

Master of Medical Science: Physician Assistant Program

Soli Deo Gloria



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Ursuline College





The Ursuline College Physician Assistant (UCPA) program is committed to Ursuline's mission to provide holistic education that transforms students for service, leadership, and professional excellence.

Students will adapt and grow into the profession in a student-centered environment. Our approach emphasizes the whole person combined with personalized attention, and designated wellness days allows for students to maximize their experiences in the classroom. An advanced curriculum inspired by the future of the profession will immerse students in small-group learning, technical skills, and technology that includes high-fidelity patient simulation, augmented reality, and ultrasound while remaining grounded in service, cultural sensitivity, and whole person healthcare.

The residential, entry-level physician assistant master's program prepares students to serve their community as primary care providers through on-campus and clinical training throughout the 24-month program. The ultimate focus of UCPA education is to serve the underserved communities with competent, compassionate care.

Curriculum

The curriculum is based on an organ systems approach with a sequencing of courses that builds upon previously achieved student learning. Didactic course material includes basic and foundational material that progresses in complexity and depth throughout integrated medical series. The curriculum incorporates instructional lectures, active learning strategies, stimulating analytical and critical thinking, case-based problem-solving, as well as effective exploration and utilization of resource materials.

The Ursuline College Physician Assistant (UCPA) Clinical Residency Program blends essential areas of experience with distinctive leadership and service-learning opportunities. The curriculum is constructed for achievement of educational and professional goals by emphasizing the whole person and whole patient. Designed by the faculty, the content was determined through resources including the mission and vision of the UCPA Program and our associated collegiate institution, NCCPA Curriculum Blueprint, Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education, and evolving health care trends and emerging challenges. The curriculum incorporates core competencies based on the ARC-PA Accreditation Standards including medical knowledge, interpersonal skill, clinical skills, technical skills, professional behavior, clinical reasoning, and problem-solving abilities.

The program consists of six continuous semesters of graduate level training. There are 61 semester credit hours offered in the didactic (pre-clinical) learning phase, and 39 semester credit hours offered in the clinical residency learning phase, for a total of 100 semester credit hours.

Spring Semester I (Didactic 1/3), 20 credit hours

PA 500 Practice, Policy and Bioethics (1 credit)

PA 510 Research and Evidence Based Medicine (1 credit)

PA 520 Foundations of Pharmaceutical Sciences (1 credit)

PA 530 Foundations of Medical Sciences (4 credits)

PA 601 Clinical Medicine I (4 credits)

PA 604 Laboratory and Diagnostic Medicine I (3 credits)

PA 603 Clinical Therapeutics I (3 credits)

PA 607 Medical Interviewing and Documentation I (3 credits)

Summer Semester I (Didactic 2/3), 21 credit hours

PA 611 Clinical Medicine II (4 credits)
PA 613 Clinical Therapeutics II (4 credits)
PA 614 Laboratory and Diagnostic Medicine II (2 credits)
PA 610 Evidence-Based Physical Diagnosis (3 credits)
PA 617 Medical Documentation II (1 credit)
PA 612 Pediatric Medicine (1 credit)
PA 615 Women's Health and Reproductive Medicine (1 credit)
PA 616 Basic and Applied Clinical Skills (3 credits)
PA 618 Perioperative Medicine and Principles of Surgery (2 credits)

Fall Semester I (Didactic 3/3), 20 credit hours

PA 621 Clinical Medicine III (4 credits)
PA 624 Laboratory and Diagnostic Medicine III (2 credits)
PA 623 Clinical Therapeutics III (4 credits)
PA 625 Basic Ultrasound Technique (1 credit)
PA 620 Public Health and Preventive Medicine (2 credits)
PA 626 Advanced Ultrasound Technique (1 credit)
PA 627 Infectious Disease and Medical Microbiology (2 credits)
PA 628 Telemedicine (1 credit)
PA 630 Introduction to Master's Scholarly Project (1 credit)
PA 629 Inpatient and Critical Care Medicine (2 credits)

Spring Semester II (Clinical 1/3) & Summer Semester II (Clinical 2/3), 32 credit hours

*Clinical Residency sequence varies for all students except for Post Clinical Residency-Comprehensive Review Series I-VIII and Fall Semester II
PA 631 Family Medicine Clinical Residency (3 credits)
PA 632 Pediatric Medicine Clinical Residency (3 credits)
PA 633 Surgery Clinical Residency (3 credits)
PA 634 Behavioral Medicine Clinical Residency (3 credits)
PA 635 Women's Health Clinical Residency (3 credits)
PA 636 Emergency Medicine Clinical Residency (3 credits)
PA 637 Internal Medicine Clinical Residency (3 credits)
PA 638 Clinical Residency Elective (3 credits)
PA 641-648 Post Clinical Residency-Comprehensive Review I-VIII (1 credit each)

Fall Semester II (Clinical 3/3), 7 credit hours

PA 649 Applied Clinical Medicine (5 credits)
PA 640 UCPA Capstone (2 credits)

Total: 61 Didactic Hours + 39 Clinical Hours = 100 Credit Hours



PA cohort begins each January

and has 30 seats available.

The U.S. News and World Report
consistently ranks Physician Assistant
among the best careers in the country
and ranked

#1

in 2021.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for consideration for admission, applicants will apply through the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). CASPA opens the last Thursday in April annually. However, admissions window for Ursuline College is from the time CASPA opens until September 1st. Only CASPA verified applications received by September 1st will be considered for the application cycle. Application and admission into PA programs are competitive; not all applicants who meet Ursuline College minimum criteria will receive an interview invitation. Program cohorts start in January of each calendar year.

Admission Requirements for the Ursuline College Physician Assistant Program

1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
2. Completion of an application for admission to the Ursuline College Physician Program and all required supplemental material through CASPA.

Applicants to the UCPA Program will be considered for admission from a holistic perspective. UCPA does not require a minimum GPA, prerequisite course work, GRE/PCAT testing, nor a specific number of shadowing/contact hours for application. Ideal candidates to the program will meet or exceed the following recommendations:

1. 3.0 GPA shown on applicant's transcript(s).
2. Foundational course completion with a grade of "C" or better prior to matriculation into the PA program. All recommended courses should be completed within 10-years of application submission.
 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I with lab
 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab
 - Introduction to Biological Diversity with lab
 - Principles of Cell Biology with lab or Clinical Microbiology with lab
 - Principles of Chemistry I with lab
 - Statistics or Quantitative Reasoning

International students, in addition to the above criteria, must also comply with Ursuline College's procedures for admission as an international student. Visit ursuline.edu/international for more information.



Applicant Preference for Interview

The program gives preference to applicants who:

- Have a grade of C or higher for pre-requisite courses
- Higher cumulative and science GPAs
- Ursuline College Graduates
- Graduated from a Historically Black College and University (HBCU)
- Military Veterans
- Community Service/Volunteer Experience
- First Generation College Students
- Reside in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)





Shape the future of healthcare.

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Ursuline College Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Ursuline College.

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation - Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class. The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website.

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Graduate Admission

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ursuline.edu/grad



Ursuline College

Ursuline College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Ursuline College Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Ursuline College. Full statement above.