

MEDICAL SCIENCE, DMSC

The Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) program at The College of St. Scholastica is designed for physician associates/assistants (PAs) who are ready to expand their impact beyond clinical care and into the future of healthcare leadership, education, and policy. More than just a degree, this program provides a systems-level perspective on healthcare, empowering PAs to influence the trajectory of the profession and the broader healthcare landscape.

Launching in Spring 2026, the DMSc program challenges students to think beyond individual patient encounters and instead address the root causes of systemic issues. Whether navigating policy reform, enhancing education for the next generation of PAs, or leading interdisciplinary healthcare teams, graduates will be equipped to drive meaningful transformation in a rapidly evolving healthcare system.

What Makes This Program Stand Out?

- **A Curriculum Built for Impact** – Most DMSc programs deepen clinical expertise; ours goes further—focusing on leadership, policy, and innovation to shape healthcare from within.
- **Three Specialized Tracks** – Choose from Leadership, Education, or Clinical Practice to customize your learning experience based on your career aspirations.
- **Interdisciplinary Training for a Changing Workforce** – Collaborative learning with healthcare leaders, educators, and policymakers mirrors real-world decision-making environments.
- **Capstone with Real-World Application** – More than just a research project, students develop and implement actionable solutions to pressing healthcare challenges in leadership, education, or clinical practice.
- **Designed for Working PAs** – The flexible, primarily online format allows students to earn their doctorate while advancing their careers.

In a time of growing primary care shortages, evolving healthcare policies, and increased demand for PA leadership, this program prepares graduates to not only adapt to change but actively shape the future of medicine.

Who Should Apply?

This program is designed for PAs who are ready to take the next step in their careers—whether leading a healthcare system, developing transformative medical education programs, or implementing policy changes that enhance access and equity in care.

As the PA profession grows and evolves, those with the skills to lead will define its future. This is more than a doctoral program - this is an opportunity to influence the direction of healthcare.

Join the inaugural DMSc cohort and position yourself as a leader in the next era of medicine.

Contact Information

DMSc@css.edu

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes for the DMSc program include the following:

1. Demonstrate the ability to use scholarly research methods to identify and solve problems in professional environments.

2. Analyze the impact of theory on leadership, including ethical considerations in decision-making and problem-solving.
3. Apply critical thinking and expand knowledge and skills to evaluate problems and create plans for professional improvement.
4. Compile and write organized, well-referenced essays and research papers.
5. Enhance understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusiveness in healthcare and professional settings through written work

Requirements

Students must achieve the following program requirements for all courses listed under Program Requirements and Program Required Courses for the Medical Science, DMSc.

Program Requirements

Major Credits: 36

Minimum GPA: 3.0

Program Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Healthcare Systems and Innovation: U.S. and Global Perspectives)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Epidemiology and Population Health)	3
DMS 8210	Evidence-Based Medicine and Scholarly Writing in Healthcare	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Quality Improvement in Healthcare)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Equity and Social Justice in Action)	3
Select a Track		12
Students must also choose one 12 credit track as shown under the Leadership, Education, and Clinical tracks shown below.		
Capstone		
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Capstone I)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Capstone II)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Capstone III)	3
Total Credits		36

Leadership Track

Code	Title	Credits
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Healthcare Leadership, Change Management & Organizational Development)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Policy & Economics in the Healthcare System)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Ethical & Legal Considerations in Health Administration)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Healthcare Delivery Systems)	3
Total Credits		12

Education Track

Code	Title	Credits
Students in the Doctor of Medical Science program are responsible for securing their own clinical practicum or internship site.		
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Curriculum Design & Delivery)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Educational Technology & Simulation)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Adult Learner)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Assessment & Evaluation Methods)	3
Total Credits		12

Clinical Track

Code	Title	Credits
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Clinical Practicum I)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Clinical Practicum II)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Clinical Practicum III)	3
DMS 8777	Topics in Medical Science (Clinical Practicum IV)	3
Total Credits		12

Degree Requirements

To graduate from The College of St. Scholastica, graduate students must meet the following minimum degree requirements.

Minimum GPA: 3.0