

**APPLICATION & ADMISSION GUIDE
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-5254
Website: www.wmich.edu/hhs/pa**

Length of Program:	24 months	Class Size: 36-40 Students
Starting Date:	Fall	

The graduate professional program consists of 95 semester hours taken in a prescribed sequence over a continuous 24-month period. The first year consists of 48 hours of primarily classroom education, while the second year consists of 47 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 with supervision of a physician, and to providing Physician Assistants to serve in all areas of society, particularly under-served and disadvantaged communities.

APPLICATION & ADMISSIONS

The Physician Assistant program requires submission of an application to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA).

Deadline - December 1 (all supporting documents must be submitted to CASPA by this date).

- **Submit your application online at www.caspaonline.org**
- CASPA starts accepting applications mid- April.
- *Do NOT send transcripts or any paperwork* to the department.
- After review of submitted materials, students will receive a post-card informing them of a completed application or of any deficiencies.
- Selected candidates are invited to participate in an interview session
- Candidates for admission to the program are selected from the interview pool

The admission process is competitive. The prerequisites should be considered a minimum for application. Our recently admitted students have a GPA well above the minimum and have documented hours above the minimum of 1,000. Competitive applicants will have superior oral and written communications skill 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 academic requirements for application to the Physician Assistant Department. The Physician Assistant program is a graduate curriculum that requires an undergraduate degree in addition to eight required prerequisites. The courses listed below can be taken at any accredited four-year institution. 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

**REQUIRED CORE PREREQUISITES
(MUST BE EQUIVALENT TO WMU COURSE OPTIONS)**

A minimum of 1000 hours of health care experience, which must include patient contact.

A GPA of 3.0 in the most recent 60 credit hours.

All Pre-requisite courses require a C or better

REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

WMU OPTIONS

ACADEMIC BACHELOR DEGREE

(A degree in health sciences is helpful but not necessary.)

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES, NURSING (BSN), OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

HUMAN ANATOMY

(A&P I & II are accepted for this requirement, They are not **accepted** for Physiology pre-requisite)

BIOS 2110 Human Anatomy

PHYSIOLOGY (must be upper level)

BIOS 3500 Physiology for Majors

MICROBIOLOGY

(Must have an accompanying lab)

BIOS 2320 Microbiology.
or BIOS 3120

BIOCHEMISTRY (must be upper level)

CHEM 3550 Introductory Biochemistry.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (life span)

OT 2250 Growth, Development and Aging (covers psychological and physiological maturation). Students may register for this course through the Department of Distance Education. Call (269) 387-4195 for further information.

INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS

(Must contain descriptive analysis and inferential methods)

STAT 2600 Elementary Statistics_or
STAT 3660 Introduction to Statistics

*Knowledge based testing does not satisfy any of the required prerequisites, e.g., USMLE.

*All prerequisites must be stand alone courses.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What type of bachelor degree is preferred?

A degree in health sciences is helpful but not necessary as long as the required prerequisite courses are completed with a C or better. Consequently, an Art Major could qualify for admission as long as the required prerequisites are in place at the time of admission, and the student has an understanding and dedication to the P.A. role and mission.

2. Are the GMAT, GRE, MCAT, etc required for application to the PA Program?

No

3. What is developmental psychology (life span)?

Includes only developmental course(s), not general psychology; if your developmental psychology course covered from birth to death in a single course, only one course is needed. This course may also be called Human Growth and Development or Human Development.

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:

Shannon Penny, Advisor
Shannon.penny@wmich.edu
269-387-7265

Melinda Lockett, Advisor
Melinda.lockett@wmich.edu
269-387-2656

Jeanine Bartholomew, Director of Advising
Jeanine.bartholomew@wmich.edu
269-387-2656