

Midwestern University Physician Assistant Requirements

Degree Description

The professional curriculum leads to a Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies. This full-time 27-month professional program offers students the opportunity to earn a graduate degree and satisfy the eligibility requirements for the PA national certifying examination. The maximum allotted time for completion of this program is 40.5 months.

The roles and specific clinical duties and responsibilities that graduates can expect to experience will likely vary depending on their chosen career path. PA Program graduates are expected to have the ability to competently perform patient histories and physicals, gather pertinent patient data, order and interpret diagnostic studies, recognize common diseases and disorders, choose appropriate therapeutic modalities, perform surgical procedures, manage emergency life-threatening conditions, promote health through counseling, education, and disease prevention, and demonstrate interpersonal skills consistent with the physician assistant role.

The didactic coursework includes 12 months of basic science coursework in anatomy, biochemistry, neuroscience, physiology, pharmacology, immunology, genetics, and microbiology. It also includes clinical coursework in clinical medicine, behavioral medicine, professional issues, and interpretation of the medical literature. During the remaining 15 months, students are required to rotate through eight core clinical rotations and two elective clinical rotations, in addition to completing advanced clinical medicine courses and a capstone project.

The second-year clinical program is primarily delivered at affiliated clinical sites and facilities within the Chicago metropolitan area. These sites are geographically and demographically diverse, reflecting the broad scope of practice opportunities that exist for PAs in the health care delivery system of this country. Sites include ambulatory practice settings, small and large office-based group practices, community health centers, in-patient settings involving large and small hospitals as well as federal and state facilities. These sites are in urban, suburban, and rural communities. In addition, the program has established formal affiliations with clinical facilities and practitioners in a number of other states. As part of the clinical education phase of the program, students enrolled in the PA Program will likely be assigned to clinical rotations that reflect this geographic and demographic diversity.

The PA Program does not offer an extended course of study beyond the usual length of the program.

Admissions

The Midwestern University PA Program considers applicants who possess the academic and professional promise necessary for development as competent, caring members of the health care community. The admissions environment is highly selective with more than 1,200 applications received each year for 86 seats. Applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Completed applications received on or before the application deadline are reviewed to determine applicant eligibility for interviews. The following criteria are used to select the most qualified candidates: cumulative and science grade point average (GPA), Graduate Record Examination

(GRE) general test scores, letters of recommendation, health care experience, knowledge of the profession, and motivation for a career as a PA. Competitive candidates are typically invited to campus during the months of September through January.

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the PA Program must submit the following documented evidence:

1. Minimum cumulative science and overall GPA of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale. Competitive applicants typically have science and overall GPA's of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.
2. GRE scores from the general test using the Midwestern University institution code 1769
 - The test must have been taken no earlier than January 1, 2006 and no later than October 1, 2010.
 - Test scores must be received by the MWU Office of Admissions no later than December 1, 2010.
 - Applicants are expected to achieve a score at or above the 50th percentile in each section.
 - For additional information about the GRE, contact Educational Testing Services (ETS) at 866/473-4373 or visit www.gre.org.
3. Completion of prerequisite courses as listed below from regionally accredited colleges or universities
 - All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grades of a C or better
 - Grades of C- are NOT acceptable for any prerequisite courses
 - Life experience credits do not count toward fulfillment of any prerequisite courses
 - Courses in which "credit" or a grade of "pass" is earned will be counted only when applicants can provide verification that the earned grades were equivalent to grades of C or better (grades of C- are not acceptable)
4. Completion of prerequisite courses by December 31st of the year which precedes the year of anticipated matriculation.
 - No exceptions will be made.
 - Applicants must determine which prerequisites are missing and which courses must be taken to fulfill any outstanding prerequisites
 - Students invited to interview must show documentation on the day of their visit that they are enrolled in or registered for any outstanding prerequisites
5. Completion of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university before matriculation
6. Motivation for and commitment to health care as demonstrated by previous work, volunteer work, or other life experiences
7. Demonstration of service and leadership through community service or extracurricular activities

8. Oral and written communication skills necessary to interact with patients and colleagues
9. Satisfactory Midwestern University criminal background check
10. Commitment to abide by the Midwestern University Drug-Free Workplace and Substance Abuse Policy
11. Successful completion of all required immunizations prior to matriculation

PREREQUISITE COURSES

*Biology with lab	8 Sem/12 Qtr hours
*General Chemistry with lab	8 Sem/12 Qtr hours
*Organic Chemistry with lab	4 Sem/6 Qtr hours
Math (college algebra or above)	3 Sem/4 Qtr hours
English Composition	6 Sem/9 Qtr hours
Social and Behavioral Sciences (Sociology, Psychology, or Anthropology, etc.)	6 Sem/9 Qtr hours

CLC COURSE EQUIVALENTS

BIO 161 & BIO 162
CHM 121 & CHM 123
CHM 222 & CHM 223
MTH 122
ENG 121 & ENG 122 or 126
**SOC 121, PSY 121

*All science prerequisites must be courses designed for science majors. No survey courses will fulfill science prerequisites.

** These are recommended courses for social and behavioral sciences