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.

APPLICATION & ADMISSIONS

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

Beginning with the Fall 2013 admissions cycle, the WMU PA program has adopted a supplemental application. This application must be submitted and post-marked by December 1st. It is suggested that if you would like confirmation of receipt that you send your application certified mail. The supplemental application fee is $50.00 (non-refundable) and can be paid online (personal checks are not accepted). Your application will not be reviewed until the supplemental application is received and your CASPA application is complete. The supplemental application can be found at http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/pa/forms/supplemental.pdf.

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.
- Complete supplemental application and fee.
- After review of submitted materials, students will receive an email informing them of a completed application or of any deficiencies. (please put pa-info@wmich.edu into your address book/contacts to insure delivery of this email)
- Selected candidates are invited to participate in an interview session.
- Candidates for admission to the program are selected from the interview pool.
- Ability to perform to the technical standards.

The admission process is competitive. The prerequisites should be considered a minimum for application. Our recently 2015 admitted students have an average overall GPA of 3.61, last 60 credit hour GPA of 3.78 and a science GPA of 3.60, well above the minimum GPA of 3.00, and have documented clinical hours of 4,285. Competitive applicants will have superior oral and written communications skills, able to perform to the technical standards (http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/pa/forms/technicalstandards.pdf), 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 six required prerequisites. The courses listed below can be taken at any accredited United States institution. Typically upper level courses (i.e., 300 or 3000+) courses are only offered at four year institutions. 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.

Final appropriateness of prerequisite courses will be determined by the PA program.

If a student repeats a prerequisite course the latest grade for that course will be considered.

International Applicants:

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score for International applicants is 600. If your degree is considered to be a professional degree, (i.e. M.D.), from a foreign medical school by Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), or World Education Services (WES) realize that this is not an academic degree and therefore, will not be considered as an accepted degree for consideration to the PA program.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

A minimum of 1000 hours of health care experience, which must be direct patient (hands on) contact. Shadowing experiences do not count towards this requirement. Volunteer hours may be considered at half of the total amount if direct patient care is evident.

A GPA of 3.00 in the most recent 60 credit hours.

All Pre-requisite courses require a C or better

REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

ACADEMIC BACHELOR DEGREE

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

HUMAN ANATOMY

(A&P I & II are accepted for this requirement,

BIOS 2110 Human Anatomy

HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY (must be upper level)

(300 or 3000 level course)

(A&P I & II are not accepted for the Physiology requirement)

BIOS 3500 Physiology for Majors

A broad based upper level physiology course. Typical prerequisites include a general biology course and multiple chemistry courses. Narrow based physiology courses such as exercise physiology, neurophysiology and pathophysiology will not fulfill this prerequisite.

MICROBIOLOGY

(Must have an accompanying lab)

BIOS 2320 Microbiology.

or BIOS 3120

BIOCHEMISTRY (must be upper level)

(300 or 3000 level course)

CHEM 3550 Introductory Biochemistry.

A broad based upper level biochemistry course.

WMU OPTIONS

Biomedical Sciences, Interdisciplinary Health Services, Nursing (BSN), Occupational Therapy.
Typical prerequisites include both a general chemistry course and at least one semester of organic chemistry.

**DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
( must go from birth to death)  
HSV 2250 Growth, Development and Aging

**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 us at pa-info@wmich.edu.