APPLICATION & ADMISSION GUIDE  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT  
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-5254  
Website: www.wmich.edu/hhs/pa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Program:</th>
<th>24 months</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Size:</td>
<td>36-40 Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting Date:</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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The graduate professional program consists of 95 semester hours taken in a prescribed sequence over a continuous 24-month period. The first year consists of 48 hours of primarily classroom education, while the second year consists of 47 hours of primarily clinical placement education. Each student must complete all medical science (MDSC) course offerings and satisfy the department's professional standards criteria to meet graduation requirements.

MISSION STATEMENT
The Department is dedicated to educating competent, caring Physician Assistants to practice primary care medicine with supervision of a physician, and to providing Physician Assistants to serve in all areas of society.

APPLICATION & ADMISSIONS

The Physician Assistant program requires submission of an application to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA).

Deadline - December 1 (all supporting documents must be submitted to CASPA by this date).

- Submit your application online at www.caspaonline.org
- CASPA starts accepting applications mid-April.
- Do NOT send transcripts or any paperwork to the department.
- After review of submitted materials, students will receive a post-card informing them of a completed application or of any deficiencies.
- Selected candidates are invited to participate in an interview session
- Candidates for admission to the program are selected from the interview pool

The admission process is competitive. The prerequisites should be considered a minimum for application. Our recently admitted students have a GPA well above the minimum and have documented hours above the minimum of 1,000. Competitive applicants will have superior oral and written communications skill and have an understanding and commitment to the Physician Assistant role and mission.
This guide was designed to assist students as they prepare to meet the minimum academic requirements for application to the Physician Assistant Department. The Physician Assistant program is a graduate curriculum that requires an undergraduate degree in addition to eight required prerequisites. The courses listed below can be taken at any accredited four-year institution. All prerequisites must be completed prior to December 31 with a grade of C or better. The bachelor’s degree must be completed prior to the fall start date.

REQUIRED CORE PREREQUISITES
(MUST BE EQUIVALENT TO WMU COURSE OPTIONS)

A minimum of 1000 hours of health care experience, which must include direct patient contact. Shadowing experiences do not count towards this requirement. Volunteer hours may be considered at half of the total amount if direct patient care is evident.

A GPA of 3.0 in the most recent 60 credit hours.

All Pre-requisite courses require a C or better

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED PREREQUISITES</th>
<th>WMU OPTIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC BACHELOR DEGREE</td>
<td>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES, NURSING (BSN), OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(A degree in health sciences is helpful but not necessary.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUMAN ANATOMY</td>
<td>BIOS 2110 Human Anatomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(A&amp;P I &amp; II are accepted for this requirement, They are not accepted for Physiology pre-requisite)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSIOLOGY (must be upper level)</td>
<td>BIOS 3500 Physiology for Majors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICROBIOLOGY</td>
<td>BIOS 2320 Microbiology, or BIOS 3120</td>
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<td>(Must have an accompanying lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOCHEMISTRY (must be upper level)</td>
<td>CHEM 3550 Introductory Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (life span)</td>
<td>OT 2250 Growth, Development and Aging (covers psychological and physiological maturation). Students may register for this course through the Department of Distance Education. Call (269) 387-4195 for further information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS</td>
<td>STAT 2600 Elementary Statistics or STAT 3660 Introduction to Statistics</td>
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*Knowledge based testing does not satisfy any of the required prerequisites, e.g., USMLE.
*All prerequisites must be stand alone courses.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What type of bachelor degree is preferred?**
   A degree in health sciences is helpful but not necessary as long as the required prerequisite courses are completed with a C or better. Consequently, an Art Major could qualify for admission as long as the required prerequisites are in place at the time of admission, and the student has an understanding and dedication to the P.A. role and mission.

2. **Are the GMAT, GRE, MCAT, etc required for application to the PA Program?**
   No

3. **What is developmental psychology (life span)?**
   Includes only developmental course(s), not general psychology; if your developmental psychology course covered from birth to death in a single course, only one course is needed. This course may also be called Human Growth and Development or Human Development.

**FINANCIAL AID** Federal, State, and Institutional Financial Aid programs based on need are available to Western Michigan University graduate students from general university sources and are administered by the Office of Student Financial Aid. Students must identify themselves as candidates for the Physician Assistant Department, The Office of Student Financial Aid, Faunce Student Services Building, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, (269) 387-6000.

**HOUSING** Information about housing can be obtained from: Off-Campus Apartments: (269) 387-2236, WMU Campus Apartments: (269) 387-2175. On-Campus Dormitories: (269) 387-4735. Website: http://www.wmich.edu/housing/

**After reviewing this guide if you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact:**

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