



DES MOINES
UNIVERSITY
MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

RIGOROUS, REAL-WORLD PREPARATION

for improving patients' lives

DMU's 25-month physician assistant program emphasizes the interrelationships of functions and organs and heightens students' awareness of the unique social, psychological and medical needs of each patient.

The curriculum offers 12 months of didactic study, followed by 12 months of clinical course work and supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs). The program concludes with a 25th month of summative assessments.

In addition to basic science and clinical medicine courses, the program features education in medical ethics, health care delivery systems, health policy, public health, research, diversity and inclusion, and PA professional topics. Additionally, the program offers interprofessional education (IPE) experiences with both internal and external health professions education programs.

The clinical curriculum allows students the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in the didactic phase to the clinical setting. Clinical sites are located throughout Iowa, the Midwest, and the United States. Students may also be able to complete one of their clinical experiences internationally through the global health department.

We are proud of the breadth and depth of our curriculum and have developed a philosophy of early and regular reinforcement of the knowledge, skills, abilities and fundamentals of the profession that are essential to the success of our graduates.



93.3%

Graduation rate
(latest three-year average)

98.4%

First-time pass rate for
national certifying exam
(latest five-year average)

13:1

Student : faculty ratio

LEARN FROM THE BEST

The DMU PA faculty have clinical experience and share a deep commitment to student success. They are great role models in the care and education of patients, community service and professional leadership. You will enjoy close interaction with faculty and classmates in a supportive and collaborative environment.

GRADUATE AMONG THE BEST

The DMU PA Program develops highly competent and compassionate physician assistants who are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills to care for diverse patient populations, as evidenced by outcomes such as certifying exam pass rates that are higher than the national average and career satisfaction.



DIG IN AND DISCOVER

Throughout the clinical year, PA students complete Capstone Projects, which encourage a mind of inquiry and creativity as each student designs and executes a meaningful project. This longitudinal assignment aggregates acquired knowledge and skills, clinical experiences and peer-reviewed literature. Project examples include such topics as the delivery of efficient patient care, patient or community health education, and an assessment of health care needs and/or resources in a community.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING

- Students develop clinical, communication and teamwork skills by performing hands-on procedures and assessments in **DMU's Simulation Center**. State-of-the-art high-fidelity mannequins and equipment bring clinical scenarios to life, enabling high-quality clinical training in a didactic setting.
- The **Standardized Patient Lab** enables students to interact with and examine

standardized patients trained to portray a variety of medical conditions. Students self-reflect through review of their recorded patient encounters and learn from evaluations by instructors and standardized patients.

- The **Surgery Skills Center** includes task trainers, simulated operating rooms, and laparoscopic and other specialized equipment. Students train in suturing, surgical instrumentation, dissection, intravenous placements and other clinical and surgical skills. The anatomy lab enables cadaveric dissection at stations equipped with large flat-screen monitors connected to devices with software to augment learning.

JOIN A GREAT PROFESSION

Physician assistant students at DMU are members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and the Iowa Physician Assistant Society (IPAS). Being part of these professional organizations allows you to interact and network with practicing health professionals.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

		FALL							SPRING					
		MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
YEAR 1	ORIENTATION					Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM) I				Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM) III				
		Clinically Oriented Anatomy			Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM) II				Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM) IV					
					Nutrition				Introduction to Ethics					
		Immunology/Microbiology			FALL BREAK	Physical Diagnosis				Clinical Patient Assessment		SPRING BREAK		
				Medical Genetics				Research and Epidemiology		Program to Practice I				
		Physiology/Pathophysiology			Medical Pharmacology				Intro to Health Care Delivery					
					PA Professional Issues - A				PA Professional Issues - B					
		Clinical Skills - A			Clinical Skills - B				Clinical Skills - C					
YEAR 2		<div>Clinical Curriculum<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Medicine (12 weeks), Internal Medicine (12 weeks), Surgery (4 weeks), Emergency Medicine (4 weeks), Pediatrics (2 weeks), Psychiatry (4 weeks), and Women's Health (2 weeks)• Elective (8 weeks)</div>												
		Program to Practice II												
YEAR 3		25th Month Summative Assessments & Capstone Project Presentations												
		Curriculum is subject to change												

Curriculum is subject to change.

HANDS-ON, RELEVANT AND REAL-WORLD:

DMU'S PA PROGRAM WILL PREPARE YOU TO PRACTICE WITH EXPERTISE.

HOW TO APPLY:

Apply through the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications become available in April for the class that begins in the summer term of the following calendar year. Due to rolling admissions, it is recommended to apply early.

PA PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ **Bachelor's degree** from a regionally accredited college or university
- ✓ **Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8** on a 4.0 scale
- ✓ **Completion of the following courses** prior to matriculation:
 - **Biology** – 16 semester hours with labs when available, including a semester each of human anatomy, physiology, microbiology and genetics
 - **Chemistry** – 15 semester hours with labs when available, including a semester each of inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry and biochemistry
 - **Psychology** – 9 semester hours, including one course in abnormal psychology
 - **Statistics or biostatistics** – one course
 - **Medical terminology** – one course
- ✓ **At least 750 hours of direct patient care experience** as an employee or volunteer in health care settings
- ✓ **Shadowing experiences** with a physician assistant
- ✓ **GRE score** submitted through CASPA
- ✓ **Two letters of recommendation**
- ✓ **U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status**

DES MOINES UNIVERSITY

MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

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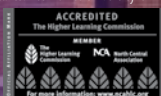
dmuadmit@dmu.edu

515-271-1499

www.dmu.edu/admission

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ACCREDITATION: The DMU Physician Assistant Program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, www.arc-pa.org. Graduates of ARC-PA approved programs are eligible to take the certifying examination given by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Des Moines University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604; 312-263-0456; 800-621-7440; Fax: 312-263-7462; www.hlcommission.org; 1/21-500



BECAUSE OF WHERE YOU WANT TO GO AFTERWARD

Your ultimate goal is to become an exceptionally well-prepared health care professional. At DMU, you will learn with faculty and students who all share a common focus on medicine and the health sciences. You will become ready for collaborative and interprofessional practice in providing the highest quality of care.

As a student, you will enjoy the amenities and affordability of Iowa's capital, Des Moines. Learn more at catchdesmoines.com.

