PA-C

FORT BRAGG CELEBRATES

NATIONAL PA WEEK

National PA Week is celebrated every year from October 6-12. It is a time to support, celebrate and recognize PAs, and increase public awareness of the PA profession.

Scheduled events:

- Wednesday, October 5th 1000-1200 PA Week kickoff
  The Stead Center, 1121 Slater Rd Durham, NC

- Thursday, October 6th 1100-1300 Potluck hosted by Methodist University
  5107 College Center Dr (Medical Science Complex), spouses welcome!

- Tuesday, October 11th 1100-1300 Fort Bragg PA luncheon w/ guest speakers
  Reserved area of WAMC dining facility, spouses welcome!

- Wednesday, October 12th 0630-0800 "Bring your PA to breakfast"
  WAMC dining facility

Each day, more than 75,000 certified physician assistants are providing patients like you with the medical care they need, when they need it. PAs help you get better when you are sick, and are committed to helping you thrive. PAs are always willing to discuss ways you and your family can prevent chronic disease and maintain a healthy lifestyle. No matter where they practice, PAs are an essential part of the health care team.

For more information, go to **www.aapa.org/paweek/**

An IPAP Bench from MILITARY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS at the Stead Center in Durham, NC

Surprisingly, not many people outside of the military community know of the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP). In order to inform the Stead Center visitors about the IPAP and military PAs, we would like to contribute an IPAP bench… but we need your help.

The bench is $2000 and we appreciate any contribution you can make to reach our goal to present the bench during PA Week 2012 (Oct 6-12).

A plaque with the IPAP information will be affixed to the bench to leave a long lasting contribution to the Stead Center.

Thank you for your support.

Click the link below to make a direct contribution through the NCAPA for the IPAP Bench

https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/shopping/shopping.aspx?site=ncapa&prd_key=dff6b39d-6e45-4dba-ac19-25ddaee0b16f

POC: OC Christopher Mueller PA-S
IPAP Class 2-10
christopher.m.mueller@us.army.mil

Volume 2, Issue 1

NOV/DEC 2011—JAN 2012

Newsletter of the IPAP Phase 2 WAMC site (Fort Bragg, NC)

America's Finest

Current student writer/editor: OC Mueller

IPAP Class 1-10 Graduation

Points of Interest

- Class 1-10 Graduation
- "One-On-One" preceptor interview
- "Just for Fun" - Shooting
- Christmas Party
- (NOV/DEC/JAN)Birthdays:
  - -15 NOV OC Witte
  - -11 JAN 1LT Davis
  - -19 JAN MAJ Duran-Stanton

Inside this issue:

"One-on-One"	3
Just for Fun	4
Christmas Party	4
Upcoming Events	5
Students and Preceptors	5

Fort Bragg, North Carolina

The Interservice Physician Assistant Program at Womack Army Medical Center (WAMC—IPAP) Class 1-10 graduation was conducted on the 6th of January 2012 at McKellar's Lodge, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. There were six graduates who received a Master's in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. There were also three graduates who were commissioned to the rank of First Lieutenant during the ceremony. The graduates and their first assignments as PAs are:

CPT August Seeber – Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
CPT Brian Smedick – Fort Bragg, North Carolina
CPT Christopher Smith – Fort Bragg, North Carolina
1LT Marshall Healy – Bamberg, Germany
1LT William Kilgore – Fort Wainwright, Alaska
1LT Luar Sandoval – Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

The graduation was attended by COL Brian Canfield (WAMC Commander), CSM Jeffery Miller (WAMC Command Sergeant Major) and Dr. Y. Sammy Choi (IPAP WAMC Medical Director),

Continued on Page2

IPAP 1-10 Cake

WAMC IPAP Class 1-10 Graduates

COL Canfield congratulating the new graduates

as well as many honored guests within the chain of command. COL Canfield congratulated the graduates and emphasized the vital role of their family members who supported them during their two-year training program.

The guest speaker was Dr. Candice Castro, MD, IPAP Phase 1 surgical instructor, who talked about how elemental physician assistants were to her throughout her military career and that she truly enjoys teaching the next generation of PAs.

The preceptor of the year award was given to Mr. Joseph Cohen OPA-C, the orthopedics preceptor. He was presented with commemorative bow tie that he is accustomed to wearing. The rotation of the year was awarded to the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation (DOR) which was accepted by Dr. (LTC) Haley, the chief of DOR . Class 1-10 also initiated a Resident of the Year award with the inaugural award going to Dr. Evan Trivette, MD. He was much honored to have earned this award and stated that he enjoyed teaching the PA students as well as learn from them too.

The reception was also conducted at McKellers Lodge where the new graduates spent more time with their families and friends to celebrate the occasion.

Dr. Castro, guest speaker, is presented a unique gift by the graduates

Mr. Cohen is presented with a commemorative tie

LTC Haley accepts the “Rotation of the Year” award

Dr Choi, the WAMC IPAP medical director and the Class of 1-10 graduates

1LT Kilgore

1LT Sandoval

CPT Seeber

1LT Healy

CPT Smith

CPT Smedick

"One-on-One"

with Dr. (CPT) Erin L. Spillane, Dermatology Rotation
Interview by OC Grambusch, Class 3-10

Keys to success during the Dermatology rotation:
"Much of dermatology is seeing!"

Dr. Spillane can be reached at (910) 907-6455 or erin.spillane@us.army.mil

How long have you been a MD?
4 years

Where did you earn your MD degree?
University of Maryland

What was your dermatology residency like?
To the untrained eye, one would assume that a residency in dermatology would not be as difficult as most others due to the clinic hours. However, the hours accumulate in every residency regardless of the time you spend in clinic. For every hour less spent in clinic; studying the plethora of dermatological conditions demanded that time back in the form of reading. "The hours go into residency one way or another." "I also made some great, lifelong friends during my residency."

Any words of wisdom for a new PA?
"Much of dermatology is seeing." Learning the small variations of each disorder further enhances your ability to detect dermatological disease in the future. Your time spent here will also afford you the opportunity to see rare cases with assistance nearby, so that in the future, you will be fully capable of evaluating and treating yourself or you will know when it is best to refer.

What do you like about your job?
"The variety." "Dermatology is not for an adrenaline junkie by any means, but I find the subject very intellectually stimulating with a comfortable level of stress."

What do you feel about the PA profession?
"Physician assistants are invaluable at the unit level." Nowhere within our healthcare system is there such a close relationship between a provider and a soldier. The same holds true in the civilian sector. A PA takes the healthcare out to the patient, where it is most needed. A skilled PA also knows when it is time refer to higher care and how best to articulate the needs of the patient; and will also efficiently get that patient to where they need to be.

What is rewarding about being a PA preceptor?
"I love to teach, especially a subject that I enjoy so much." I also enjoy giving those willing to learn the tools they need to be great clinicians in the future. This opportunity has also given me great insight into just what our PAs are capable of.

Do you feel our dermatology rotation is meeting expectations to produce competent PAs?
"Every preceptor feels that a student rotating through their clinic is not given enough time to fully ingest the subject completely. However, a month is enough time to gain a healthy working knowledge of dermatological conditions and treatments."

What are the keys to success in the dermatology rotation?
"Prepare to learn." A key take-a-way is being able to fully describe a dermatological condition verbally or in writing to such a degree, that we know the exact disorder and treatment without needing to see your patient with our own eyes. This will suit you well in the future when you are forward deployed with your units and you find yourself in need of a dermatologist's advice.

What do you recommend they should have for equipment?
Our clinic has everything you will need to succeed during your rotation. We each have our own office reference material, but if you would like to bring your own to better familiarize yourself with your required text, feel free. Print or create your own quick reference sheet for the variety of steroids you will be expected to know and use. This will be useful during your rotation and beyond.

What do the students need to know prior to coming to the dermatology rotation?
Before arrival to the dermatology clinic at WAMC, be familiar with identifying and treating the most common disorders you will see here. While not an all-inclusive list, some examples are the various types of eczema, acne, steroids, tinea, pseudofolliculitis barbae, impetigo and you *MUST* arrive with a basic understanding of how to differentiate melanoma from non-melanoma.

Closing comments
For those of you who have worked with us here at the WAMC dermatology clinic, we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. For those of you who have not yet joined us, we look forward to working with you in the future!

CPT Spillane, thank you for your continued support of IPAP and the physician assistant profession!

"Just For Fun"

We had another 5th Wednesday event this quarter and this time we did something that we were familiar with; we went to Guns Plus and were able to share weapons and "blow off" some steam and put "rounds downrange" at their indoor shooting range.

OC Brandon Penebacker did an outstanding job organizing and planning the event. Unfortunately we were unable to have any fellow PA students from the surround programs come and join us, but it was great bonding experience for all, especially for 1LT Davis who unloaded with the "boom stick."

The next 5th Wednesday event is still pending, but it should be an exciting one since it will fall on the leap year: February 29th, 2012.

IPAP Christmas Party

We had our first IPAP Christmas Party and farewell to our Class 1-10 graduates. We were able to congratulate them on their well traveled road to graduation. We had a great turn out where the students and their families were able to spend time with each other in a relaxed atmosphere. It was a great time to bond in the Christmas spirit. All was not happy though, when chef OC Mueller got a little too close to the BBQ grill and singed his arm though. Luckily he was in the company of well trained health care providers.

America's Finest

Womack Army Medical Center
MCXC-GME-IPAP
Building 4-2817 Reilly Road Stop A
Fort Bragg, NC 28310

Phone: (910) 907-8269
E-mail: IPAP.WAMC@amedd.army.mil

UPCOMING EVENTS:

13-16 JAN—Training Holiday, MLK Birthday
25 JAN—Journal Club, Endocrine
01 FEB—Witte Medical Presentation
14 FEB—Valentines Day
15 FEB—ER Grand Rounds, Weaver Auditorium, WAMC
29 FEB—5th Wednesday, TBD
14 MAR—Brown Bag Lecture, Classroom, MEDOPs
17 MAR—St. Patrick's Day
21 MAR—ER Grand Rounds, Weaver Auditorium, WAMC
04 APR—Brown Bag Lecture, Dr. Yates, COPD

Serving America's Finest

We are on the web:

http://www.wamc.amedd.army.mil/dme/GME/ipap/Pages/default.aspx

DID YOU KNOW?
SENIOR PA Basic Skills Renewal Pilot Course

Two PAs have been selected to attend the Senior Physician Assistant Basic Skills Renewal Pilot Course here at Womack Army Medical Center, MAJ Winnie Paul and CPT Jessica Larson. We are working with MAJ Oliver at Phase 1 in ensuring the success of future attendees. The Phase 2 Clinical Coordinators have been instrumental in providing feedback in how to implement the curriculum. The preceptors have been receptive in allowing our PAs rotate through their clinics and we really appreciate it. The PAs will also be instrumental in improving our Phase 2 curriculum. Congratulations!

Phase 2 Students

These are our current students:

Class 02-10

OC Andrew Allman

LT Steven Davis

OC Christopher Mueller

OC Brandon Penebacker—*Class Leader*

Class 03-10

OC Jason Adams

OC Donald Grambusch—*Class Leader*

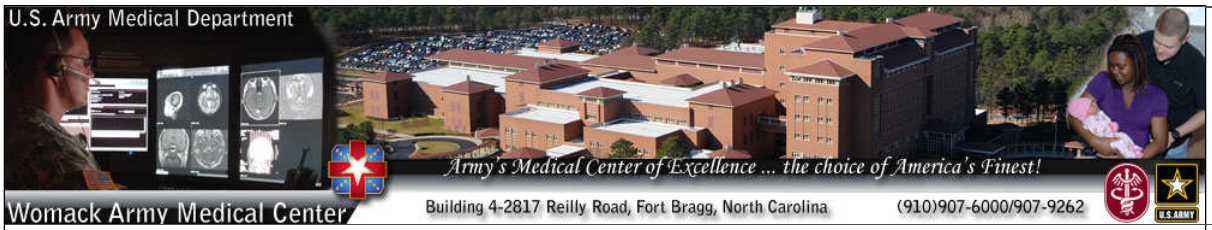
LT Garrett Latham

OC Stephen Witte

Class 01-11 (arrive MAY 2012)
TBD

Phase 2 Preceptors

Allergy– Dr. (MAJ) Jacob Turnquist
Anesthesia-LTC Anthony Peverini, CRNA
Cardiology—Dr. (MAJ) John Thomas
Dermatology– Dr. (CPT) Erin Spillane
EDC– Mr. Robert Oyler, PA-C
Emergency Medicine—Dr. Paul Kleinschmidt
ENT—Dr. (MAJ) Matthew Grafenberg
FM– Dr. Jennifer Yates
GI—Dr. (COL) Joseph Perry
Internal Medicine—Dr. Neelima Kamineni
Long Term Care—Dr. Kimberly Baptiste
Neuro—Dr. (MAJ) Steven Lewis
OB/GYN—CPT Jennifer Byer, PA-C
OMFS– Dr.(COL) Jeffery Almony
Ophthalmology—Dr. (COL) Robert Carroll
Orthopaedics– Mr. Joseph Cohen, PA-C
Pediatrics– Dr. (CPT) Nichelle Maraventano
Podiatry—Dr. Asim Raja
Pulmonology—Dr. (LTC) Carol Young
Behavioral Health—Dr. (MAJ) Al Tsai
Radiology— Dr. (MAJ) Daniel Martin
General Surgery– Dr. (LTC) Peter Deveaux
Urology—Dr. (MAJ) William Kizer



Interservice Physician Assistant Program Mission: To provide the uniformed services with highly competent, compassionate physician assistants who m integrity, strive for leadership excellence, and are committed to lifelong learning.

Interservice Physician Assistant Program Vision: To be recognized as the world-class leader in Physician Assistant education.

WAMC IPAP Orientation Manual Updated 01 February 2012

The WAMC IPAP Phase 2 Curriculum:
Phase 2 training lasts approximately 53 weeks. During that time, students rotate through a variety of clinics in order to gain clinical knowledge and experience. These include (but are not limited to) :

COURSE	ROTATION	Weeks
IPAP 700	Surgery	5
IPAP 701	Dermatology	4
IPAP 702	Obstetrics/Gynecology	4
IPAP 703	Orthopaedics/Podiatry	5/1
IPAP 704	Psychiatry (Behavioral Health)	3
IPAP 705	Internal Medicine/Neurology	6
IPAP 706	Otolaryngology (ENT/Allergy)	4
IPAP 707	Pediatrics	5
IPAP 708	Ophthalmology	2
IPAP 709	Emergency Medicine	2
IPAP 710	Family Practice/Long Term Care	4/1
IPAP 711	Clinical Elective of Choice	2
	Mandatory Elective (Radiology)	1
IPAP 712	Directed Study 1. Master Paper (Phase 1 Grade) 2. Professional Topic Presentation 3. Medical Topic Presentation 4. Master Oral Presentation 5. Professional Attributes	Integrated
Logs	Performed Procedures	≥ 120
	ER Hours (evening/weekend)	≥ 160 hours
	Patients Encounters	≥ 1200

Starting May 2012, the length will increase to 55 weeks which will include a three-week orientation, one week for outprocessing, and four weeks of leave for each student (two weeks during the holidays and two additional weeks as requested by the student).

MASTER'S PAPER and PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Each student is required to present their master's thesis prior to graduation. They will be mentored by a subject-matter-expert based on their thesis topic. The mentor will also be available when the student presents their thesis. The purpose of this activity is to identify a research question that the student can further develop by investigating current and relevant literature. By using evidence-based medicine, the student will be able to apply and share what they learned whic improves their written and verbal communication skills. This project allows the student to collaborate with a mentor and share their knowledge to leaders and peers. They will also enhance their critical thinking skills based on their presentation to a panel of experts which will further broaden their ability to communica their chosen topic.

EVALUATIONS
Student evaluations are based on the PA competencies (http://www.arc-pa.org/documents/CompetenciesFINAL.pdf)