



HEALTH PROFESSIONS

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Physician assistants (PAs) are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. Specific duties depend on the setting in which the PA works, their level of experience, their specialty, and state laws.

The PA Program at Central Michigan University chp.cmich.edu/pa

Our PA program prepares students to provide quality and cost-effective primary care in a variety of settings, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of rural and medically underserved communities in the northern lower peninsula and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Students work and learn in a team environment alongside seasoned medical professionals. Our state-of-the-art facilities include a 50,000 square foot addition to CMU's existing Health Professions Building that opened in January 2020. CMU's Physician Assistant program is accredited by ARC-PA (<http://www.arc-pa.org/>).

Curriculum

This is a 27-month program, with each incoming cohort starting in May. The first 15 months are spent primarily on campus in the classroom and laboratory, complemented with an off campus clinical mentorship experience. The remaining 12 months consist of clinical rotations in various medical specialties such as:

- Primary Care Family Medicine
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Internal Medicine
- Women's Health
- General Surgery
- Long-term Care (elective)
- Pediatrics
- Emergency Medicine

Interviews for Central Michigan University Students

Applicants to CMU's PA program who have at least a 3.25 undergraduate GPA and who have earned or will earn a baccalaureate degree from Central Michigan University, and meet all other application and admission requirements, will be offered an interview for the PA program.

The CMU PA Admissions Committee reviews applications. The most qualified applicants are invited to campus for interviews. Applicants are assessed on traits such as professional motivation, background knowledge, and academic performance, as well as interpersonal skills, diversity of life and professional experiences and orientation to the medical practitioner role.

PA-CAT Requirement (Physician Assistant College Admission Test)

All applicants must take the PA-CAT and submit scores with their applications. Visit www.pa-cat.com.

We do **not** require the GRE.

Application Requirements (For more information see [How to Apply](#))

CASPA: You must [apply through CASPA](#), and your application must be **fully verified** before September 1 or you will be rendered ineligible. We suggest submitting your CASPA application at least a month before the deadline.

Supplemental Application: You must also [download and fill out our supplemental application](#) and pay the \$50 fee, either [online with a credit card](#) or by mailing us a check.

Three letters of recommendation: From previous employers or coworkers, preferably medical professionals. We will accept no more than one letter from a professor or advisor. Letters must be submitted through CASPA.

Graduate Health Profession Admissions, CHP 1250, 989-774-1730, chpgradadm@cmich.edu

International Students

- Course-by-course evaluation: All applicants with non-U.S. post-secondary credentials must submit an official course-by-course evaluation of their academic qualifications to CMU and CASPA using one of the following agencies: WES (World Education Services), ECE (Educational Credential Evaluators), SpanTran, or Josef Silny & Associates. (Canadian students are excluded from providing a foreign evaluation.)
- TOEFL: To be eligible to enroll full-time in graduate level academic coursework, students must satisfy CMU's minimum English Proficiency requirements (TOEFL score of 550 PBT/79 IBT).
- Prerequisite courses: All prerequisite courses must be completed at an accredited U.S. institution - no waivers will be given.

Admission Requirements

- Applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree or be near completion of a bachelor's degree
- Applicants must have completed a minimum of 500 hours of paid direct patient care prior to application.
- Students must earn a 3.0 or above in each prerequisite course and have a minimum 3.0 cumulative undergraduate grade point average.

Prerequisite Courses

Applicants must complete the prerequisite courses listed below. We allow up to two outstanding courses at the time of application which must be complete by December 31 of the year of application. Additionally, all prerequisite courses must have been taken within six years prior to applying at an accredited U.S. institution.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Anatomy, lecture and lab | • Microbiology |
| • Physiology, lecture and lab | • Biochemistry |
| • Pathophysiology | • Lifespan Developmental Psychology |

List of Acceptable DPC Hours

CMU's PA program will accept hours worked in the following positions to fulfill the required 500 (minimum) paid direct patient care hours. We may also accept other job hours. We do not accept scribing hours, or any other position in which there is no direct interaction with patients. If you are unsure if we will accept hours in a job you are considering taking, please email a detailed job description that lists the specific duties you will be performing to chpgradadm@cmich.edu.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Athletic Trainer | • Nurse (LPN, RN) |
| • Cardiopulmonary Rehab Specialist | • Nursing Assistant (NA) |
| • Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) | • Occupational Therapist (OT) and OT Aide |
| • Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) | • Optometrist |
| • Chiropractor | • Paramedic |
| • Dietician | • Phlebotomist |
| • Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) | • Physical Therapist (PT) and PT Aide |
| • Exercise Physiologist | • Psychiatric Aide |
| • Genetic Counselor | • Radiation Therapist (if the position includes direct hands-on care of patients) |
| • Home Health Aide | • Recreational Therapist |
| • Medical Assistant (MA – not certified) | • Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) |
| • Mental Health Therapist | |

Prerequisite Course Descriptions

The following course descriptions are from CMU's Undergraduate Bulletin. Prerequisite coursework completed at another institution should be comparable. For a list of prerequisite equivalents at other Michigan schools, see https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/CHP/hp_academics/srms/physician_assistant/Equivalencies/Pages/default.aspx

| Prerequisite Course | Courses at CMU (see descriptions below) |
|--------------------------|---|
| Anatomy | BIO 337 or HSC 214 |
| Physiology | BIO 392 or HSC 215 |
| Microbiology | BIO 208 or BIO 320 |
| Pathophysiology | HSC 411 |
| Biochemistry | CHM 421 or CHM 520 |
| Developmental Psychology | PSY 220 |

ANATOMY

BIO 337: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy (4 credits)

Comparison of the anatomy of vertebrates and close relatives with emphasis on evolutionary interpretation, systematics, ontogeny, functional morphology and adaptation.

HSC 214: Human Anatomy (4 credits)

A comprehensive course in the structure of the human body organized by systems. Laboratory work includes identification of fundamental anatomical structures on models and cadavers.

PHYSIOLOGY

BIO 392: Mammalian Physiology (4 credits)

The functioning of the mammalian body and its component parts, with an emphasis on human systems.

HSC 215: Human Physiology (4 credits)

A comprehensive course that studies the function of the organ systems of the human body. Laboratory work in fundamental physiological principles is included.

MICROBIOLOGY

BIO 208: Microbiology (4 credits)

Core concepts of microbiology from a human perspective.

BIO 320: Biology of Microorganisms (4 credits)

General microbiology course that explores the cell structure, metabolism, genetics, and diversity of microorganisms.

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

HSC 411: Pathophysiology (3 credits)

Study of body's physiological responses to disease states. Emphasis is placed on the interactions among body systems and deviations from homeostasis.

BIOCHEMISTRY

CHM 421: Introductory Biochemistry for Health Sciences

Introductory one-semester Biochemistry course with a focus on the human body.

CHM 520: Introductory Biochemistry

Structure, function, and metabolism of proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and nucleic acids.

PSYCHOLOGY

PSY 220: Developmental Psychology

Research-based findings on the development of human behavior from conception through late adulthood. This course may be offered in an online or hybrid format.

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Waiver of Courses

A waiver of the six year requirement (or grade requirement) for a prerequisite course may be requested by the applicant if 1) the applicant has a continuous employment history that would demonstrate knowledge of the course content, or 2) the applicant has a B grade or better, within the last six years, in a more advanced course in the same subject. Knowledge-based testing will not satisfy any of the prerequisites. To submit a waiver request, send an email detailing why you should be exempted to Clint Fitzpatrick, Director of CMU Health Professions Graduate Admissions, fitzp1tc@cmich.edu. The waiver must then be approved by the PA Program Director.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- [Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid](#): 989-774-3674, FinancialAid@cmich.edu
- AAPA: Log on to: <http://www.aapa.org>
- FAFSA: Log on to: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

For more info:

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions
CHP Graduate Admissions/Student Service Center
Health Professions Building, Office 1250G
Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Telephone: 989-774-1730
chpgradadm@cmich.edu

Program Requirements

First Year - Summer (19 credit hours)

credits

| | |
|---|---|
| HSC 650: Applied Anatomy | 5 |
| PHA 633: Scientific Basis of Medicine I | 2 |
| PHA 650: Diagnostic Tests I | 2 |
| PHA 660: History/Physical Exam I | 3 |
| PHA 625: Clinical Pharmacology I | 3 |
| PHA 608: Clinical Medicine I | 4 |

First Year - Fall (20 credit hours)

credits

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|---|---|
| PHA 609: Clinical Medicine II | 4 |
| PHA 626: Clinical Pharmacology II | 3 |
| PHA 672: App Ethics for Physician Assist. | 2 |
| PHA 620: Infectious Disease | 3 |
| PHA 634: Scientific Basis of Medicine II | 2 |
| PHA 640: Clinical Problem Solving I | 3 |
| PHA 661: History &/Physical Exam II | 3 |

First Year - Spring (21 credit hours)

credits

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|---|---|
| PHA 610: Clinical Medicine III | 3 |
| PHA 671: Preventive Medicine | 1 |
| PHA 635: Scientific Basis of Medicine III | 2 |
| PHA 630: Clinical Procedures I | 3 |
| PHA 641: Clinical Problem Solving II | 3 |
| PHA 651: Diagnostic Tests II | 2 |
| PHA 662: History &/Physical Exam III | 4 |
| PHA 673: Psychiatry | 3 |

| Second Year - Summer (22 credit hours) | # credits |
|--|------------------|
| PHA 612: Obstetrics/Gynecology | 3 |
| PHA 614: Pediatrics | 3 |
| PHA 616: Surgery | 2 |
| PHA 618: Emergency Medicine | 2 |
| PHA 624: Issues in Practice | 2 |
| PHA 631: Clinical Procedures II | 3 |
| PHA 645: Crit. Appraisal of Med. Lit & Evi Based Med | 2 |
| PHA 642: Clinical Problem Solving III | 3 |
| PHA 652: Diagnostic Tests III | 2 |

Second Year - Fall (16 hours) Credit hours

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|-------------------------------|----|
| PHA 690: Clinical Education I | 16 |
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Second Year - Spring (16 hours) Credit hours

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| PHA 691: Clinical Education II | 16 |
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Third Year - Summer (16 hours) Credit hours

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|---------------------------------|----|
| PHA 692: Clinical Education III | 16 |
|---------------------------------|----|

Total: 130 semester hours

Information from <http://cmich.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2019/Graduate-Bulletin/Colleges-and-Departments/School-of-Rehabilitation-and-Medical-Sciences/Physician-Assistant-Program-M-S>

Policy on Advanced Credits

Central Michigan University's Physician Assistant Program does not accept transfer students. All students who enter the program must finish the entire prescribed curriculum. Additionally, a student cannot receive waivers for any courses taken at other institutions prior to entering the program.

The PANCE

To be eligible for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE), students must graduate from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The PANCE, prepared by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), is a test of minimum competency designed to assess whether examinees have the knowledge and skills needed for entry-level practice. The PANCE tests medical knowledge, in addition to the ability to make competent judgments about patient care. The exam content is adjusted as needed over time to make sure that the skills, knowledge and critical thinking skills tested remain consistent with the requirements of entry-level physician assistant responsibilities in the workplace.

Program cost estimate based on in-state tuition rates

| Item | Year 1 82 credits (4 semesters) | Year 2 48 credits (3 semesters) | Totals |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Tuition* | \$55,069.00 | \$32,736.00 | \$87,805.00 |
| Special class fees | \$825.00 | \$1,440.00 | \$2,265.00 |
| Books & supplies | \$5,505.00 | \$0 | \$5,505.00 |
| Room & Board | \$15,574.00 | \$12,237.00 | \$27,811.00 |
| Estimated cost of personal expenses plus fees for prequalification requirements for mentorship/clinical experience | \$3,275.00 | \$2,475.00 | \$5,750.00 |
| Transportation | \$1500.00 | \$6000.00 | \$7500.00 |
| Grand estimate investment totals | \$81,748.00 | \$54,888.00 | \$136,636.00 |

*Tuition costs are figured at 2020-2021 in-state resident rates (\$778/credit hour)

Year 2 includes Mentorship semesters and Clinical semesters which entails additional travel expense.

All costs are subject to change by the Board of Trustees.

Source: https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/CHP/hp_academics/srms/physician_assistant/Pages/Financial-Information.aspx