



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Physician Assistant

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

Length of Program:	24 months	Class Size: 40 Students
Starting Date:	Fall Semester (August)	

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) and a supplemental application with fee.

The WMU PA program has adopted a **supplemental application**. This application must be submitted and post-marked by December 1st. It is suggested that if you would like confirmation of receipt that you send your application certified mail. The supplemental application fee is \$50.00 (non-refundable) and can be paid online (**personal checks are not accepted**). Your application will not be reviewed until the supplemental application is received and your CASPA application is complete. The supplemental application can be found at <http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/pa/forms/supplemental.pdf>.

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.
 - Complete supplemental application and fee.
 - After review of submitted materials, students will receive an email informing them of a completed application or of any deficiencies. ([please put pa-info@wmich.edu into your address book/contacts to insure delivery of this email](mailto:pa-info@wmich.edu))
 - Selected candidates are invited to participate in an interview session.
 - Candidates for admission to the program are selected from the interview pool.
 - Ability to perform to the technical standards.
- The admission process is *competitive*. The prerequisites should be considered a *minimum* for application. Our recently 2018 admitted students have an average overall GPA of 3.73, last 60 credit hour GPA of 3.78 and a science GPA of 3.65. These are all well above the minimum GPA of 3.00. Documented clinical hours are just under 5,000.
- Competitive applicants will have superior oral and written communications skills, able to perform to the technical standards (<http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/pa/forms/technicalstandards.pdf>), 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 six required prerequisites. The courses listed below can be taken at any accredited United States institution. Typically, upper level courses (i.e., 300 or 3000+) courses are only offered at four-year institutions and not community colleges. 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.

Final appropriateness of prerequisite courses will be determined by the PA program.

If a student repeats a prerequisite course the latest grade for that course will be considered.

International Applicants:

Minimum English proficiency test scores:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): 80 iBT graduate level (WMU Institutional Code: 1902)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS): 6.5 graduate level
- Pearson Test of English, Academic Module (PTE): 54 graduate level
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB): 77 graduate level

All international applicants must have their degree evaluated by [Educational Credential Evaluators](#) (ECE) or [World Education Services](#) (WES). If ECE or WES determine that your degree is equivalent to a bachelor's degree it will fulfill our requirements. If you are uncertain about your degree evaluation (i.e., first professional degree), further clarification will be required, please submit your WES or ECE to pa-info@wmich.edu.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

- **A minimum of 1000 hours of health care experience, which must be direct patient (hands on) 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 3.00 in the most recent 60 credit hours.**
- **All pre-requisite courses require a grade of C or better**

Required Prerequisites	WMU Options
<p>ACADEMIC BACHELOR'S DEGREE A degree in health science is helpful but not required</p>	Biomedical Sciences, Nursing (BSN), Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, Occupational Therapy
<p>HUMAN ANATOMY Anatomy and Physiology, I & II are accepted for this requirement</p>	BIOS 2110
<p>HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY (must be upper level) (A&P I & II are not accepted for the Physiology Requirement) A broad based upper level (300 or 3000+) physiology course. Typical prerequisites include a general biology course and MULTIPLE chemistry courses. Narrow based physiology courses such as exercise physiology, plant physiology, neurophysiology and pathophysiology will not fulfill this prerequisite.</p>	BIOS 3500 Physiology for Majors
<p>MICROBIOLOGY (Must have an accompanying lab and can be completed at any level)</p>	BIOS 2320 or BIOS 3120 Microbiology

<p>BIOCHEMISTRY (must be upper level) A broad based upper level (300 or 3000+) biochemistry course. Typical prerequisites include both a general chemistry course and at least one semester of organic chemistry.</p>	CHEM 3550 Introductory Biochemistry
<p>DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY Normal Development across the lifespan, covering birth to death. Introductory psychology courses do not meet this requirement.</p>	HSV 2250 Growth, Development and Aging
<p>INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS Must contain descriptive analysis and inferential methods. Most introductory statistics course meet this requirement.</p>	STAT 2600 Elementary Statistics STAT 3660 Introduction to Statistics

*Knowledge based testing does not satisfy any of the required prerequisites, e.g., USMLE.

*Advance Placement (AP) credit is not accepted for this prerequisite

*All prerequisites must be standalone courses except for a combined human anatomy and physiology course which will satisfy the anatomy prerequisite requirement.

*Typically, upper level (300 or 3000+) are offered at four-year colleges or universities and not community colleges

*There is no time frame on how current the prerequisites need to be. Students, however, need to be proficient in the material.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What type of bachelor's degree is preferred?

A degree in health sciences is helpful but not necessary if the required prerequisite courses are completed with a C or better. Consequently, an Art Major could qualify for admission if the required prerequisites are in place at the time of admission, and the student has an understanding and dedication to the PA 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.

4. What prerequisite courses need to be upper level (300 or 3000)?

Human physiology (no combined anatomy and physiology courses) and biochemistry need to be 300 or 3000 level above. Typically, these courses are provided at four-year institutions and not community colleges. All other prerequisite course can be completed at a four-year institution, a community college, or an online course.

5. I am a foreign medical graduate. Will my degree count towards the academic requirement for admission to the PA program?

If ECE or WES determine that your degree is equivalent to a bachelor's degree it will fulfill our requirements. If you are uncertain about your degree evaluation (i.e., it is a first professional degree), further clarification will be required. Please submit your WES or ECE to pa-info@wmich.edu for review.

6. I have a high GPA in my prerequisites and undergrad course work. Am I a competitive applicant?

The entire application process is competitive and is cohort dependent. The minimum GPA of 3.00 in each section is just that - a minimum.

7. What kind of patient care experience are you looking for in an applicant?

Direct patient care is best. The higher the level of responsibility the better the experience, but we do consider all forms of patient care. 1,000 direct patient care hours are needed prior to the application being reviewed. Additional hours can be submitted after the CASPA application has been submitted until December 31 of the same year.

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 us at pa-info@wmich.edu.](mailto:pa-info@wmich.edu)