



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

COUNSELING DIVISION

Physician assistants (PAs) are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs are qualified by graduation from an accredited physician assistant education program and certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). As members of the health care team, PAs provide a broad range of medical services that would otherwise be provided by physicians, including, but not limited to, performing physical examinations, ordering and interpreting laboratory tests, diagnosing problems and determining treatments. In many states PAs can write prescriptions. The scope of practice varies according to state laws, the medical setting and the training of the PA. Like physicians, PAs often work in specialty fields such as surgery, psychiatry, cardiology, and emergency medicine. However, largest portion of PAs work in primary care specialty such as family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. **Admission to all PA programs is highly competitive (Students should check the website of the university to view the actual GPA of students admitted, it can vary from year to year).** Application deadlines are subject to change without notice; please check the individual college's website for the most up to date information.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (12/09 ws)

The university offers a master degree program.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher are considered more competitive. Admission to the program is for the fall semester only. Applicants who submit complete applications by December 1st and complete all PA pre-requisite course work and bachelor degree requirements by June 30th will be considered for fall admission. All science pre-requisites must be completed with a minimum GPA of 2.75 and have been taken within the past 10 years. Applicants are required to take the GRE or MCAT. It is important that PA applicants be familiar with medical care environments and experience working with patients (recommended 1000 hours of hands on patient care). Community service activities/projects are required of all applicants.

Required courses: Biology 101 and 102; Chemistry 1A and 1B; Anatomy 32; Physiology 31; Microbiology 33; six units of Social Sciences (i.e. Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology etc.), six units of Humanities (i.e. Art, Music, Religion, Philosophy, etc.); Medical Terminology 1; one year of Spanish language; Math 150; six units of English Composition; Psychology 5.

*For additional admissions information please review the following website:

http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/physician_assistant/

STANFORD UNIVERSITY (04/10 ws)

The Primary Care Associate Program, cooperatively administered by the Stanford University School of Medicine and Foothill College, prepares physician assistants and family nurse practitioners to provide primary care services with physician supervision. Physician assistants (PAs) and family nurse practitioners (FNPs) improve the quality of and access to health care for medically underserved populations.

The Program's curriculum emphasizes the skills necessary to recognize and treat common primary care problems that include acute, chronic, emergent or surgical conditions in patients of all ages. Our students are trained to: evaluate the health status of patients; diagnose and treat common illnesses; manage stable chronic diseases; deliver preventive care; counsel patients about family, psychosocial, and health-related problems.

The curriculum includes lectures, seminars, laboratory groups and clinical preceptorships. Classroom and clinical learning experiences are integrated throughout the 16-month Program. Clinical placements emphasize primary care and include hospital and specialty rotations.

After completing the entire curriculum, a Certificate of Clinical Proficiency is awarded by the Stanford University School of Medicine. The Program trains all students for practice as physician assistants. In addition, registered nurses who graduate from the Program are eligible to practice as family nurse practitioners in California.

Brochures and applications may be obtained July through September by contacting the Primary Care Associate Program at: PCA Program, 1215 Welch Road, Modular G, Stanford, CA 94305-5408; telephone: 650-725-6959; web site: <http://pcap.stanford.edu> ; e-mail: pcap-information@lists.stanford.edu; fax: 650-723-9692.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY (CONTINUED)

Entrance Requirements: A minimum of 3000 hours of direct patient care experience must be completed by the application deadline of October 1st. This requirement can be met with 18 months of full time work experience or equivalent part-time hours. Both paid and volunteer hours are acceptable (i.e. Medical Assistant (back office), Military Medic or Corpsman, Nurse (LVN/RN), Paramedic/EMT, Radiology Technician, or Respiratory Therapist, Physical Therapist).

Applicants who have not received an Associates Degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution and who do not expect to receive a degree by the end of the spring term of the application year must complete coursework for the following Foothill College general education requirements: Humanities, Communication and Analytical Thinking, Multicultural Studies and Lifelong Understanding (requirements can be found in the Foothill College Catalog www.foothill.fhda.edu)

Required Courses: Anatomy 32; Physiology 31; Microbiology 33; Introductory Chemistry (one year of high school or one college course); Math 73 or 80; English 1A; Sociology 101 or Anthropology 2; Psychology 5. *Grades for Human Anatomy, Human Physiology and Microbiology must be completed within 10 years and by the application deadline. Recommended courses: Math 150; English 1B or 1C

For additional admissions information, please review the following website: <http://pcap.stanford.edu>

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS (04/10 ws)

The university offers a certificate program.

Entrance Requirements: 60 semester units or an associate degree (preferred) and 1,000 hours of direct hands-on patient care experience (LVN, Paramedic, EMT in a busy Emergency Room, back office Medical Assistant, Respiratory Therapist, Physical Therapist) is required prior to application. Applicants are allowed to apply with a maximum of two pre-requisite courses in progress after the application deadline of October 1 and must be completed by the end of the fall semester.

Students should have a GPA 2.70 or higher to be a competitive applicant. Clinical experience must be broad with a variety of patients across the life span in a variety of situations and settings.

Required Courses: English 1A; Psychology 5; Microbiology 33; Sociology 101 or Anthropology 2; Chemistry with a lab (can be satisfied with high school chemistry, strongly recommended to have been taken within 5 years); Anatomy 32 (strongly recommended to have been taken within 5 years); Physiology 31; any level of Algebra (pre-algebra courses do not meet this requirement) or statistics or calculus.

*For additional admissions information please review the following website: www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/fnppa/

WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCE, POMONA, CA (04/10 ws)

This university offers a Master's Degree.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants must have earned a BA or BS degree from a regionally accredited college or university by the time the student matriculates to the PA Program. The Primary Application (CAPSA) deadline is November 1, secondly application to Western U is December 1. Only one science pre-requisite, other than Anatomy or Physiology, and one non-science pre-requisite course may be in-progress beyond the deadline and must be completed prior to matriculation. The minimum overall grade point average and prerequisite is 2.7 on a 4.0. Grades of C- or lower in any of the pre-requisites are not accepted.

Required Courses: English 1A and 1B or 1C; Math 130 and 150; Anatomy 32; Physiology 31; Microbiology 33; Chemistry 1A and 1B; Psychology 5; Sociology 101; nine units of Humanities (i.e. Art, Music, Philosophy, Ethics, Religion, Foreign Language); (Strongly recommended but not required: course in Genetics and Spanish).

*For additional admissions information please review the following website: <http://prospective.westernu.edu/physician-assistant/welcome>

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY (04/10 ws)

The university offers a Master's Degree.

Entrance Requirements: The application deadline is November 1. Twenty students are admitted each September. Loma Linda University is a Seventh Day Adventist institution and grants preferential admission to Seventh Day Adventist applicants. Preference may also be given to LLU graduates, under-represented populations, and individuals with prior clinical experience and/or documented community service. One year of patient care is preferred (not required) prior to entering the PA Program (2000 hours). Students must have a Bachelor's Degree, an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher and a science grade point average of 3.00. Grades of C- are not transferable for credit.

Required Courses: Anatomy 32; Physiology 31; Chemistry 21A and 21B or 1A and 1B; Microbiology 33; Math 130; Psychology 5; Sociology 101 or Anthropology 2; English 1A and 1B. Recommended: Math 150, Medical Terminology 1, and computer literacy.

*For additional admissions information please review the following website: <http://www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/pa/>

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (04/10 ws)

The college offers a certificate and an Associate Degree.

Entrance Requirements: The department accepts 32 students per year. The application period begins May 1st of every year and ends August 31st. Students must submit an application for admission to Riverside Community College prior to submitting an application to the PA Program. Prioritized preference for enrollment is given to Riverside Community College students, Riverside County residents, California residents and out-of-state residents. Clinical experience must be a minimum of 2,000 hours of paid "hands on" patient care experience in the disciplines of medicine, nursing, or allied health is required. Volunteer experience will not fulfill this requirement.

Required Courses: English 1A; Anatomy 32 (within 5 years); Physiology 31 (within 5 years); Math 73 or 80; Microbiology 33 (within 5 years); Physics 11 and 12; Chemistry 4; Psychology 5; Sociology 101 or Anthropology 2; Recommended: Medical Terminology 1. Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology must have a minimum GPA of 2.70. A cumulative overall GPA of 2.50 is required in other general education courses.

*For additional information please review the following website:

<http://www.rcc.edu/academicPrograms/physicianAssistant/index.cfm>

CHARLES R. DREW, UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE (04/10 ws)

****CHARLES DREW UNIVERSITY (CDU) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA) PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAWN FROM THE ACCREDITATION REVIEW COMMISSION ON EDUCATION FOR THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (ARC-PA) PROCESS, EFFECTIVE MARCH 18, 2010. AS A RESULT OF OUR VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL STATUS, THE CDU PA PROGRAM WILL NOT ADMIT A CLASS IN 2010 AND ALL ADMISSION ACTIVITIES WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ** PROGRAM CLOSURE/VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL: PROGRAMS THAT CLOSE OR VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAWS FROM THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS WILL LOSE THEIR ACCREDITATION STATUS AND MUST BEGIN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS AGAIN VIA THE PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION PATHWAY.**

Entrance requirements: Applications are accepted from October 1st through January 15th. Prerequisites must be completed prior to application submission. A high school diploma or GED is required for admission to the program. A minimum of 63 semester hours or 95 quarter hours of pre-requisite courses from a regionally accredited college are required for admission. Students need 100 hours of healthcare experience and those who have demonstrated a commitment to working in underserved communities. Science courses older than ten years will not be accepted. Meeting the minimum grade point average requirement of 2.5 does not guarantee admission to the program. After completion of the program, students are eligible to take the national board exam given by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

Required Courses: Anatomy 32; Biology 101; Chemistry 1A and 1B; Chemistry 7A-7B; Physiology 31; Microbiology 33; English 1A; Speech 1 or 3; Political Science 1; Math 130 or 170 or 190; Anthropology 2; Psychology 5; Sociology 101; English 1C or Philosophy 5 or 8 or Psychology 3 or Speech 4; Nine units of Arts and Humanities; one U.S. History course from: 1A, 1B, 9, 16A, 16B, 17, 18A, 18B, 122; one course from Spanish (1-6)

*For additional admissions information please review the following website:

<http://www.cdrewu.edu/cosh/programs/undergraduate/physician-assistant>

Other Programs in California:

Touro University at Mare Island College of Health: (888) 652-7580; (707) 638-5200 – <http://www.tu.edu>

San Joaquin Valley College: (559) 651-2500 ext. 251; (559) 448-8282- www.sjvc.edu/programs/pa2.php

Samuel Merritt University: (510) 869-6623- www.samuelmerritt.edu/physician_assistant/requirements

Additional Information for Physician Assistants:

American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) www.aapa.org

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistant (NCCPA) <http://www.nccpa.net>

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) <http://www.paeaonline.org>