

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS)

The University of Dubuque's master of science in physician assistant studies (MSPAS) program will prepare students to become primary care physician assistants (PAs) who will practice with physicians and other members of health care teams. UD MSPAS is committed to developing clinicians who are educated in all aspects of health care with special emphasis on rural and underserved areas.

MSPAS students are trained on the medical model and undergo intensive coursework to prepare for careers as compassionate, competent, and skilled PAs.

UD enrolled its inaugural MSPAS student cohort in fall 2016. The inaugural cohort graduated in December 2018 and achieved 100 percent first-time pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE).

Program Highlights

- 27-month program with a 15 month pre-clinical phase, followed by 11 months of clinical rotations and a final month of capstone project completion and PANCE review course
- A cohort of 25 students are accepted annually through a comprehensive application process
- State-of-the-art facility
- Faculty comprised of practicing PAs and physicians
- Prepare students to become primary care PAs oriented toward service to rural and underserved populations
- July start date

Career Opportunities

The PA profession is one of the fastest growing in the country. PA ranked No. 1 in the 2019 Best Health Care Jobs list by *U.S. News & World Report*. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the profession will increase 37 percent from 2016 to 2026. Three quarters of PA graduates receive multiple job offers due to the high demand for PAs.

There are currently more than 130,000 PAs providing care and improving health care access and quality to millions of Americans in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. PAs work in numerous health care settings such as hospitals, medical offices, clinics, community health centers, nursing homes, retail clinics, educational facilities, workplace clinics, correctional institutions, and long-term care facilities. PAs often work in primary care settings with family practice physicians as well as alongside specialists in diverse fields including, but not limited to, surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, radiology, pathology, and internal medicine.

Graduate Admission Information

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Program Information

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Admission Process

University of Dubuque participates in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) and begins reviewing applications on June 1. All application materials including official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, three recommendations, and college transcripts must be received by CASPA by November 1. UD MSPAS does not require a supplemental application.

Program Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or Canada.
- Applications will only be accepted from US citizens or permanent residents.
- A minimum of a "C" (or 2.0) must be earned in all prerequisite courses.
- Minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.70 and science prerequisite grade point average of 2.90 on a 4.0 scale. However, a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and in the science prerequisite courses is typically expected for favorable consideration.
- All applicants must have completed the GRE within the past five years.
- A minimum of 500 hours of hands-on/direct patient care experience as a paid or volunteer employee is required at the time of application. Shadowing and scribe experience will NOT count towards the 500 hours.
- Shadowing a physician assistant is required.
- The program does not consider applicants for advanced placement.
- Three letters of recommendation must be submitted to CASPA with the application. Strong, unequivocal letters attesting to the applicant's educational background, motivation, analytical skills, and promise as a future medical practitioner are important considerations.

Academic Coursework Requirements

- Mathematics - Pre-calculus or higher AND Statistics: 6 semester hours
 - General Chemistry I and II with lab: 8 semester hours
 - Organic Chemistry I with lab: 4 semester hours
 - Organic Chemistry II OR Biochemistry with lab: 4 semester hours
 - General Biology with lab: 4 semester hours
 - General Microbiology with lab: 4 semester hours
 - Genetics with lab: 4 semester hours
 - Human Anatomy and Physiology with lab: 8 semester hours
- Note: **OR** one semester of Human Anatomy AND one semester of Human Physiology
- Note: Animal or Exercise Physiology will NOT be considered as a prerequisite course for the program



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CURRICULUM

Pre-Clinical Phase

Fall-1

- PA 611: Anatomy (6)
- PA 612: Physiology I (3)
- PA 613: Clinical Assessment I (4)
- PA 614: Lab Interpretation (2)

Total Credits: 15

Spring

- PA 621: Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (4)
- PA 622: Physiology II (4)
- PA 623: Pharmacology in Disease Pathology I (2)
- PA 624: Clinical Medicine I (4)
- PA 625: Clinical Assessment II (3)
- PA 627: Integration into Clinical Concepts I (4)

Total Credits: 21

Summer

- PA 626: Clinical Skills I (3)
- PA 631: Pharmacology in Disease Pathology II (2)
- PA 632: Clinical Medicine II (4)
- PA 633: Integration into Clinical Concepts II (3)
- PA 634: Human Behavior (3)

Total Credits: 15

Fall-2 (16 weeks)

- PA 641: Clinical Medicine III (4)
- PA 642: The Role of PA in American Health Care (2)
- PA 643: Clinical Skills II (3)
- PA 644: Evidence Based Medicine (2)
- PA 645: Integration into Clinical Concepts III (4)
- PA 646: Pharmacology in Disease Pathology III (2)
- PA 649: Didactic Summative Exam and OSCE (1)

Total Credits: 18

Total Didactic Year Credits: 69

Clinical Phase

- PA 650: Emergency Medicine Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 651: Family Medicine Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 652: Internal Medicine I Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 653: Internal Medicine II Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 654: Obstetrics/Gynecology Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 655: Pediatric Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 656: Psychiatry/Behavioral Health Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 657: Surgery Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 658: Rural Medicine Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 659: Elective I Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 660: Elective II Clinical Rotation (4)
- PA 662: Review Course (1)
- PA 663: Capstone Project (2)

Total Credits: 47

Program Total: 116

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