Physician Assistant Studies Graduate Programs

College of Health and Public Service

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Master of Physician Assistant Studies

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Program Description

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program at UVU is a full-time, 28-month, year-round graduate program, consisting of 95 credit hours completed over 7 semesters. There are 15 months of didactic coursework and 13 months of rotations. A new cohort starts in January of each year. The curriculum structure is specially designed to prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become competent PAs who demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in more effective patient care.

Admission Requirements

1. Minimum Cumulative GPA (as determined by CASPA): 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
2. Minimum Science GPA (as determined by CASPA): 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
3. Minimum Prerequisite GPA: 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
4. Bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education
5. Courses must have been taken in the last 10 years. AP credit is not accepted.
   - Microbiology with lab (4 credits)
   - General Biology with lab (4 credits)
   - Chemistry-lab may be included (8 credits)
   - Human Anatomy with lab (4 credits)
   - Human Physiology (4 credits)
   - Medical Terminology (2 credits)*Available online at UVU
6. 1000 hours minimum healthcare experience (direct patient care preferred)
7. PA shadowing is required. No minimum hours. Recommended to shadow a variety of PAs.
8. Three letters of recommendation in application through CASPA
9. Preferred: academic professor or advisor, medical provider, and supervisor
10. Deadlines and further information are available on the program website: www.uvu.edu/physicianassistant

2019-20 Master of Physician Assistant Studies--Tuition and Fee Schedule

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Physician Assistant Studies Graduate Programs

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Degrees & Programs

Physician Assistant Studies, M.P.A.S.

Requirements

The Utah Valley University Master of Physician Assistant Studies is a two-year graduate level degree that prepares students to successfully pass the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE). Using evidence-based medicine, engaged learning, and early patient-provider experiences, the program will reinforce team practice and patient advocacy/education that will result in excellent patient outcomes.

Through a comprehensive didactic and clinical curriculum, the program will train exceptional PAs that will not only be prepared to provide quality primary healthcare, but will be compassionate, culturally-sensitive, critical thinkers committed to their patients in an ever-changing and diverse population within their respective communities.

Total Program Credits: 95

Matriculation Requirements:

A bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution is the basic requirement for admission into the program (with official transcripts from all institutions attended). The degree can be in any discipline, provided that the student meets the expected GPA and prerequisite coursework.

The minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA is a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The applicant must not have earned below a 2.0 on any prerequisite coursework, although extenuating circumstance may be considered.

Pre-requisite Coursework:

- Microbiology with lab (4 credits)
- General Biology
- Chemistry (8 credits), lab may be included
- Human Anatomy with lab (4 credits)
- Human Physiology (4 credits)
Physician Assistant Studies Graduate Programs

• Medical Terminology

Note: pre-requisite coursework does not include AP courses and should not be older than seven years prior to application to the PA program. The science-based pre-requisites must be completed prior to the application deadline (November 1st).

CASPer Test

The CASPer Test is an examination which identifies characteristics of successful students. The exam can be taken at https://takecaspeter.com. Scores are reported upon completion of the exam.

Letters of Recommendation

A minimum of three letters of recommendation are required for the application process. Letters should not be from friends or relatives, but should come from a mix of current professors, current/prior employers, and one letter should be from a PA or a physician. Letters should be submitted directly through the CASPA system prior to the November 1st deadline (no exceptions).

UVU Graduate School Application

The UVU Graduate School Application is required for admission into the PA program. The application will be found on the UVU PA website and is due prior to the November 1st deadline.

Personal Interview

All candidates will be screened and those deemed to meet or exceed basic application requirements will be invited for an interview. This interview does not guarantee acceptance into the program as students will compete with all other applicants for matriculation into a cohort. Applicants must bring a photo ID to the interview.

Health Care Experience

A minimum of 1,200 hours of health care experience, which is at least six months full-time equivalent. Although this is a minimum for application, the national average for competitive applicants is between 4,000-5,000 patient contact hours. Hours may be projected to the deadline for early applicants, and applicants are encouraged to apply early.

All forms of health care experience* are considered toward the minimum requirement, with direct hands-on patient care experience being most preferred.

Health care hours are subject to verification; the program may contact supervisors to confirm reported hours. Paid experience is weighted more heavily than volunteer.

*Does not include administrative work in healthcare settings.

Other Determining Factors

• Prior work experience (health care preferred, but not required, may include medical scribe, radiology technician, emergency medical technician, paramedic, respiratory therapist, medical assistant, registered nurse, etc.)
• Shadowing opportunities (two are recommended)
• Demonstration of community service
• Level of maturity
• Honors, awards and other recognition
• Discipline for academic performance
• Conviction of misdemeanor or felony

Discipline Core Requirements: 95 Credits

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Course Catalog 2019-2020
Utah Valley University
### Physician Assistant Studies Graduate Programs

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### Graduation Requirements:

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 must be maintained within the program.
2. Residency requirements for the Physician Assistant Studies is 100%. No transfer or advanced placement credit is accepted.

### Physician Assistant Studies, M.P.A.S.

#### Careers

**Related Careers**

- Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary
- Physician Assistants