Physician Assistant Studies Program

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION MATERIALS



THE PROFESSION

A physician assistant, or PA, is a qualified medical professional who practices medicine with the supervision of a licensed physician. The concept of the profession originated in the early to mid-1960s as a way to enhance medical care to people residing in medically underserved areas, and acknowledged the basic premise that many activities performed by physicians could be carried out with equal competence by specially trained health professionals. The care of the underserved remains an ongoing goal of the profession.

Physician assistants provide direct medical care to patients. They work in all 50 states and the District of Columbia in a wide range of medical settings including physicians' offices, hospitals, clinics, emergency departments, military and Veterans Administration installations, nursing homes, industrial health centers and correctional institutions. They always work in conjunction with a physician and can have a wide array of responsibilities including taking a medical history, performing physical examinations, ordering or performing lab and other diagnostic tests, synthesizing data to make a proper diagnosis, developing a treatment plan, performing health-related counseling, performing various procedures such as casting and suturing, and assisting in surgery. PAs can prescribe medication in each of the 50 states.

THE PROGRAM

The Physician Assistant Studies Program is part of our College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts. It is a comprehensive academic experience that stresses the practical application of current medical theory. All of the program faculty are actively practicing health care providers with a great deal of knowledge and experience. Students are exposed to the clinical environment throughout their education with patient contact even during the classroom or didactic portion of the program.

This program is currently only available in the day for full-time students. The clinical or practical portion may involve some night and weekend hours. There are two available options for admission to, and completion of the Physician Assistant Studies Program: 1) the combined Bachelor of Science (BS) in Health Sciences/Master of Science (MS) in Physician Assistant Studies—Freshman Admission Option and 2) the MS in Physician Assistant Studies. The Physician Assistant Studies Program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

THE UNIVERSITY

Philadelphia University is a premier private academic institution founded in 1884, and is located on a 100acre, tree-lined campus in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, just minutes from Center City. We offer a variety of programs leading to associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, and maintain a distinct focus on professional studies with quality programs in architecture, design, business, materials science, and engineering, along with excellent programs in science and health sciences, which prepare students for further study and careers in science and medicine.

Our size allows our accomplished faculty to give students personal attention and guidance. Our innovative College Studies program integrates our strong professional studies curriculum with a general base of knowledge in areas such as written and oral communication, critical thinking, multicultural awareness and ethical professional standards to give our students a competitive advantage in today's complex global environment.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM ADMISSION OPTIONS

Combined Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences/Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies:

Freshman Admission Option

This option is designed for students who have no, or few, college credits (less than 16 credit hours). It is designed as a five-year course of study and includes complete undergraduate and graduate degrees. The first six semesters (three years) make up the Pre-professional Phase and are designed to academically prepare students for PA training, and provide a comprehensive general education. The Pre-professional Phase consists of medically related science and psychology prerequisite courses along with all of the components of the College Studies (general education) program. After successful completion of the Pre-professional Phase (which includes maintaining the required grade point averages of 3.25 cumulative and 3.25 science, acquiring the required letters of reference, completing a personal essay, EMT or CNA training and obtaining approval of the PA Program Admissions Committee) students are admitted to the Professional Phase. Students must complete all required courses in the Pre-professional Phase to enter the Professional Phase.

The Professional Phase is 25 months of continuous study and includes the didactic level, which consists of three semesters of classroom and laboratory work in basic and applied medical science, and the clinical level, which consists of six rotations and three preceptorships at a variety of clinical sites such as hospitals and medical offices. Students must complete all didactic level courses before they can enter the clinical level. The first semester of the Professional Phase is comprised of mandatory undergraduate foundation courses. The remainder of the courses in the Professional Phase are graduate courses.

After successful completion of the fall semester of year four (the first Professional Phase semester) students will receive a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and be eligible to participate in the May Commencement ceremony. Upon completion of the full five-year program, graduates will receive a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, be eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination and be able to participate in the Physician Assistant Studies Program Completion ceremony in August and the Commencement ceremony in May.

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies:

For further information about the MS option, please contact Graduate Admissions at 215.951.2643 or 800.951.7287.

Post-Baccalaureate Option

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies is designed for students who already have a bachelor's degree in another field. In addition to a bachelor's degree, admission to this program requires successful completion of certain science and psychology prerequisite courses. Students admitted into this option are admitted directly into the Professional Phase, described above (under the Freshman Admission Option). All Post-Baccalaureate Option Students apply through CASPA.

Upon successful completion of this program graduates will be awarded the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and are eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.

ADMISSION TO THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM

"The role of the PA demands intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, appropriate interpersonal skills and the capacity to respond to emergencies in a calm and reasoned manner. Essential attributes of the graduate PA include an attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality in communicating with patients and a commitment to the patient's welfare."

(Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education, page 1)

Admission to the Physician Assistant Studies Program is competitive. Applicants are selected based on a committee's assessment of their ability to successfully complete the training, and competently function in the role of the profession as defined by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant Inc., as printed in the Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as published in the Medical Practice Act; and the Program. Candidates must have the physical, emotional and intellectual attributes necessary for success in this type of training.

Technical and Academic Standards

For admission to the program candidates must:

- Have the academic ability to learn a large volume of technically detailed information and be able to synthesize and use this data to solve complex clinical problems. This information must be acquired in a short and intense period of study, which requires well-developed study skills, a high level of motivation, and may require considerable personal and financial sacrifice.
- Possess the emotional maturity and stability to approach highly stressful human situations in a calm and rational manner.
- Have the ability to communicate effectively with ill patients from a wide diversity of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds in an empathetic and sensitive fashion.
- Have well-developed oral and written communication skills.
- Have comfort with the role of a dependent practitioner operating under the supervision of a licensed physician, while simultaneously feeling comfortable with the large amount of responsibility that goes along with the delivery of patient care in sometimes remote locations.
- Display strong ethical integrity consistent with working as a health care professional.
- Have sufficient physical abilities in the areas of sensory function (vision, hearing and touch sensation), handeye coordination, and neurologic and muscular coordination and control to competently perform the technical activities that are a critical part of the program and profession, including:
- **a)** physical examinations, which include visual inspection, listening to heart and lung sounds with a stethoscope, examination by touch to gather information such as skin temperature and texture, and other maneuvers
- b) performance and interpretation of diagnostic studies such as blood tests, EKGs and x-rays
- **c)** surgical assisting, which can involve activities such as control of bleeding and suturing (wound closure by placing stitches)
- **d)** performing common procedures such as applying casts, suturing, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), venipuncture (placing needle into a vein to collect a blood sample) or starting an intravenous access line

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE BS HEALTH SCIENCES/MS PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Students in the Physician Assistant Studies Program will be selected from candidates submitting complete applications with all required supporting material to the Office of Admissions. A variety of criteria are used by the Physician Assistant Admissions Committee in making admission decisions. These can include:

Academic experience

a) high school: cumulative grades and science course grades

b) SAT or ACT scores

c) academic patterns such as most recent academic performance, course load/selection, etc.

- Health care or human service experience with consideration to type and duration. This can include both paid and volunteer experience.
- A personal essay, which examines written communication skills, knowledge of the PA profession, and motivation for the profession.
- Three letters of reference that examine the applicant's abilities, communication skills, motivation, interpersonal skills, and emotional maturity.
- International students must submit TOEFL test scores.

OVERVIEW OF CLINICAL TRAINING

Upon successful completion of the didactic level courses, the PA student proceeds to the clinical training level of the program. The student will spend 50 weeks in clinical rotations or preceptorships (each period lasts five weeks) before completing the course of study for the physician assistant. Continuity of care and regular feedback from clinical faculty are the hallmarks of these experiences.

Clinical Rotations (6 credits/rotation)

The clinical rotations are five-week blocks in the areas of internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, psychiatry/ mental health, women's health, and emergency medicine and are designed to expose the PA student to patient care in a variety of settings. The student is directly involved with the evaluation and management of patients to the extent that the clinical preceptor or supervisor is comfortable with the level of knowledge and skills of the PA student. Typically, the student spends at least 40 hours per week in the clinical setting attending to patients and participating in continuing medical education seminars. Students will also develop skills outside of the clinical site through journal club, pharmacotherapeutic cases, and ECG reviews that are assigned during each rotation.

Preceptorship I and II (6-12 credits/preceptorship)

These five- to 10-week training blocks are designed to enhance the PA student's knowledge, technical skills, clinical judgment, and confidence in the evaluation and management of common medical problems. One of these blocks must be done in an ambulatory primary care setting such as an outpatient family practice, general practice, or general internal medicine office.

The remaining preceptorship experience includes the Primary Care Selective Block in which students do five additional weeks in a medically related specialty such as family, internal, or geriatric medicine, long-term care and the clinical elective. During the elective, students can spend more time in one of their rotation specialties or gain experience in other settings such as neonatology, HIV, correctional medicine, urology, orthopedic surgery,

cardiothoracic surgery and others.

Senior Seminars and Testing

Senior Seminars (held approximately seven times during clinical rotations and preceptorships) and Senior Summary Testing (held on campus) are required components of the clinical level. Attendance for these are mandatory.

PROGRAM COSTS

Tuition for the 2013-2014 school year is \$32,990 for Pre-Professional Phase students. Please refer to our website for Professional Phase tuition costs. The typical student in the Physician Assistant Studies Program will spend approximately \$3,000 on medical equipment, books, malpractice liability insurance, and other program-related fees for both Professional Phase years combined. This does not include housing, food, living expenses, travel costs, health center fees, graduation fees and Pre-professional Phase book costs. Health center and graduation fees are listed in the University catalog. Students are discouraged from working during the Professional Phase.

COMBINED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCES/MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES: FRESHMAN ADMISSION

Pre-Professional Phase

YEAR 1	Credits		Credits
Fall Semester (BS Program begins)		Spring Semester	
Intro to Health Professions: PA	1	Historical Understanding I	3
Writing Seminar I	3	Arts and Cultures	3
Biology I	4	Biology II	4
Chemistry I	4	Chemistry II	4
Finite Math/Pre-calculus/Calculus I	3 or 4	Introduction to Calculus/Calculus II	3 or 4
Physical Education	0.5		
	15.5/16.5		17/18

YEAR 2

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Language or Area Studies	3	Language or Area Studies	3
Writing Seminar II	3	Social Science I	3
Introduction to Psychology	3	Developmental Psychology	3
Bio-organic Chemistry	3	Microbiology	3
Anatomy and Physiology I	4	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
Physical Education	0.5	Intro to Healthcare	2
	16.5		18

YEAR 3

Fall	Semester
------	----------

Humanities I	3
Junior Seminar	3
Abnormal Psychology	3
Statistics for Behavioral Health	3
Histology	4
Clinical Interactions	3
	19

Spring Semester

Junior Seminar	3
Contemporary Perspectives	4
Principles of Genetics	4
Immunology	3
Medical Terminology & Documentation	3

17

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE CREDITS: 123-125

Professional Phase

YEAR 4

Summer 2		Spring Semester (MS Program begins)	
(Undergraduate Foundation Courses)		Laboratory Medicine	2
Advanced Anatomy (Part A)	2	Clinical Medicine	8
Fall Semester		Clinical Reasoning	2
(Undergraduate Foundation Courses)		Emergency Medicine	3
Advanced Anatomy (Part B)	3	Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics	4
Applied Behavioral Science	3		
Medical Genetics, Immunology & Microbiology	2		19
Medical History & Physical Diagnosis	5		
Medical Physiology & Pathophysiology	3		
Total credits (Summer 2 & Fall)	20		
First Summer Semester		Second Summer Semester	
Advanced Radiology/ECG Seminar	1	Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6
(Continues all summer)			
Biomedical Literature & Research	3		
Clinical Disciplines Overview	6		
Pharmacotherapeutics Seminar	1		
	11		6
YEAR 5			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6	Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6
Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6	Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6
Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6	Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6
	18		18
Summer Semester			
Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6		
Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship	6		

6

3 **21**

Psychiatry/Mental Health

Pediatrics

Internal Medicine

Women's Health

Preceptorships Primary Care (10 weeks) Two 5-week blocks: one Primary Care Selective Rotation and one open elective

TOTAL GRADUATE CREDITS: 93

Clinical Rotation/Preceptorship

Clinical Phase Experiences

Emergency Medicine

Surgery

*Master's Comprehensive Experience

Clinical Rotations (5 weeks each):

Note: The order of rotations and preceptorships will vary in the Clinical Level and do not necessarily occur in the sequence listed above. *Taken over entire Clinical Year

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

Freshman (Combined BS/MS): The postmark deadline for submission of application materials for the fall semester beginning in August is January 15.

Graduate (MS): Students interested in the MS option must apply through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistant (CASPA). To learn more, visit www.caspaonline.org.

Please mail the following items to: OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS ATTN: PA ADMISSIONS PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY 4201 HENRY AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19144-5497

- 1. \$40 non-refundable application fee (check or money order), payable to Philadelphia University
- 2. General University Application for Admission
- 3. PA Supplemental Application
- 4. Offical High School Transcript
- 5. SAT or ACT scores
- 6. International student must submit TOEFL or IELTS test results.
- 7. Letters of Reference

Please have three letters of reference completed using the enclosed forms. These preferably should be from individuals who are familiar with your occupational or academic work such as a supervisor or teacher. Please fill out the top portion of these forms labeled "Applicant." The waiver signature on the form is suggested but not mandatory. Recommendations must be submitted with your application in sealed envelopes with references' signatures across envelope flaps.

8. Personal Essay

Please submit an essay of at least 250 words discussing your motivation for wanting to be a PA and attributes you have that make you well suited for the PA profession. This preferably should be typed, and limited to one page.

- 9. Professional Resume (optional)
- Physician Assistant Studies Application Checklist Please clip the completed checklist to your PA application. Check off the items that are included in the envelope. Write "N/A" in the space for items that are not applicable to you.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

PLEASE CLIP TO THE FRONT OF YOUR PA APPLICATION

Name:			
	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE
Social Sec	curity Number:		
l am appl	ying for (Check One):		
		Health Sciences/Master o or less than 16 credits)	f Science (MS) in Physician Assistant Studies
🗆 lam	a reapplicant		
The follow	ving items are required	of all applicants and reap	plicants, unless specifically stated otherwise.
1	\$40 non-refundable a	oplication fee (check or m	oney order) payable to Philadelphia University
2	General University Ap	plication for Admission	oplication
3	PA Supplemental App	ication	
4	Offical High School Tra	anscript	
5	SAT or ACT scores		
6	TOEFL scores (Require	d of International Student	s only)
7	Letters of Reference		
	List reference names		
8	Personal Essay of at le	ast 250 words	
9	Professional Resume (Optional)	

COMMON SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

APPLICATION FOR:

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Health Sciences/Master of Science (MS) in Physician Assistant Studies—Freshman Option (NO COLLEGE, OR LESS THAN 16 CREDITS)

I WISH TO ENTER IN FALL 20____ SPRING 20___

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1.	Name:		
	LAST	FIRST MIDDLE	
2.	□ Male □ Female	3. Social Security Number:	
4.	Have you ever applied for this program before?	? 🗌 Yes 🗌 No If yes, when? Fall	

HEALTH CARE WORK EXPERIENCE

Please list all health care work experience below, listing the most recent first. This would include any volunteer experience as well. Students need only list health care work not already listed on the Common Application. Use additional paper as necessary.

5.	Agency:	Address:		
	0···)		CITY	STATE
	Your Position/Title:			
	□ Paid □ Volunteer □ Full-Time □ Part-Time	Dates:		
			MONTH/YEAR TO	MONTH/YEAR
	Responsibilities:			
	What did you like and dislike about this position?			
6.	Δαρογγ	Addross:		
σ.	Agency:	Audress	CITY	STATE
	Your Position/Title:			
		_		
	🗌 Paid 🔲 Volunteer 🔲 Full-Time 🗌 Part-Time	Dates:	MONTH/YEAR TO	
			,	
	Responsibilities:			
	What did you like and dislike about this position?			

7.	Agency:	Address:		
	Your Position/Title:	CIT		
	🗆 Paid 🔲 Volunteer 🗌 Full-Time 🗌 Part-Time	Dates:	NTH/YEAR TO MONTH/YEAR	
	Responsibilities:			
	What did you like and dislike about this position?			
8.	Have you been licensed or certified in any health profess	ion? 🗌 Yes 🗌 No	o If yes, please list below.	
	Profession:	Date:		
	Profession:	Date:		
	Profession:	Date:		
MI	LITARY EXPERIENCE			
9.	If you ever served in the military, please complete the fol	lowing:		
	Branch:	Dates of service:		
	Job or career field:	_		
RE	COMMENDATIONS			
Plea	ase list the individuals you will be using as references.			
10.	Name:	Agency:		
	Title:	Phone Number: _		
11.	Name:	Agency:		
	Title:	Phone Number: _		
12.	Name:	Agency:		
	Title:	Phone Number: _		

PERSONAL ESSAY

Please submit an essay of at least 250 words, discussing your motivation for wanting to be a PA and attributes you have that make you well suited for the PA profession. This preferably should be typed, and limited to one page.



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RECOMMENDATION FORM

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

	APPLICANT	
	Please fill in your name, social security number, address, and sign waiver.	
	Applicant Name:	
	Address:	
	Social Security Number:	
	I hereby voluntarily waive my right of access to any information contained in this recommendation form and agree that the information contained in the form should remain confidential.	
	Signature of Applicant Date	
	EVALUATOR	
Pro	ease answer the below listed questions according to your best knowledge of the applicant. The Physician Assistant Stu ogram cannot guarantee the confidentiality of your statement unless the applicant has signed the above waiver stateme ank you for your assistance.	
1.	How long have you known the applicant?	_
2.	What is your relationship with the applicant?	
	ease comment on the applicant's strengths and weaknesses in the following areas. You may write "N/A" if an area is no plicable or if you have no knowledge of the applicant's abilities in that area.	t
3.	Academic or intellectual ability:	_
		_
4.	Verbal communication skills:	_
		_
5.	Written communication skills:	_
6.	Ability to accept and utilize constructive criticism:	_
		_
7.	Motivation and/or perseverance:	-

8.	Interactions with clients and/or patients:	
9.	Empathy:	
10		
10.	Emotional stability/maturity:	
11.	Problem-solving skills:	
12	Ability to get along and work with others:	
12.		
13.	Additional comments (use additional paper if necessary): _	
14.	May we contact you for additional information?	□ No
15.	Overall recommendation (please check one):	
	\Box This applicant has my highest recommendation.	
	\Box I recommend this applicant highly, without reservation.	
	□ I recommend this applicant.	
	I recommend this applicant, with some reservations.I do not recommend this applicant.	
Nan	пе:	
	2	Agency:
	ress:	
	ne Number:	Email:
Signa	ture of Evaluator	Date

PLEASE NOTE: Place this recommendation in a sealed envelope, <u>with your signature across the flap</u>, and return it to the applicant. The Physician Assistant Studies Program requires that all recommendations be mailed together with the student's application for admission. Thank you for your assistance.

RECOMMENDATION FORM

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

	APPLICANT					
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		_				
4.	Verbal communication skills:	_				
		_				
5.	Written communication skills:	_				
6.	Ability to accept and utilize constructive criticism:	_				
		_				
7.	Motivation and/or perseverance:	_				

8.	nteractions with clients and/or patients:			
9.	Empathy:			
10				
10.	Emotional stability/maturity:			
11.	Problem-solving skills:			
12	Ability to get along and work with others:			
12.				
13.	Additional comments (use additional paper if necessary):			
14.	May we contact you for additional information?	□ No		
15.	Overall recommendation (please check one):			
	\Box This applicant has my highest recommendation.			
	\Box I recommend this applicant highly, without reservation.			
	□ I recommend this applicant.			
	 I recommend this applicant, with some reservations. I do not recommend this applicant. 			
Name:				
Title:		Agency:		
Address:				
Phone Number:		Email:		
Signa	ture of Evaluator	Date		

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3.	Academic or intellectual ability:	_				
		_				
4.	Verbal communication skills:	_				
		_				
5.	Written communication skills:	_				
6.	Ability to accept and utilize constructive criticism:	_				
		_				
7.	Motivation and/or perseverance:	_				

8.	nteractions with clients and/or patients:			
9.	Empathy:			
10				
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	\Box This applicant has my highest recommendation.			
	\Box I recommend this applicant highly, without reservation.			
	□ I recommend this applicant.			
	 I recommend this applicant, with some reservations. I do not recommend this applicant. 			
Name:				
Title:		Agency:		
Address:				
Phone Number:		Email:		
Signa	ture of Evaluator	Date		

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