

## Physician Assistant Studies Fact Sheet

Physician Assistants (PAs) can practice and prescribe medicine under the license of a physician and can work in a variety of health care settings. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic services, as designated by a licensed physician.

### Choosing a Major

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in any major.
- Popular majors include, Allied Health Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Exercise Science, Biology, and Chemistry.

### Competitive Applicant Qualities

- Competitive GPA above a 3.50
- GRE scores above a 152 for each section with a writing score at a 4 or above
- Significant clinical/patient care experience (500+ hours)
- PA job shadow and volunteer work are essential
- Excellent letters of recommendations/evaluations/rubrics

### Common Prerequisites for Physician Assistant Studies programs

(Prerequisites most often require a "C" or better grade)

Grand Valley State University (course numbers refer to GVSU classes)	Other programs require and/or recommend the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell &amp; Molecular Biology (<i>BIO 120</i>)</li> <li>• Genetics (<i>BIO 355 or BIO 375 &amp; 376</i>)</li> <li>• Human Anatomy &amp; Lab – preferred (<i>BMS 208 &amp; 309</i>) or optional: Anatomy &amp; Physiology I (<i>BMS 250</i>)</li> <li>• Human Physiology &amp; Lab – preferred (<i>BMS 290 &amp; 291</i>) or optional: Anatomy &amp; Physiology II (<i>BMS 251</i>)</li> <li>• General Chemistry (<i>CHM 109 or CHM 115 &amp; 116</i>)</li> <li>• Organic Chemistry (<i>CHM 231 or CHM 241 &amp; 242</i>)</li> <li>• Biological Chemistry (<i>CHM 232 or CHM 461</i>)</li> <li>• Microbiology (<i>BMS 212 &amp; 213</i>)</li> <li>• Physics (<i>PHY 200 or PHY 220 &amp; 221</i>)</li> <li>• Introductory or Life Span Psychology (<i>PSY 101 or PSY 364</i>)</li> <li>• Applied Statistics (<i>STA 215</i>)</li> </ul>	Cadaver Lab ( <i>BMS 309</i> ) Current First Aid/CPR Immunology ( <i>BMS 410</i> ) Nutrition ( <i>BMS 305</i> ) Medical Ethics ( <i>BIO 328</i> ) Medical Terminology ( <i>AHS 100</i> ) Pathophysiology ( <i>BMS 310</i> ) Pharmacology ( <i>BMS 311</i> ) Writing Course – Second level

Please note that prerequisites vary by school and they may or may not accept AP, IB, Dantes/DSST, CLEP or community college credit for prerequisites. Research to make sure that you have met the prerequisites or competencies for the schools to which you intend to apply. Meet with an advisor to discuss your specific academic plan.

**Application Cycle...**The PA application cycle opens mid-April and runs through March of the following year. Many programs use CASPA to process their applications. Verify the application method with your desired program well in advance. Application due dates vary.

**GPA...**Each program will identify which GPA's will be used as part of the admission process; AP credits and "W" grades are not typically calculate in your GPA. However, avoid "W" grades as professional schools expect students to carry a consistent, full-time course load.

**Graduate Record Exam (GRE)...** Most programs require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). GRE scores should be sent either to CASPA or directly to the schools. Scores should be less than 5 years old. For GRE registration go to <http://www.ets.org>

**Professional Experience...**Clinical/patient experience is typically required; many programs require hands-on patient contact. Examples of this include taking vitals, drawing blood, providing personal hygiene care, radiology technician, working as a nurse or EMT etc.

**Recommendations/Evaluations...** Many programs require 3 evaluations/recommendations/rubrics. There are several different types and each program will identify how many and what type of recommendations they require on their webpage and/or in CASPA.

**AP, CLEP, IB, Dantes Credit...** Not all professional schools will accept this type of credit for science courses. If a school accepts this type of credit they may require additional courses in that subject area

Application/admission requirements for professional schools vary.

Research each program of interest to determine the exact requirements needed for application/admission.

Students interested in the **GVSU program** should schedule an appointment with a College of Health Professions advisor.

# Michigan Physician Assistant Programs

Valid 2018/19

Admission Criteria by University	Central Michigan University	Grand Valley State University	University of Detroit Mercy	Wayne State University	Eastern Michigan University	Western Michigan University
<b>Application Deadline</b>	9/1	9/1	1/15	9/1	9/1	12/1
<b>Security Deposit</b>	\$1,000	No	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$750
<b>Minimum GPA</b>	3.25 Overall 3.00 in Pre-requisite coursework	3.00 in overall, pre-req coursework, and last 60 hours of coursework	3.00	3.00	3.00 Overall	3.00 for the last 60 credit hours
<b>Average Admitted</b>	3.53 Overall 3.61 Pre-requisites	3.79 average admitted to GR 3.57 average admitted to TC	3.69 average admitted	3.79 Overall 3.83 Pre-requisite	3.7 average admitted	3.61 Overall 3.60 Science GPA
<b>GRE Score</b>	Required MCAT score may be used instead of GRE	Required No minimum score indicated	Required Minimum composite scored of 291 required	Required Minimum of 285 combined composite score	Required No minimum score indicated	Not Required
<b>Experience</b>	Minimum of 500 direct patient care hours; 100 hrs paid direct patient care. Recommended to obtain hours in various medical settings	Minimum of 500 hours of significant volunteer, work, and/or observational experience in a health care environment with hands on patient care activities	Minimum of 1000 hours of health care or health care related experience with increasing responsibility, leadership, and evidence of community service.	Minimum of 500 hours in a health service environment. Paid health care experience is preferred due to the level of responsibility at these positions	Required No minimum amount indicated	Minimum of 1,000 hours of direct patient care. Volunteer hours may be used for half the requirement if direct patient care is evident
<b>Essay/ Written Statement</b>	General CASPA essay and supplemental application	CASPA Essay	General CASPA essay and supplemental application	General CASPA essay and supplemental application	General CASPA essay and supplemental application	General CASPA essay and supplemental application. Resume or CV required.
<b>Accept AP Credit</b>	no	yes	no	yes	consult school	Yes, w/ supplemental application
<b>Supplemental Application Fee</b>	\$50	\$30	None	None	\$45	\$50
<b>Letters/ Forms of Recommendation</b>	Three recommendations	Two recommendations: one from a health care professional	Two recommendations from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's work: one from a practicing PA or physician familiar with the roles of a PA	Three recommendations: one from an individual who has observed the applicant during direct patient contact experience	Two recommendations	Three recommendations
<b>Interview Process</b>	On-site, invitation only	On-site interview and written essay, invitation only	On-site, invitation only	On-site, invitation only	On-site, invitation only	On-site, invitation only
<b>Main Contact</b>	CHP Graduate Admissions (989) 774-2478	CHP Student Services (616) 331-5900	Physician Assistant Program chpgrad@udmercy.edu	PA Studies Padmit@wayne.edu	Karin Olson (734) 487 2843	Dept. of Physician Assistant (269) 387-5311
<b>Website URL</b>	<a href="https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/CHP/HP_academics/physician_assistant/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/CHP/HP_academics/physician_assistant/Pages/default.aspx</a>	<a href="http://www.gvsu.edu/pas/">http://www.gvsu.edu/pas/</a>	<a href="http://healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/programs/paprogram/index.php">http://healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/programs/paprogram/index.php</a>	<a href="http://www.pia.gphs.wayne.edu/">http://www.pia.gphs.wayne.edu/</a>	<a href="https://www.emich.edu/chhs/hphd/pa/">https://www.emich.edu/chhs/hphd/pa/</a>	<a href="http://www.wmich.edu/pa">http://www.wmich.edu/pa</a>

\*This guide provides an outline to be used as a resource; however, it is recommended to follow up with the schools for current information and program specific requirements. The College of Health Professions Student Services Office is not responsible for the accuracy of this information