



MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

AT UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission is a competitive process. Applicants are considered for an interview based on the strength of their Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) application and the video and essay answers in the Kira Talent platform. Qualified applicants will be invited to participate in the Kira Talent portion of the application. Although Utah Valley University does not use rolling admission, early application is encouraged.

PREREQUISITE COURSE INFORMATION

- All required prerequisite coursework must be completed at the time of application submission.
- Applicants must earn a "C" or better in regionally accredited prerequisite courses.
- AP and CLEP courses are not accepted.
- Human anatomy and physiology are the only courses that have an expiration date.

PREREQUISITE COURSES

- 3 credits of statistics
- 4 credits of biology with lab
- 4 credits of microbiology with lab
- 8 credits of chemistry with lab; organic or biochemistry preferred
- 4 credits of human anatomy with lab completed in the last 7 years
- 4 credits of human physiology with lab completed in the last 7 years

MINIMUM GPA

- Cumulative GPA of 2.8, as determined by CASPA. If the cumulative GPA is below 3.0, but no lower than 2.8, then a calculation on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework will be conducted. This calculation must be 3.0 or better to qualify for further review.
- Science GPA of 2.8, as determined by CASPA. If the science GPA is below 3.0, but no lower than 2.8, then a calculation on the last 30 hours of undergraduate science coursework will be conducted. This calculation must be 3.0 or better to qualify for further review.
- A minimum of 3.0 is required for the cumulative prerequisite courses.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning in the U.S. or Canada completed at the time of application.

GRE/MCAT

The GRE or MCAT is not required.

DIRECT PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of 1,000 hours of direct patient care is required.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to describe in the CASPA application the type of experience accumulated and support why the healthcare experience is relevant. The quantity and quality of reported healthcare hours will be considered and scored.

LIFE EXPERIENCE

Competitive applicants will demonstrate life experience reflecting volunteer and community service, work ethic, leadership experiences, and achievements reflecting any honors or awards.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SHADOWING

Competitive applicants will shadow physician assistants; however, shadowing doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners is recommended. Applicants that take the time and effort to shadow PA's within a healthcare team better understand the role and expectations for a physician assistant. Shadowing does NOT count as direct patient care.

APPLICATION

- Apply through CASPA at caspa.liasoncas.com by July 15
- Complete UVU graduate supplemental application + fee at uvu.edu/admissions

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Submit three letters of recommendation. Letters from a healthcare source, supervisor, and/or an academic source are preferred.

INTERVIEW

- Interviews are held in October for admission to the January cohort.
- Personal interviews are offered to the most qualified applicants and are required for admission. Meeting minimum qualifications will not guarantee selection for an interview.
- Accepted applicants will be required to pay a non-refundable \$750.00 seat deposit that funds the mandatory drug screening and background check and membership in professional organizations. Felony convictions will disqualify an applicant due to the inability to meet clinical rotations site requirements.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION

The goal of the program is to prepare students to become competent, caring physician assistants possessing the skills for lifelong learning necessary to incorporate new knowledge and methods into the medical practices required to adapt to the changing professional environment. These technical standards are considered prerequisites for admission, for progression throughout the program, and to qualify for graduation from the UVU PA Program. All students admitted to the program are expected to continually demonstrate the specific technical standards specified below.

Every physician assistant student must be able to perform independently, with or without reasonable accommodation, a diversity of skills related to effective performance as a professional student and healthcare practitioner in training.



OBSERVATION

PA students must have the ability to observe and participate as appropriate in the lecture hall, laboratory, and in a spectrum of clinical environments. This includes all outpatient, inpatient, emergency department, and operating room settings. They should also possess the ability to use their other somatic senses as needed to enhance their ability to accurately observe and interpret these situations.

INTELLECTUAL ABILITY AND CAPACITY

PA students must be able to learn, analyze, synthesize, problem solve, reason, and come to logical conclusions both in the didactic and clinical phases. They are expected to remain alert and attentive at all times in didactic and clinical settings.



COMMUNICATION

PA students must be able to practice effective, professional verbal and non-verbal communication skills with other students, faculty, preceptors, and patients. This includes building trust, being sensitive, and using discretion with personal and sensitive information in all situations. Additionally, PA students must have the ability to work effectively in groups with other students and with other healthcare professionals.

MOTOR

PA students must be able to complete a full physical exam and basic clinical procedures. They must also be able to manipulate the equipment, instruments, apparatus, or tools required to collect and interpret data appropriate to the domain of study, practice, or research. Students must be able to respond to emergency situations in a calm and timely manner and must always adhere to universal precautions in all clinical settings.



BEHAVIORAL

Enrollment in a PA program can be stressful and requires the ability to handle a significant workload. All PA students must have the physical and emotional stamina to commit to their education and maintain a high level of function. PA students must also be able to accept criticism and have the ability to appropriately modify their behavior. They must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within both the law and ethical standards of the medical profession.

Admitted students who have a disability and need accommodation should initiate discussions with the Office of Accessibility Services as soon as the offer of admission is received and accepted. Each student must be fully cognizant of the technical standards. Questions or concerns about the technical standards should be discussed with the program director. If a health condition arises that would in any way alter the student's ability to perform in the didactic or clinical setting, it is the student's responsibility to report this immediately to the program director.

ACCREDITATION:

Utah Valley University has applied for provisional accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). UVU anticipates matriculating its first class in January 2022, pending achieving Accreditation - Provisional status at the June 2021 ARC-PA meeting. 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.

Utah Valley University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Applications will open in April 2021. If UVU's program does not receive Accreditation - Provisional at the June 2021 ARC-PA meeting, admission processes will cease and no interviews for a January 2022 cohort will be conducted. Application fees incurred to that point will not be refunded.

UVU.EDU/PHYSICIANASSISTANT | PAADMISSIONS@UVU.EDU | 801.863.7982