

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCES IN THE FIELD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

The physician assistant program culminating in a master of science in health sciences prepares graduates to demonstrate clinical excellence; embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion; advocate for their patients; lead and advance the profession; and serve their communities. The full-time, 24-month program is divided into academic and clinical phases. The academic, or didactic phase, of the program is 12 months in duration and consists of four components: basic sciences, behavioral sciences, clinical medicine, and pre-clinical skills. The academic phase also includes standardized patient experiences designed to enhance the student's familiarity with the clinical environment. The 12-month clinical phase consists of a series of rotations in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings. Students participate in the care of patients under the supervision of a licensed healthcare provider. Required experiences include inpatient medicine, surgery, family medicine, pediatrics, women's health, emergency medicine, behavioral medicine, and elective rotations.

The School of Medicine and Health Science and the Milken Institute School of Public Health together offer a joint master of health sciences in the field of physician assistant and a master of public health degree program (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/medicine-health-sciences/graduate-programs/dual-pa-mp-h/>). The program requires one additional year of academic coursework specific to public health.

Visit the program website (<https://physicianassistant.smhs.gwu.edu/>) for additional program information. The program has a linkage agreement with the University's post-baccalaureate pre-medicine program (<https://postbacpremed.smhs.gwu.edu/>).

## ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall – October 1

The Physician Assistant Program uses the online application system CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants). Please go to the CASPA Web site (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>) to begin the application process.

The application and all supporting documentation (fees, statement of purpose, resume, letters of recommendation, professional licenses, transcripts) must be verified by CASPA by the deadline in order for the application to be reviewed.

In addition to the CASPA application, all applicants must submit a GW Supplemental Application (<https://gw.force.com>) to the Health Sciences Office of Admissions.

Recommendations (3) recommendations must be submitted with required: your CASPA application.

Prior academic records: Arrange for CASPA to receive an official transcript from every college and university (domestic and international) you attended, whether or not a degree was earned.

Official transcripts from institutions outside the U.S. must be accompanied by an official transcript evaluation from an accredited independent evaluating agency. Please be sure you request a detailed evaluation that includes all course titles, credit hours, grades, U.S. degree equivalency, grade-point averages (GPA), and date of degree conferral. Please see the list of acceptable foreign credential evaluation services (<https://www.naces.org/> members (<https://www.naces.org/members/>)).

Additional Requirements: Applicants must complete a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university prior to matriculation into the program. All applicants must have a minimum science and cumulative grade point average of 3.2. The following are 6 required prerequisite courses that must be from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning in the United States within the last 10 years from date of application submission:

- Anatomy & Physiology: one semester of Anatomy and one semester of Physiology are required. This requirement may be met by taking two semesters of a combined Anatomy & Physiology course.

- Chemistry: two semesters of Chemistry for science majors. One semester must be either Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry.

- Psychology: one semester of Psychology. Abnormal Psychology or Developmental Psychology is recommended.

- Statistics: one semester of Statistics.

All prerequisites must be completed with a grade of B- or better and must be either undergraduate or post-baccalaureate coursework. Each course must be at least three semester credit hours or 4.5 quarter credit hours. Applicants may apply to the program with no more than two outstanding prerequisites (including any in progress at the time of application), but prerequisites must be completed prior to the beginning of the program.

All applicants must be in good academic standing. 1,000 hours of direct patient care experience is required. These hours must be completed at the time the application is submitted.

Accepted applicants will be required to pay a non-refundable tuition deposit.

All prerequisite coursework must be completed at a regionally accredited US institution regardless of whether the applicant has already completed the coursework in another country. International coursework will not be acceptable for prerequisite requirements. There are no exceptions to this policy.

**International applicants:** International students should check with individual programs regarding eligibility for visa sponsorship. Generally, online and hybrid programs are not eligible for student visa sponsorship from GW. This includes transfer students from any other institution with an existing visa.

Applicants who have not completed a post-secondary degree from an institution where English is the sole language of instruction must submit TOEFL, IELTS, PTE Academic, or the Duolingo English Test scores to be considered for admission. The following are the minimum scores for admission consideration:

- Academic IELTS: An overall band score of 7.0, with no individual band score below 6.0.

- TOEFL: 600 paper-based or 100 internet-based.

- PTE: Overall score of 68

- DET: Overall score of 120

Undergraduate applicants who meet one of the following conditions can be considered for admission without submitting TOEFL, PTE or IELTS or DET scores:

Scores cannot be more than two years old. To ensure TOEFL scores are sent to GW, use institutional code 5246. An institutional code is not required to send IELTS or PTE scores to GW. DET scores must be submitted via the Duolingo English Test system directly to GW.

Based on their application and the results of the English proficiency examination students can be required to take English for Academic Purposes (EAP) during their first year of study at GW. GW evaluates each application holistically and applicants can be recommended for EAP even if they meet the requirements for exemption. Students placed in EAP courses should anticipate additional tuition expenses as well as possible extension of time needed to complete their degree programs.

#### **Supporting Documents not Submitted Online should be Mailed to:**

Office of Admissions  
Health Sciences Programs  
The George Washington University  
2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Suite 2000  
Washington, DC 20006

#### **Contact for Questions:**

paadm@gwu.edu ~ (202) 994-7644

9:00am - 5:00pm, Monday through Friday

## **REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 104 credits in required courses.

Additional requirements:

- The student must successfully complete all (academic and professionalism) MSHS physician assistant (PA) program coursework and non-coursework requirements.
- The student must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in PA program coursework throughout the program.
- The student must pass all components of the summative evaluation.
- The student must achieve a "skill demonstrated" rating for each parameter of the professionalism evaluation.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
ANAT 6215	Anatomy for Physician Assistant Students	
PA 6101	Clinical Assessment I	
PA 6102	Clinical Assessment II	
PA 6103	Clinical Assessment III	
PA 6104	Integration into Clinical Concepts I	
PA 6105	Integration into Clinical Concepts II	
PA 6106	Integration into Clinical Concepts III	
PA 6109	Foundations of Medicine	
PA 6110 or PA 6111	Evidence Based Practice for PA Students Evidence Based Practice for PA/MPH Students	
PA 6112	Clinical Medicine I	
PA 6113	Clinical Medicine II	
PA 6116	Clinical Skills I	
PA 6117	Clinical Skills II	
PA 6118	Health, Justice, and Society I	
PA 6119	Health, Justice, and Society II	
PA 6120	Human Behavior	
PA 6121	Clinical Specialties	
PA 6122	Role of the Physician Assistant in U.S. Healthcare	

PA 6259	Introduction to Clinical Education
PA 6261	Inpatient Medicine Clinical Practicum
PA 6262	Family Medicine Clinical Practicum
PA 6263	Surgical Inpatient Clinical Practicum
PA 6264	Women's Health Clinical Practicum
PA 6265	Pediatrics Clinical Practicum
PA 6266	Emergency Medicine Clinical Practicum
PA 6267	Behavioral Medicine Clinical Practicum
PA 6268	Elective Clinical Practicum
PA 6300	Introduction to Professional Practice
PHAR 6207	Pharmacology I
PHAR 6208	Pharmacology II
PHYL 6211	Physiology for Health Sciences Students

## COMBINED PROGRAM

### Combined program

- Master of Science in Health Sciences in the field of physician assistant and Master of Public Health (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/medicine-health-sciences/graduate-programs/dual-pa-mph/>)