



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Physician Assistant

**APPLICATION & ADMISSION GUIDE
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**

KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-5254

Website: www.wmich.edu/pa

Email – pa-info@wmich.edu

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

The graduate professional program consists of 95 credit hours taken in a prescribed sequence over a continuous 24-month period. The first year consists of 48 credit hours of primarily classroom education, while the second year consists of 47 credit 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 and 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 fee to WMU. The supplemental 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 fee is received (link in CASPA) and your CASPA application is complete and verified.

Deadline - December 1 (all supporting documents must be submitted to CASPA by this date and supplemental fee must be paid to WMU).

- **Submit your application online at www.caspaonline.org**
 - CASPA starts accepting applications late- April.
 - Pay supplemental fee online to WMU.
 - 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)
 - 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 2020 admitted students have an average overall GPA of 3.44, last 60 credit hour GPA of 3.60 and a science GPA of 3.27. 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* 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.

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
<p>ACADEMIC BACHELOR'S DEGREE A degree in health science is helpful but not required</p>
<p>HUMAN ANATOMY One full semester of stand-alone anatomy or two semesters of Anatomy and Physiology I & II are accepted for this requirement</p>
<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 upper level human physiology will have prerequisites including 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>
<p>MICROBIOLOGY – 4 credit hours (Must have an accompanying lab and can be completed at any level)</p>
<p>BIOCHEMISTRY (must be upper level) A broad based upper level (300 or 3000+) biochemistry course. Typical upper level biochemistry will have prerequisites including both a general chemistry course and at least one semester of organic chemistry.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY Normal Development across the lifespan, covering birth to death. Introductory psychology or abnormal psychology courses do not meet this requirement.</p>
<p>INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS Must contain descriptive analysis and inferential methods. Most introductory statistics courses meet this requirement.</p>

- *Knowledge based testing does not satisfy any of the required prerequisites, e.g., USMLE.
- *Advance Placement (AP) credit is not accepted for any of the required prerequisites
- *All prerequisites must be stand-alone courses except for a combined human anatomy and physiology I & II 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 do need to be proficient in the material.

If you still need to take prerequisite courses and have already earned a bachelor's degree, please apply as a graduate non-degree student to WMU. Visit <https://wmich.edu/apply/graduate/nondegree> to begin the application. If you have not used this application system previously, please click the Sign Up button on the bottom right. If you have previously used this application system, please enter your username and password and click Sign In.

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.

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

If ECE or WES determines that your degree is equivalent to an academic 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 complete the application process through CASPA and pay the supplemental fee. Your application can then be verified for degree requirements.

4. 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.

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

Direct patient care is required. 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 1 of the same year. Updates can be sent to pa-info@wmich.edu.

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)

Monthly Informational sessions are offered, prospective students are encourage to attend to have their questions answered and gain additional information on the program.

Dates and times are located on our website at www.wmich.edu/pa.