Master of Physician Assistant

The graduate program in physician assistant studies, located in the department of physician assistant within the College of Health Professions at Wichita State University, is the only one of its kind in Kansas. The program prepares graduates to practice medicine with the collaboration of a licensed physician. The functions of a PA include performing diagnostic, therapeutic, preventative 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 of Physician Assistant degree. The 93-credit-hour program is equally divided into two parts: a didactic phase and a clinical/research phase. 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 phase includes graduate coursework in the basic sciences (anatomy, pharmacology), clinical medicine, research methods, epidemiology, behavioral medicine, preventive medicine, professional issues, interprofessional skills, and clinical skills.

During the clinical/research phase of the program students complete 8 clinical rotations. Focus areas include: family medicine and primary care, pediatrics, women’s health, emergency medicine and acute care, general surgery, behavioral health and geriatrics. The WSU PA program enjoys the support of preceptors throughout Kansas. In keeping with the broad range of clinical activities, students have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of clinical rotation sites including at least three rural rotations. All students will be assigned to clinical rotations outside of urban areas, and should therefore expect to spend several months in rural areas of Kansas. Students are expected to pay for transportation, room and board when traveling to clinical rotation sites.

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. Core science prerequisite coursework should have been completed within the past 10 years. Acceptance of foreign Bachelor’s degrees is decided on an individual basis and after evaluation by a transcript evaluation service.

Core Science Prerequisites:
• Chemistry (minimum 12 semester hours with lab) Recommended sequence – chemistry I, chemistry II, biochemistry
• Biology including microbiology (minimum 9 hours with lab). Recommended sequence biology I, biology II, microbiology
• Human anatomy and human physiology with lab (minimum 5 hours)

Other prerequisites:
• Statistics (minimum 3 hours)
• Medical terminology
• General psychology (minimum 3 hours) or higher level psychology

B. Ideally, candidates should have bachelor degree and all prerequisite coursework completed at the time of application. Those who have not completed all coursework can apply if outstanding coursework is within two semesters of completion, however all core science prerequisites must be completed at the time of application and only graded components will be counted toward prerequisite coursework. (Other prerequisites can
be outstanding at the time of application.) Also, at the time the submission of the CASPA application is made, applicants whose native (first) language is not English must submit their TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE-Academic score. If no TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE-Academic score is received by November 1st of the application cycle, the applicant will not be considered for admission. The bachelor’s 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. All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a C- grade or higher.

C. GPA requirements (on a 4.0 scale) apply to both the degree and core science prerequisites: 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 (must be complete and verified by October 1st);

Step 2: Supplemental Application – if the program determines that the applicant meets minimum admission requirements (after review of CASPA application), a supplemental application is emailed to the applicant, to be returned by the assigned deadline; and

Step 3: University Graduate School Application including transcripts from all institutions attended (deadline November 1).

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 six fellowships available to MPA students once enrolled in the program.

For More Information
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Wichita, KS 67260-0043
Phone: (316) 978-3011

E-Mail: physician.assistant@wichita.edu
Web Site: www.wichita.edu/pa

WSU Graduate School Application: www.wichita.edu/apply