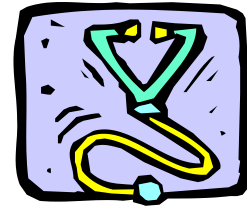


MSBS/Physician Assistant Studies Degree Requirements

MSBS/ PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Physician Assistants (PAs) are health professionals, prepared to practice medicine with physician supervision. Within the physician/PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in decision-making and provide a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. The role of the physician assistant includes provision of primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practices located in rural, urban or suburban areas. Physician assistant practice is patient care centered but may also include education, research and administrative duties.

The Physician Assistant Studies program is a graduate entry-level, professional course of study enabling individuals who hold baccalaureate degrees to become physician assistants. The program is designed to prepare graduates for primary care practice with emphases on service to medically underserved populations and the team approach to the delivery of health care. The program integrates graduate level critical thinking and analysis, problem solving, scientific inquiry, self-directed learning and the effective use of modern technology for professional practice that includes elements of research, leadership, education and continued professionalization of the physician assistant occupation.



Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Physician Assistant Studies program is to graduate competent professionals who are well-prepared for the demands of modern professional practices in a rapidly changing health care environment. The curriculum goals were developed based upon the description of the occupation and standards for educational program as contained in the “Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Physician Assistant,” the program’s Mission Statement, and the needs of the PA profession. In the PA program curriculum, knowledge, skills and attitudes are considered to be critical elements of professional practice and are addressed in the curricular goals delineated below.

The graduate of the Physician Assistant Studies program will demonstrate the following:

- Entry-level proficiencies necessary for high quality, cost-effective practice as a primary care physician assistant in a dynamic health care delivery system

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- An understanding of the principles of scientific inquiry and research design, as well as the ability to apply these principles, to read critically, and interpret the literature and enhance the delivery of health care
- An ability to incorporate the basic principles of education and teaching-learning into programs which benefit the patient, the patient's family and the community
- Attitudes and skills which exemplify a commitment to personal growth and development and to the growth and development of the profession
- Attitudes and skills which demonstrate a sensitivity to cultural and individual differences
- An ability to assume a leadership role in professional activities and organizations which advance the physician assistant profession
- A health care team and community-oriented approach to the delivery of health care utilizing appropriate modern technology for the benefit of the patient, the patient's family and the community



Mission Statement

The mission of the University of Toledo Health Science Campus (UTHSC) Physician Assistant Studies program is to provide a comprehensive didactic and clinical educational program necessary to develop highly skilled, well-educated, primary care-oriented physician assistants who are capable of providing high-quality, cost-effective, patient-centered health care services in a variety of settings. The Physician Assistant Studies program is an integral part of the UTHSC and the College of Health Science and Human Service, and therefore, subscribes to the Missions of the University and the College of Health Science and Human Service.

The program is committed to the education of physician assistants who will:

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- practice competently and ethically
- serve where needed, particularly in rural and inner-city health professions shortage areas
- demonstrate sensitivity to cultural and individual differences
- commit to continued personal and professional growth through life-long learning
- contribute to the profession through leadership, teaching, research, and publication
- promote wellness and personal responsibility for maintaining health
- advocate for a team approach to health care delivery
- promote and uphold the physician assistant profession and its ideals

Curriculum Design

The curriculum design is based upon the concepts of adult-centered learning and professional education which focus on mastery of knowledge, skills and attitudes required by the graduate to practice effectively as a physician assistant. The curriculum, offered in didactic and experiential components, is an approach which moves from the basic to more advanced skills. The curriculum design assumes that students will develop the necessary skills to be self-directed learners and to apply effectively what they learn in the clinical setting.

Program Delivery Model

The Physician Assistant Studies program is offered on a full-time basis only. Length of the program is seven semesters (27 months). The credit load ranges from 6-15 credits per semester. Learners are expected to adjust their non-curricular demands in order to complete the degree requirements. As adult learners, it is expected that students will actively engage in independent study, inquiry and fieldwork outside the classroom in order to augment learning and to maximize effectiveness of classroom and laboratory contact time. Students will be expected to complete and present a scholarly project as a culmination of their studies.



Since the PA program will use computer technology in the delivery of the curriculum, all PA students must be computer literate.

Note: It is not recommended that any student attempt to attend the Physician Assistant Studies program while continuing full-time employment.

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Admission Requirements

The Physician Assistant Studies program will admit students for Fall semester only. All files must be completed through CASPA by October 1. A supplemental application is required when invited for an interview. Early application is encouraged.

UTHSC participates in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications may be filed by accessing this web-based service at <http://www.caspaonline.org>. Applications sent directly to UTHSC cannot be accepted.

To be considered for the Physician Assistant Studies program, candidates must comply with the following:

1. Completion of all admission requirements to CASPA by October 1 including submission of a completed and signed application form, submission of official transcripts for all colleges/universities attended, application fee, and two letters of recommendation. A supplemental application will be required of those applicants invited for an interview. Foreign transcripts must be submitted for independent evaluation of equivalency by an acceptable credential evaluation agency. The evaluation will be at the student's expense. Contact the College of Graduate Studies or CASPA for information regarding evaluation of foreign transcripts.
2. Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate and completed with a grade of B- or better in the following course work:
 - a. Human Anatomy, w/lab 3 credits
 - b. Physiology (lab recommended) 3 credits
 - c. Inorganic Chemistry w/lab 3 credits
 - d. Organic Chemistry w/lab 3 credits
 - e. Microbiology w/lab 3 credits
 - f. Introductory or General Psychology 3 credits
 - g. One additional Psychology course
Beyond Introductory (preferably
Life Span Psychology) 3 credits
 - h. College Algebra (or higher Mathematics) 3 credits



Note: Science courses must include lecture and laboratory. Credits expressed in semester credits. All prerequisites must be taken within 8 years of planned admission to the program. For

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courses completed as part of a sequence, a B- average is required. For courses where separate grades are assigned for lecture and laboratory sections, the candidate must receive at least a B- grade for both lecture and lab.

In addition to the above minimum requirements, preference will be given to applicants who have earned a B- or better in any of the following advanced undergraduate or graduate courses: genetics, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, psychology or mathematics.

3. Candidates must hold a baccalaureate from an accredited college or university with a minimum 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) undergraduate cumulative grade point average (GPA). A candidate with less than a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average may be considered for admission with regular student status only if he/she has completed at least 10 semester credits (15 quarter credits) of applicable course work at the graduate level and has a minimum GPA of 3.0 in these courses.
4. Preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate a commitment to practice in primary care in rural and urban medically underserved areas. Candidates requesting this preference must do so in writing and include their rationale for the request along with supporting documentation. This can be documented through prior work or community volunteer experience. Candidates with formal health care experience must submit copies of any license, registration, or certification related to that field.
5. Candidates must submit a pre-interview writing sample through the CASPA application according to the directions in the application packet. The writing sample will be evaluated by the Admissions Committee and must be considered graduate student quality.
6. Candidates will be required to demonstrate medical terminology proficiency prior to admission. This can be demonstrated by either one of the following:
 - a. Satisfactory completion (with a letter grade of B- or better) of a college-level medical terminology course

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- b. Passing a departmental proficiency examination (80% or better) which will be administered to candidates selected for interviews
7. Candidates must present evidence that they are currently trained in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation according to American Heart Association standards prior to enrollment in the Advanced Cardiac Life Support Course (PHYA590).
8. Preference will be given to Ohio residents.
9. Candidates for interviews will be selected from those with completed files and who meet the minimum entrance requirements. The selection process is competitive and just meeting minimum entrance requirements does not guarantee an interview or admission to the program. Based upon a point scoring system, the Admissions Committee may recommend one of the following:
 - **Acceptance:** Candidates with the highest scores (based upon the candidate's complete application, writing samples and interviews) will be recommended to the College of Graduate Studies Health Science Campus for acceptance. The number of candidates recommended for acceptance will be determined annually by the PA program class size.
 - **Admission Deferred:** A limited number of candidates will be ranked as alternates and may be notified of their admission status after August 1. Candidates not admitted from the ranked alternate list must reapply if they wish to be considered in subsequent admission cycles.
 - **Non-Acceptance:** Candidates not accepted will be notified in writing. Candidates wishing to be considered for the following year must reapply through CASPA.

Admission Criteria for Conditional Status

An applicant must complete the general admission requirements specified above. Circumstances which may result in a conditional admission include:

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1. An applicant with a baccalaureate in progress. An official transcript with the degree posted must be received prior to matriculation in Fall Semester courses.
2. An applicant with an undergraduate cumulative grade point average (GPA) less than 3.0 may be admitted with conditional status. Students must achieve a 3.0 in graduate study at UTHSC by the completion of 15 credits or may be subject to dismissal. In the past, candidates with undergraduate GPAs of less than 3.0 have not been competitive unless they have demonstrated academic achievement through the completion of a relevant graduate level degree program.
3. An applicant who has any prerequisite courses to complete at the time of application may be admitted with conditional status with a clear understanding that remaining prerequisites must be satisfactorily (grade of B- or better) completed prior to June 15th.

Official transcripts or other appropriate documentation will be required.

4. Candidates who are unable to pass the medical terminology proficiency examination will be required to participate in a self-study program and re-test or satisfactorily complete a medical terminology course at an accredited college or university prior to matriculation in Fall courses.

Technical Standards for Admission

Our objective is to increase opportunities for persons with disabilities, while maintaining the expectation that all students achieve the goals of our programs. The technical standards for admission establish the expectations and abilities considered essential for students admitted to the Physician Assistant Studies program in order to achieve the level of competency required for graduation. A candidate for the PA program must be able to demonstrate intellectual-conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities; skills in observation, communication, motor functions; and mature behavioral and social attributes. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in some of these areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner

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without a trained intermediary. The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate's judgement must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation. All students admitted to the PA program are expected to be able to demonstrate the abilities specified below:

- must have the mental capacity to assimilate and learn a large amount of complex, technical and detailed information, to solve clinical problems, and synthesize and apply concepts and information from various disciplines in order to formulate diagnostic and therapeutic plans
- must have the ability to maintain composure and emotional stability during periods of high stress
- must have the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients from different social and cultural backgrounds and develop effective professional rapport with patients and co-workers
- must have the ability to record examination and diagnostic results clearly, accurately and efficiently
- must have adequate sensory function to fulfill minimum competency objectives for palpation, percussion and auscultation necessary to perform a physical examination
- must possess sufficient postural control, neuromuscular control and eye-to-hand coordination to use standard medical/surgical instruments and possess sufficient control of the upper extremities to meet the physical requirements for training and for performing a safe physical examination
- are expected to learn and perform common diagnostic and therapeutic procedures (e.g., blood drawing, suturing) and interpret the results
- are expected to have a degree of coordination of motor skills necessary to respond to emergency situations quickly and appropriately

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Candidates are urged to ask questions about the program's technical standards for clarification and to determine whether they can meet the requirements. Questions may be directed to the Program Director. Revealing a disability is voluntary; however, such disclosure is necessary before any accommodations may be considered in the learning environment or in the program's procedures. Information about disabilities is handled in a confidential manner. Reasonable accommodations will be made to qualified applicants with a disability in such circumstances and on such terms as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable accommodations require program and institutional approval. Requests for accommodations must be submitted in writing, allowing sufficient time prior to matriculation for action on these requests, pursuant to Policy 01-061 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability, Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance.

Other Requirements

Individuals selected for admission to the program must provide evidence of good health and up-to-date immunizations prior to matriculation. In addition, students are required to maintain health insurance and liability insurance coverage. Further information is contained in this handbook and will be reviewed in detail at orientation.

Curriculum



Note: Physician Assistant Studies program courses as listed on this and the following page may not be taken out of sequence for any reason, and require a passing grade of C or better for progression.

Course Sequence

YEAR ONE

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
Fall	ANAT500	5	Anatomy for Physician Assistants
	PHYA501	1	Introduction to the PA Profession
	PHYA510	3	Prin. of Interviewing & Medical History
	PHYA514	2	Health Care Teams & Systems
	PHYS505	3	Human Physiology
Spring	PHYA540	2	Pathophysiology I
	PHYA513	3	Patient Evaluation
	PHYA521	2	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Skills I
	PHYA531	4	Clinical Medicine I
	PHYA551	2	Fundamentals of Pharmacology I
	PHYA605	2	Medical Ethics

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<u>Semester</u>	<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
Summer	PHYA541	2	Pathophysiology II
	PHYA522	1	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Skills II
	PHYA532	2	Clinical Medicine II
	PHYA552	2	Fundamentals of Pharmacology II
	PHYA611	1	Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
	PHYA613	2	Research and Statistics

YEAR TWO

Fall	PHYA523	2	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Skills III
	PHYA533	6	Clinical Medicine III
	PHYA553	2	Fundamentals of Pharmacology III
	PHYA600	1	Data Analysis
	PHYA615	2	Behavioral Science

Spring	PHYA650	1	Introduction to Clinical Practice
	PHYA651	3	Clinical Practice I
	PHYA660	2	Research Practicum
	PHYA661	1	Scholarly Project I
	PHYA670	2	Clinical Seminar I

Summer	PHYA652	3	Clinical Practice II
	PHYA662	1	Scholarly Project II
	PHYA671	2	Clinical Seminar II

YEAR THREE

Fall	PHYA653	3	Clinical Practice III
	PHYA663	1	Scholarly Project III
	PHYA672	1	Clinical Seminar III
	PHYA675	3	Clinical Preceptorship

Requirements and Criteria for Retention

1. A student admitted into the PA program must comply with rules and regulations for conduct and academic performance as stipulated by the College of Graduate Studies Health Science Campus and the College of Health Science and Human Service. This information can be found in this handbook, the College of Health Science and Human Service Student Handbook and the Physician Assistant Program Student Handbook on Rules, Regulations and Procedures.

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2. A student will be placed on academic probation if her/his cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0 during any semester. If the full-time student remains on academic probation for three consecutive semesters, the student will be dismissed.
3. A student admitted under **conditional** status whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 following completion of the entire first semester of the curriculum will be subject to dismissal from the program and from the Health Science Campus College of Graduate Studies.
4. A grade of B or better must be earned in all PHYA designated courses. All grades below B will be individually evaluated for continued matriculation or be subject to dismissal. A student who receives a D or lower **may repeat the course one time**, realizing that the sequence of study will be disrupted and that additional time and expense will be required to complete the program. A student wishing to repeat a course will be required to apply for an academic leave until the course is re-offered in its regular sequence.
5. A student who receives two (2) or more D or F grades in any one semester forfeits the opportunity to repeat and will be dismissed from the program.
6. Continuous enrollment in the PA program is required because of the sequential nature of the course work. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course must do so no later than the last day of the 10th week of the semester. Withdrawal from one course will require complete withdrawal from the semester and will be considered a *stop-out*. If a student elects to *stop-out* for any reason, s/he will be required to apply for an approved academic leave, or withdraw from the program. Academic leave may be effective from one to three semesters, after which time, readmission will be required.
7. A student who has been dismissed from the program or who has been on academic leave for longer than 1 year, must apply for readmission into the PA program. Readmission will be determined on an individual basis dependent on the reason for dismissal or the conditions requiring academic leave.

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Summary of Requirements for Graduation

1. Completion of all Health Science Campus College of Graduate Studies admission requirements.
2. A student who has been admitted into the PA program will be eligible for graduation when s/he has successfully completed all required courses for a minimum of 75-76 credits. Completion of the program must be within 6 calendar years.
3. Maintenance of a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA. A maximum of 12 credits of **C**, and no grade lower than a **B** in all PHYA courses, in the total of 75-76 credits required for graduation.
4. All professional physician assistant course work must be completed at the University of Toledo.
5. Successful completion of an end of program examination.
6. Successful completion of a scholarly project. Registration must be for a least one credit per semester while **actively** working on the project, including the semester in which the scholarly project is presented. The program also may require students to pass comprehensive written and practical examinations.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the student to assure that all administrative **and** academic requirements have been met.

Accreditation Status

The UTHSC Physician Assistant Studies program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA). Graduates of accredited programs are eligible to take the national certifying examination offered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

Most states require a license or registration in order to practice; however, state licenses or registrations are usually based in part on the results of the NCCPA Certification Examination. Some states might not license, nor clinical rotation sites accept,



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individuals with prior criminal records. A Bureau of Criminal Investigation background check will be required of students prior to matriculation to the clinical portion of the program. It is the applicant's responsibility to inquire about licensing/registration requirements prior to enrolling in the PA program.