

# 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, primary care, 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 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/medicine-health-sciences/graduate-programs/dual-pa-mp/>). The program requires one additional year of academic coursework specific to public health.

Visit the program website (<https://smhs.gwu.edu/physician-assistant/>) 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, test scores) 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: (2) recommendations must be submitted with 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>).

Statement of purpose: In an essay of 250 to 500 words, describe your reasons for undertaking study in the Health Sciences at The George Washington University. You should state your academic objectives, career plans, and related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, as well as any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application form.

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 3.0. 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 strongly recommended.

- Statistics: one semester of Statistics. Business Statistics does not fulfill this requirement and will not be accepted.

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 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. College seniors are eligible to apply provided that they will have fulfilled all the baccalaureate requirements (including degree conferment) before matriculating.

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. An additional six months of health-related experience is highly recommended.

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

International applicants only: Please review International Applicant Information (<https://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/international-student-application-requirements>) (<https://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/international-student-application-requirements/>) carefully for details on required documents and English language requirements.

Academic preparation:

- 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.

- Advanced standing or transfer of credits earned at a non-US institution will not be offered.

PLEASE NOTE that the Health Sciences programs require the following minimum English language test scores for admission:

- Academic IETLS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual band score below 6.0; or

- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 68

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

Office of Admissions  
Health Sciences Programs  
The George Washington University  
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue 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.

**Graduation Requirements for the Two-Year (MSHS) PA Program**

A candidate for the degree of MSHS in The George Washington University PA Program must meet all the following requirements:

1. The student must successfully complete all (academic and professionalism) PA Program coursework and non-coursework requirements.
2. The student must maintain and graduate with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average in PA Program coursework.
3. The student must pass all components of the summative evaluation including the summative objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs), patient encounter competencies, knowledge-based examination, and clinical and technical skills.
4. A student must achieve "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	Primary Care 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	Basic Principles of Pharmacology
PHAR 6208	Pharmacology in Disease Pathophysiology For Health Sciences Students
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 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/medicine-health-sciences/graduate-programs/dual-pa-mph/>)