



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

### **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** (1/13 ws)

The university offers a master degree program.

**Entrance Requirements:** Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (in any field) from a regionally accredited university or equivalent with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Admission to the program is for the fall semester only. Applicants who submit complete applications by December 1<sup>st</sup> and complete all PA pre-requisite course work and bachelor degree requirements by June 30<sup>th</sup> 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. Three letters of recommendation.

**Required courses:** Biology 101 and 102; Chemistry 1A and 1B; Anatomy 32 and Physiology 31 or Anatomy and Physiology 34A and 34B; Microbiology 33; Psychology 5; one year of Spanish language; Math 150 or Psychology 9A or Sociology 109; six units of English Composition. Recommended: Medical Terminology 1

\*For additional admissions information please review the following website:

[http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/physician\\_assistant/](http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/physician_assistant/)

### **STANFORD UNIVERSITY** (03/13ws)

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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 Associate's 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, Cultures and Communications, and Lifelong Understanding (requirements can be found in the Foothill College Catalog [www.foothill.fhda.edu](http://www.foothill.fhda.edu))

**Required Courses:** Anatomy 32 and Physiology 31 **or** Anatomy and Physiology 34A and 34B; Microbiology 33; Introductory Chemistry (recommended Chemistry 4); 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** (03/13 ws)

The university offers a certificate program.

**Entrance Requirements:** A Bachelor's Degree in a health related field 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) completed within past two years is required prior to application. 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; Microbiology 33; two courses from: Sociology 101 or Anthropology 2 or Psychology 5; Chemistry with a lab (recommended Chemistry 4); Anatomy 32 and Physiology 31 (strongly recommended to have been taken within 5 years); College Algebra or Statistics or Calculus.

\*For additional admissions information please review the following website: [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/fnppa/](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/fnppa/)

### **WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCE, POMONA, CA** (03/13ws)

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. 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 or 170 or 180 or 190 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** (03/13 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 and Physiology 31 **or** Anatomy and Physiology 34A and 34B; Chemistry 21A and 21B or 1A and 1B; Microbiology 33; Math 130; Psychology 5; Sociology 101 or Anthropology 2; English 1A and 1B or 1C. 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/>

### **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**

Bennett, Iino, Ishikawa, Jeffries – March 2013

**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (03/13 ws)

The college offers a certificate and an Associate Degree.

**Entrance Requirements:** The department accepts 32 students per year. The application period begins May 1<sup>st</sup> of every year and ends August 31<sup>st</sup>. 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) and Physiology 31 (within 5 years) or Anatomy and Physiology 34A and 34B (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; Spanish; Math 150.

\*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 – <http://www.tu.edu>

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

Samuel Merritt University: (510) 869-6623- [www.samuelmerritt.edu/physician\\_assistant/requirements](http://www.samuelmerritt.edu/physician_assistant/requirements)

**Additional Information for Physician Assistants:**

American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)

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

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