



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.** Application deadlines are subject to change without notice; please check the individual college's website for the most up to date information.

CHARLES R. DREW , UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE (04/08 ws)

The university offers a certificate and a bachelor's degree.

Entrance requirements: Applications are accepted from September 1st through January 31st. A high school diploma or GED is required for admission to the program. A minimum of 63 semester hours or 94.5 quarter hours of pre-requisite courses from a regionally accredited college are required for admission. Science courses older than ten years will not be accepted. Meeting the minimum grade point average requirement of 2.0 does not guarantee admission to the program. Preference is given to those with healthcare experience and those who have demonstrated a commitment to working in underserved communities. While the PA Program does not specify a set number of years of health care experience, competitive applicants possess a minimum of one year of healthcare experience. 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 1A or 101; Chemistry 1A and 1B; Physiology 31; Microbiology 33; English 1A; Speech 1 or 3; Political Science 1; Math 130 or 160 or 170 or 190; Anthropology 2; Psychology 5; English 1C or Philosophy 5 or 8 or Psychology 3 or Speech 4; Nine units of Arts and Humanities; Sociology 101; one U.S. History course from: 1A, 1B, 9, 16A, 16B, 17, 18A, 18B, 32; one course from Spanish (1-6)

* For additional admissions information please review the following website:

http://www.cdrewu.edu/cosh/physician_assistant/physician_assistant.htm

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (04/08 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 2.70. 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 1A and 1B and 1C or 101 and 102 and 1C; 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.

*For additional admissions information please review the following website:

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

STANFORD UNIVERSITY (04/08 ws)

Primary Care Associate Program (PCAP) offers a certificate and associate degree through Foothill College. The Foothill College Primary Care Associate Program allows students to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE)

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 70; English 1A; Sociology 101 or Anthropology 2; Psychology 5. *Grades for Human Anatomy, Human Physiology and Microbiology must have been 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 (04/08 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).

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

WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCE, POMONA, CA (04/08 ws)

This university offers a Master's Degree.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants must have earned a BA or BS degree from an accredited college or university by the time the student matriculates to the PA Program. The Application deadline is November. 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 cumulative grade point average is 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and the minimum pre-requisite grade point average is 2.7 on a 4.0 scale. 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://westernu.edu/xp/edu/cahp/mspas_about.xml

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY (04/08 ws)

The university offers a Master's Degree.

Entrance Requirements: The application deadline is December 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.

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 (04/08 ws)

The college offers a certificate and an Associate Degree.

Entrance Requirements: The department accepts 28 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 70; 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>

Other Programs in California:

Touro University at Mare Island College of Health: (888) 652-7580; (707) 638-5200 – email: sdavis@touro.edu

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

Samuel Merritt College: (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>