

Master of Physician Assistant

The graduate program in physician assistant studies, located in the Department of Physician Assistant at Wichita State University, is the only one of its kind in Kansas. The Program prepares one to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed physician. The functions of a physician assistant include performing diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive and health maintenance services in any setting in which the physician renders care, in order to allow more effective and focused application of the physician's particular knowledge and skills.

The WSU Department of Physician Assistant, accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on the Education of Physician Assistants (ARC-PA), offers a 26-month (full-time, lock-step) graduate course of study which leads to a professional Master Degree in Physician Assistant Studies. The course of study is divided into two parts: a 42 semester hour didactic phase, a 36 semester hour clinical/research phase and a 6 hour clinical preceptorship. One class is admitted each summer.

Professional Curriculum

The professional curriculum is divided into two phases: a didactic phase and a clinical/research phase. Each phase lasts 12-14 months. The didactic year includes graduate coursework in the basic sciences (anatomy, pharmacology, pathophysiology), clinical medicine, research methods and statistics, epidemiology, behavioral medicine, ethics, preventive medicine and community health, social and legal issues, and clinical skills.

The clinical/research year is a series of clinical rotations in variety of medical settings primarily in Kansas and directed studies in research leading to the completion of a final research project. Students are required to complete rotation experiences in family practice, general internal medicine, pediatrics, prenatal care and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry and behavioral medicine, and geriatrics. Students complete nine rotations of 4-8 weeks each (approximately 50 total weeks). All students are required to complete a minimum of three rotations outside the city of Wichita with at least three rotations in a rural or urban underserved community. Students are expected to pay for transportation to clinical sites and in some situations, room and board.

Minimum Requirements for Application

A. A bachelor degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university will be required prior to matriculation with additional prerequisite coursework below if not included in the bachelor degree. Coursework more than 10 years old will be subject to departmental review and in some cases applicants may be required to repeat certain courses. Acceptance of foreign bachelor degrees will be

decided on an individual basis and after evaluation by a transcript evaluation service.

Chem 211 General Chemistry I (5 hours)*

Chem 212 Gen & Inorganic Chemistry (5 hours)*

** or the first 2 chemistry courses accepted for chemistry majors*

Biol 210 General Biology (4 hours) *or zoology, botany, or cellular*

Biol 220 Microbiology with Lab (4 hours)

Biol 223 Anatomy and Physiology with Lab (5 hours) or
HS 290 Foundational Human Anatomy and Physiology (5 hours)

Stat 370 Elementary Statistics (3 hours) *or equivalent or higher level statistics*

HS 400 Pathophysiology (4 hours) *or additional upper-division human physiology (beyond introductory physiology)*

HP 203 or 303 Medical Terminology (1-3 hours)

B. Preferably candidates should have bachelor degree and all prerequisite coursework completed at the time of application. Those that do not can apply if outstanding coursework is within two semesters of completion (outstanding coursework can ONLY include FOUR prerequisite science courses). The bachelor degree and prerequisite coursework in progress must be completed before starting the program. Successful completion of degree and coursework must be verified if accepted and before acceptance is finalized.

C. GPA requirements (on a 4.0 scale) apply to both the degree and prerequisite coursework: 3.00.

D. Demonstrated commitment to diversity, leadership, and service.

E. Completion of on-site interview with program faculty, which will include (but not limited to) an assessment of academic potential, motivation and commitment to the PA profession, and interpersonal and communication skills. Not all applicants will be offered an interview.

F. Health care experience (direct patient care) is strongly preferred, but not required.

G. To be considered for the PA program the following 3 steps must be completed:

Step 1: Primary CASPA (National) Application including all transcripts and letters of recommendation (deadline October 1);

Step 2: Supplemental Application – if the program determines that the applicant meets minimum admission requirements (after review of CASPA application), a supplemental application is mailed to the applicant, to be returned within two weeks after receipt; and

(continued)

Step 3: University Graduate School Application including official transcripts from all institutions attended (deadline October 15.)

The ability to meet the Academic and Technical Standards for Physician Assistant Students is required (contact the program for more information).

Application to the program is competitive, which means there are more applications than positions offered each year. Refer to the department's website for complete information.

Financial Assistance

Many of the MPA students seek the assistance of WSU's Office of Financial Aid in applying for loans and grants available for graduate students. In addition, the College of Health Professions awards several fellowships each academic year, and the Department of Physician Assistant has five fellowships available to MPA students once enrolled in the program.

Degree Requirements

1st Summer Semester

PA 789 Clinical Anatomy (5)

Fall Semester

PA 700 Physician Assistant Theory I (3)

PA 725 Physician Assistant Theory II (3)

PA 715 Physician Assistant Practice (3)

PA 720 Pathophysiologic Assmnt I (3)

PA 726 Physician Assistant Research Methods (3)

HS 710 Applied Clinical Pharmacology (3)

Spring Semester

PA 722 Pathophysiologic Assmnt II (3)

PA 723 Pathophysiologic Assmnt III (5)

PA 733 Pathophysiologic Assmnt IV (5)

PA 736 Applied Clinical Practice (3)

HS 711 Pharmacologic Management of Acute and Chronic Diseases (3)

2nd Summer semester

PA 525 Special Topics – ACLS (1)

PA 896 Directed Study in Research I (2)

PA 810 Advanced Clinical Management Rotation I (3)

Fall semester

PA 812 Advanced Clinical Management Rotation II (3)

PA 814 Advanced Clinical Management Rotation III (3)

PA 818 Advanced Clinical Management Rotation IV (3)

PA 832 Clinical Assessment Seminar (3)

PA 897 Directed Study in Research II (2)

Spring semester

PA 819 Advanced Clinical Management Rotation V (3)

PA 822 Advanced Clinical Management Rotation VI (3)

PA 825 Advanced Clinical Management Rotation VII (3)

PA 826 Advanced Clinical Management Rotation Elective (3)

PA 898 Directed Study in Research III (2)

3rd Summer semester

PA 899 Clinical Preceptorship (6)

Core Faculty

Marlyse Anderson, MPAS, PA-C, Director of Clinical Education, BS in Psychology from University of Kansas and Master of Physician Assistant from Wichita State University

Gina Brown, MPAS, PA-C, Assistant Professor. BS in Physician Assistant from Wichita State University and Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska

Patricia Bunton, MS, PA-C, Academic Coordinator and Instructor. BHS in Physician Assistant from Wichita State University and MS in Adult Education from Kansas State University

LaDonna Hale, PharmD, Professor and Assistant Program Director. PharmD from the University of Kansas

Kayla Keuter, MPH, PA-C, Assistant Professor, BHS in Physician Assistant from Wichita State University and MPH from the University of Kansas

Richard Muma, PhD, MPH, PA-C, Professor. BS in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Texas-Galveston, MPH from the University of Texas-Houston and PhD from University of Missouri-St. Louis

Sue Nyberg, MHS, PA-C, Associate Professor, Program Director, and Department Chair. BHS in Physician Assistant from Wichita State University and Master of Health Science from Wichita State University

Darron Smith, PhD, PA-C, Assistant Professor, BSH in Behavioral Science and Health, M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration and PhD in Sociology from University of Utah

Lucas Williams, MPA, PA-C, Instructor. BA in Chemistry from Wichita State University and Master of Physician Assistant from Wichita State University

For More Information

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Apply On-Line

<http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=apply&p=/OnlineApplicationGateway>