Physician Assistant Program Information

CONTENTS
Program Overview  2
Requirements       3
Patient Care Experience  5
Technical Standards   6
How To Apply         7
Program Costs         8
Curriculum           9

PROGRAM MISSION
Transform Students Into Highly Competent Physician Assistants

VISION: Excellence in Physician Assistant Education

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Foster an enthusiastic learning environment committed to student success
Promote patient-centered collaborative care
Model and cultivate compassion
Respond to the need for primary care providers in Kansas
Encourage health care for rural and underserved populations

IMPORTANT DATES
5-15-16       CASPA Portal Open For Applications
10-1-16        CASPA Application Deadline
11-1-16        *WSU Graduate School Application Deadline

*applicants with foreign transcripts see pages 3 and 6 for deadline information.

Physician Assistant
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April 20, 2016
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The WSU Department of Physician Assistant offers a 26 month graduate course of study that leads to a Master of Physician Assistant degree.

Applicants interested in vying for one of the 48 slots offered annually have a strong background in the natural and clinical sciences supporting their bachelor degree. The selection process screens candidates based on past academic performance, previous health care experience, an orientation toward service and an on-site interview.

PA Students will spend their first year learning clinical medicine, how to perform a medical history and physical examination and beginning their research project. Graduate coursework included in the didactic phase includes clinical medicine, clinical laboratory, pharmacotherapy, anatomy, pathophysiology, research and evidence-based practice, clinical skills, preventive medicine and health care professional issues.

Students complete 8 clinical rotations during their second year. Focus areas include: family medicine and primary care, pediatrics, prenatal care and women’s health, emergency medicine and acute care, general surgery, behavioral health and geriatrics. The WSU PA Program enjoys the support of preceptors throughout Kansas along with a few rotations in Oklahoma and Missouri. In keeping with the broad range of clinical activities, students have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of clinical rotation sites including at least two rotations in a rural location. All students will be assigned to clinical rotations outside of the urban areas and should therefore expect to spend several months in rural areas of Kansas.

The WSU Physician Assistant Department prepares students to function as health care generalists. Students are prepared to become licensed professionals and encouraged to serve in primary care areas where the health care need is greatest.

![Image of a healthcare professional]
REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

1. Applicants must have a bachelor degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university.

2. Prerequisite coursework must be completed if it was not included in the bachelor degree (see prerequisites).
   A. CORE prerequisite coursework should be no more than 10 years old.
   B. Coursework taken at a university outside of the U.S. must be from a recognized institution in that country whose requirements for a bachelor degree are substantially equivalent to a U.S. four year bachelor degree. Foreign coursework must be evaluated by a foreign transcript evaluation service before it will be accepted for consideration by CASPA. The applicant is responsible for arranging for evaluation of all transcripts (refer to CASPA’s website for details).
   C. Applicants with foreign coursework must apply to the WSU Graduate School and admissible prior to submitting the CASPA application.

3. Ideally, the bachelor degree and all prerequisite coursework should be completed before application.
   A. All Core Science Prerequisites must be completed with a grade submitted to CASPA at the time of application.
   B. A candidate can apply while completing other bachelor degree coursework and other prerequisites, but these must be completed before starting the program, and completion must be verified before acceptance into the program is finalized.

4. A minimum GPA of 3.00 (4.0 scale) is required for both overall coursework and science course work.
   A. Both GPAs will be calculated by CASPA using all courses on the transcripts you submit to CASPA and reported to us on your CASPA application.
   B. All prerequisite course work must be completed with a “C-” grade or higher.
   C. Prerequisites not verified on an official transcript or taken for “credit only” or “Pass/Fail” will not be accepted to satisfy a prerequisite requirement.

5. Selected applicants will be invited to an on-site interview with program faculty. Attendance is required but does not assure admission to the program.
   A. The interview includes (but is not limited to) an assessment of academic potential, motivation and commitment to the PA profession, and interpersonal and communication skills.

6. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a commitment to diversity, leadership, and service.

7. Applicants must be able to meet the Academic and Technical standards. (see page 6)

8. Health care experience (direct patient care) is strongly preferred, but not required. (see page 5)

9. Applicants must obtain, pay for, and pass a background check prior to program admission. Admitted students will be required to obtain and pass a drug screen. In addition, clinical rotation sites may request random drug tests in certain situations; inability or refusal to do so will require the program to suspend or dismiss the student from the program.

10. Acceptance of foreign bachelor’s degrees is decided on an individual basis and after evaluation by a transcript evaluation service.

11. Applicants whose native (first) language is not English must submit TOEFL scores to CASPA. Scores must be received by CASPA before the application is submitted. (see page 4)

Program requirements will not be waived for any reason. Likewise, experiential credit toward prerequisites or advanced standing will not be granted. Transfer credit policies can be found in the latest edition of the WSU Graduate Catalog.

Student positions will not be held from year to year. If an applicant rejects or cancels an offered position at any time prior to starting the program, the individual will have to re-apply if he/she desire admission at a future date.
PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK

CORE SCIENCE PREREQUISITES
Must be complete at the time of application!

12 Credit Hours of Chemistry
(Recommended sequence—chemistry I, chemistry II, biochemistry)

9 Credit Hours of Biology to include Microbiology w/Lab
(Recommended sequence biology I, biology II, microbiology)

5 Credit Hours of Human Anatomy and Physiology w/Lab

OTHER PREREQUISITES
Must be completed before the start of the program

3 Credit Hours of Statistics
3 Credit Hours of General Psychology or higher level psychology
1 Credit Hour of Medical Terminology

SUGGESTED COURSES

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
Pharmacology
Genetics
Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry
Pathophysiology
Additional courses in Anatomy & Physiology beyond the required 5 hours

RECOMMENDED
Gerontology
Medical Ethics
Health Care Policy
Epidemiology
Abnormal Psychology
Human Nutrition

These and courses like these provide valuable background to prepare students for admission to the program and allow applicants to demonstrate their ability to succeed in rigorous science/medical courses similar to what they will encounter in the program.

TESTS

GRE— We DO NOT require GRE scores

TOEFL— Applicants whose native (first) language is not English must submit TOEFL scores to CASPA. Scores must be received by CASPA before the application is submitted.

Official TOEFL Scores should be mailed to CASPA in paper format. They must be original copies of the test and sent to CASPA directly from ETS. CASPA can NOT accept photocopied, faxed, or electronic TOEFL scores. Please mail all official TOEFL scores to:

CASPA TOEFL SCORES
P.O. Box 9108
Watertown, MA 02471

The following minimum requirements must be met in order to be considered for an interview:
550 (paper based), 213 (computer based) or 79 (Internet based).

Inquiries
If you have further questions about WSU’s PA program, please email:
Physician.assistant@wichita.edu

Transcript evaluation is not provided.
PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE

Health care experience (direct patient care) is strongly preferred, but not required. Experience listed on your application will be verified.

EXAMPLES OF DIRECT PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED:

- Registered Nurse
- Scribe
- Medical Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Paramedic
- Military Corpsmen
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Dental Hygienist
- OR Technologist
- X-Ray Technologist
- Athletic Trainer
- EMT/MICT
- Physical/Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Certified Nurse Aide
- Social Worker
- Mental Health Care Counselor
- Medical Assistant
- Aide in Dialysis Unit
- Optometry Assistant
- Phlebotomist
- Chiropractic Assistant

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT DIRECT PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE:

- Medical records personnel or clerical worker in a medical office or hospital
- Pharmacy technician/clerk
- Observation of any kind (i.e., shadowing a physician or PA)
- Training without employment (such as EMT/MICT, etc.)
- Health care experience which is part of a health care training program (i.e., clinical rotations, field work, or internships)
- Caring for one's own family
- Providing first aid as a coach, scout leader, etc.

SHADOWING

Shadowing is strongly preferred, but not required. Shadowing is advantageous because it can help you better understand what a PA does.
The WSU PA Program curriculum incorporates the teaching of technical skills necessary for the practice of medicine. Students must be able to perform successfully in a wide variety of clinical situations, and therefore are required to have adequate ability in physical, cognitive and behavioral areas. Students are expected to confirm their ability to meet the following standards (with or without reasonable accommodations consistent with applicable law) upon admittance to the program.

Physical abilities required for satisfactory completion of curriculum:
• The ability to observe demonstrations and other forms of instruction, as well as the observation of patients for physical evaluation. Observation necessitates the functional use of vision both at a distance and close at hand. Other sensory modalities, such as touch and smell enhance observation.
• The ability to communicate effectively in English. Communication necessitates the ability to speak, hear and perceive nonverbal communication. Writing, reading, interpreting graphs and diagrams, as well as computer literacy, are also essential for effective communication throughout the PA Program curriculum and in patient care.
• The ability to perform physical exams, diagnostic tests, surgical procedures, and treatment modalities for general and emergent medical care requires sufficient sensory and motor function. The curriculum requires that students have coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and other sensory function to perform tasks such as intubation, catheterization, suturing, cast application, palpation, auscultation, administration of intravenous medication, basic life support (BLS), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), etc.

Cognitive abilities required for satisfactory completion of curriculum:
• Analytical reasoning, problem solving, critical thinking, and the ability to intellectually grasp a large volume of information are essential for successful completion of the curriculum. These skills would include understanding of measurements and calculations. Students will be required to integrate information from patient histories, exams, and diagnostic tests and then relate it to medical knowledge to form diagnoses and treatment plans.

Behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of curriculum:
• The ability to demonstrate compassion, concern for others and a motivation to service, as well as maturity that is expressed through ethical and professional behavior, the ability to complete tasks without unnecessary delay, dependability to take responsibility and initiative, willingness to be flexible, and the use of clean and tactful language, are all essential to excellent medical care and successful completion of the curriculum. Practicing good judgment when choosing patient care, including the ability to identify one’s limit of knowledge and seek help.

Students must be able to function effectively under stress. The curriculum includes a demanding schedule, changing clinical environments, and uncertainties inherent to medical care.
• Also required, is the ability to maintain appropriate relationships with colleagues, faculty, patients and other health care professionals conducive to providing quality medical care and services.

Any applicant/student with a question about these technical standards or their ability to meet them will be strongly encouraged to discuss them with the Wichita State University Office of Disability Services prior to the interview process.
• This resource can be accessed at www.wichita.edu/disabilityservices
• Any student with an ability limitation or in need of special accommodation will be requested to notify the Program Director in writing prior to the beginning of didactic coursework or immediately upon obtaining knowledge, awareness or diagnosis of such a condition requiring accommodation.
HOW TO APPLY TO WSU’S PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

*CASPA Application

1. The Central Application Service for Physician Assistant (CASPA) Applications will be available beginning May 15, 2016 at https://portal.caspaonline.org/.
2. Supporting information, including transcripts, must be sent to CASPA as directed in the online application. Keep in mind this process can take significant time. It is the responsibility of the applicant to see that all transcripts and other materials are received by CASPA within the designated time-frame.
3. Applications must be *complete and verified by October 1, 2016*. We encourage early submission to allow CASPA processing to be complete by October 1st. Applications that are late or incomplete will not be considered or returned.

*Complete and Verified Definition: Applicants must have their application verified (GPA calculated) by the deadline date. Applications must be completed (e-submitted, payment received, transcripts received, and 2 letters received, at least four weeks in advance of the deadline to ensure the application is verified on time.

Supplemental Application

1. After the WSU PA Program has received your CASPA application and determined that you have met minimum admission requirements, a link to the supplemental application will be emailed to you with a submission deadline.
2. The purpose of the supplemental application is to collect additional information not collected in the CASPA application.
3. This supplemental application should be submitted to the Program before your assigned deadline, along with a $75 non-refundable WSU PA Program application fee, which is payable online.

*Wichita State University Graduate School Application

1. At the time you complete the WSU PA Program Supplemental Application you should also complete an application to the WSU Graduate School.
2. Application to the WSU Graduate School is a separate process from the CASPA application and the supplemental application, and is required to be eligible for interview!
3. It is the responsibility of the applicant to see that all transcripts are sent directly to the WSU Graduate School.
4. Applications must be submitted no later than November 1, 2016 http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=gradschool&p=/Forms/AdmissionForms/
5. The application fee is $50.00
6. Acceptance into the WSU PA Program is contingent on acceptance by the Graduate School.

*Applicants with foreign coursework must apply to the WSU Graduate School and be admissible prior to submitting the CASPA application.

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, status as a veteran, genetic information or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0205; telephone (316) 978-6791.

WHAT KIND OF STUDENT ARE WE LOOKING FOR

♦ Strong academic record and evidence of potential to succeed in a difficult graduate program
♦ Motivation and drive to achieve excellence
♦ Demonstrated commitment to rural/underserved populations, service, leadership, and personal and professional growth
♦ Awareness of one’s limitations, compassion, humility and teachability
♦ Respect for patient-centered, collaborative care
♦ Flexibility to make rapid transitions
♦ Appreciation of the unique opportunity to become a member of the PA profession
♦ Financial resources sufficient to support themselves without working
ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS FOR 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR
(As of March 2016)

TUITION/FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Non-Resident</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year (41 credit hours)</td>
<td>$13,813.72</td>
<td>$30,152.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program/Testing Fees</td>
<td>+2,525.00</td>
<td>+2,525.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Semesters</td>
<td>$16,338.72</td>
<td>$32,677.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Year (42 credit hours)</td>
<td>$14,150.64</td>
<td>$30,887.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program/Testing Fees</td>
<td>+3,300.00</td>
<td>+3,300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Semesters</td>
<td>$17,450.64</td>
<td>$34,187.64</td>
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OTHER EXPENSES:
- Non-refundable registration fee - $17.00 per semester
- Background check, immunization verification and drug screening – estimated $120 initial fee, $50 annually thereafter
- White coat, scrubs, and laboratory coat for anatomy – estimated $350.00
- Books – estimated $1500 for first semester and $700 for the second semester of the academic year
- Equipment – estimated $1000. The list of required equipment will be discussed at the start of the first fall semester.

NOTE: These are estimated costs. Tuition, fees, and expenses are subject to change, and may vary depending on your personal situation (i.e., housing, transportation, etc.).

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:
- **Health Insurance**: All students are required to carry health insurance while a student in the PA program. There is a student policy available through Wichita State University. See [http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=shc&p=healthinsurance](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=shc&p=healthinsurance) for more information.
- **Malpractice Insurance**: All students are required to carry malpractice insurance throughout the program. It is offered through our department and is currently priced at $150.00 per year (subject to change).
- **Transportation and Housing**: Transportation and living costs (room and board) are not covered during any phase of the Program.

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

Additional information about University policies regarding student services, including tuition and fee procedures, withdrawals, refunds and student grievance procedures may be found in the WSU Graduate School Catalog which is available online at [http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=GRAD SCHOOL&p=/Publications/gradcatalog/](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=GRAD SCHOOL&p=/Publications/gradcatalog/).

Wichita State University Physician Assistant Program:
[http://wichita.edu/pa](http://wichita.edu/pa)

American Academy of Physician Assistants:

Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants:
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM CURRICULUM

**Summer Semester**  (6 credit hours)
- PA 789 Clinical Anatomy (5)
- PA 717 Professional Issues (1)

**Fall Semester**  (18 credit hours)
- PA 700 Medical History and Physical Exam (3)
- PA 716 Clinical Laboratory (2)
- PA 718 Clinical Medicine Cardiology (2)
- PA 727 Preventive Medicine (1)
- PA 729 Clinical Behavioral Medicine (2)
- PA 731 Clinical Medicine Dermatology (1)
- PA 732 Clinical Medicine EENT (2)
- HS 710 Applied Clinical Pharmacology (3)
- HP 800 Research Methods for Evidence-Based Practice (2)

**Spring Semester**  (17 credit hours)
- PA 719 Clinical Medicine Pulmonology (2)
- PA 722 Clinical Medicine Gastroenterology (3)
- PA 724 Clinical Medicine OB/GYN (2)
- PA 728 Clinical Medicine Endocrinology (1)
- PA 730 Clinical Medicine Musculoskeletal (2)
- PA 734 Clinical Medicine Neurology (1)
- PA 736 Applied Clinical Practice (2)
- HS 711 Pharmacologic Management of Acute and Chronic Diseases (3)
- HP 801 Interprofessional Evidence-Based Practice (1)

**Summer Semester**  (7 credit hours)
- PA 721 Clinical Medicine Genitourinary Renal (2)
- PA 780 Clinical Skills (1)
- PA 801 Advanced Clinical Rotation I (4)

**Fall Semester**  (14 credit hours)
- PA 802 Advanced Clinical Rotation II (4)
- PA 803 Advanced Clinical Rotation III (4)
- PA 804 Advanced Clinical Rotation IV (4)
- PA 896 Directed Study in Research I (2)

**Spring Semester**  (14 credit hours)
- PA 805 Advanced Clinical Rotation V (4)
- PA 806 Advanced Clinical Rotation VI (4)
- PA 807 Advanced Clinical Rotation VII (4)
- PA 850 Experiential Learning (0)
- PA 897 Directed Study in Research II (2)

**Summer Semester**  (7 credit hours)
- PA 899 Advanced Clinical Rotation VIII (7)