Master of Physician Assistant Studies Degree Program

Established 1972
Physician Assistants/Associates:

- A PA is a medical provider who is nationally certified and state licensed to practice medicine. Today there are more than 100,000 certified PAs in the United States.
Physician Assistant/Associate Roles

- Take medical histories
- Perform physical examinations
- Order and interpret diagnostic studies
- Prescribe medication
- Develop and implement treatment plans
- Confer with physicians and other clinicians
- Provide patient education
The mission of the Physician Assistant Studies Program is to:

- Excel in the art and science of PA education.
- Promote inter-professional primary health care delivery to a diverse and dynamic population to improve health outcomes.
- Foster continued commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Foster a dedication to evidence-based medicine, quality improvement and patient safety.
- Cultivate a commitment to faculty, staff and student wellness.
- Encourage leadership, service, and excellence among our faculty, staff, students and graduates.
National & State Demographics

- Approximately 158,470 certified PAs
- ~12,000+ PAs in Texas
- ~10,345 Certified PAs in Texas
- ~9,610 licensed PAs in Texas
- 70.1% female
- 35.0 PAs/100K population in TX (ranks 42)
- 6.6% of total PAs in the U.S
- In 2021, there were 48 Certified PAs per 100,000 population in the U.S., compared to 37 in 2017.
- ARC-PA estimates that the number of PA educational programs will grow from 282 in March of 2022 to 317 by 2024, thus increasing the number of individuals who may join the Certified PA workforce.
Employment Outlook

2023 U.S. News Rankings
- #2 in Best health care jobs
- #4 in the 100 best jobs
- #4 in best stem jobs
- Forbes.com rated the Master of Physician Assistant Studies the top 10 best master’s degree in the U.S.
- HIGHEST paying jobs National Median Base Salary: $121,530
Program Requirements

Application Deadline
September 1st

Admitting Semester
Summer (May)

Program Length
30 continuous months

Required minimum overall GPA: 3.0
Required minimum science GPA: 3.0
Admission Requirements

- Required courses must be completed by the date the application is submitted; A U.S. or Canadian-acquired Bachelor’s degree must be obtained by May in the year of enrollment.
- Professional or volunteer hands-on patient care experience strongly recommended.
- Grade of “C” or higher in all required courses.
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE). The GRE is not required of applicants who have a U.S. acquired bachelor’s and master’s degree or higher.
- All prerequisite courses must have been completed within the past 10 years.
- Prospective applicants who have interviewed for our program for two cycles and have not been offered acceptance, will not be reviewed for a third application cycle.
Required Courses for Admission

- *Human Anatomy/lab=4 semester credit hours
- *Human Physiology/lab=4 semester credit hours
- *General Chemistry/lab=8 semester credit hours
- *Organic Chemistry/lab=4 semester credit hours
- *Microbiology/lab=4 semester credit hours
- Genetics=3 semester credit hours
- Psychology=3 semester credit hours
- Statistics=3 semester credit hours

-*For Science Majors
Course Deadlines

- Required courses and those in progress must be completed by the time of application is submitted.
- All transcripts must be received by September 1.
- All other requirements (application, official GRE scores, letters of reference) remain September 1.
Considerations

- Quality and quantity of academic preparation
- Health care experience
- Awards, honors, service, leadership
- Letters of reference
- Personal statement/essay
- Interview for most competitive
Competitive Applicants

- Bachelor’s degree with greater than 50 semester hours in science courses
- Greater than 3.25 overall & science GPAs
- Hands-on patient care experience
- Evidence of Leadership
- Superior references
- Mature, insightful essay
- Evidence of community service
- Superior people skills
What We’re Looking For

- A strong work ethic
- Professionalism
- Conscientiousness
- Maturity
- Commitment
- Evidence of Service
- Humility
- Adaptability
- Tolerance of Ambiguity
Admissions Process

- Early admissions confirmation offered to the most competitive candidates following interview dates.
- Early application is strongly encouraged. Do not wait until the deadline if application is otherwise complete.
Class of 2025 Applicant Profile

2429 REVIEWED applications
162 interviewed
56 enrolled
41 women/15 men
6 non-Texas resident
Class of 2025 Applicant Profile

Average age=24
Average Science GPA=3.69
  (Science Range 3.24 to 4.00)
Average Overall GPA=3.74
Average GRE (V & Q)=303
  (Quantitative Range 138 to 167)
Class of 2024 Applicant Profile

2380 REVIEWED applications
  174 interviewed
  60 enrolled
  45 women/15 men
  6 non-Texas resident
Class of 2024 Applicant Profile

Average age=25
Average Science GPA=3.62
(Science Range 3.05 to 4.00)
Average Overall GPA=3.65
Average GRE (V & Q)=302
(Quantitative Range 140 to 165)
Class of 2023 Applicant Profile

2252 REVIEWED applications
169 interviewed
60 enrolled
46 women/14 men
0 non-Texas resident
Class of 2023 Applicant Profile

Average age = 24
Average Science GPA = 3.57
   (Science Range 3.01 to 4.00)
Average Overall GPA = 3.65
Average GRE (V & Q) = 304
   (Quantitative Range 141 to 161)
Tuition Academic Year 2023/2024

Texas Resident:
$354.00/semester hour x 112 hours=$39,648.00

Non-Texas Resident:
$762.00/semester hour x 112 hours=$85,344.00

Fees:
$4,143 over 30 months
Includes: Student services
Medical services
Computer usage
Malpractice
BLS/ACLS course fee
Anatomy lab
Graduation
Tuition Academic Year 2023/2024
Incidentals

Computer=$2710
Medical Equipment=$710
Lab Coats=$80
Books=$500

Total=$4,000
Tuition Plus Fees

Texas Resident:
$43,791.00 over 30 months or
$1,459.70/month ($17,516.40/year)

Non-Texas Resident
$89,487.00 over 30 months or
$2,982.90/month ($35,794.80/year)
Earnings

Physician Assistant Income

National average in 2021
$119,460/year
Texas average
$116,070
Didactic Phase

- May–July (15 months)
Summer Semester 1

13 Semester Hours Total

Human Anatomy Lecture
Human Anatomy Lab
Human Physiology
Introduction to Human Neuroscience
Professional Practice Issues I
Fall Semester

16 Semester Hours Total
Clinical Medicine I
Integration Skills I
Introduction to Pathology
Patient Evaluation I
Pharmacology I
Professional Development
Spring Semester

16 Semester Hours Total
Clinical Medicine II
Clinical Prevention & Population Health
Evidence Based Medicine
Integration Skills II
Patient Evaluation II
Pharmacology II
Professional Development
Summer Semester 2

13 Semester Hours Total
Clinical Medicine III
Clinical Skills
Patient Evaluation III
Psychiatry
Didactic Highlights

Evidence Based Medicine
Full Cadaver Dissection
Integrated Blocks of Instruction
PACKRAT Exam
Professional Practice Issues
Simulated Patient Lab
Small Group Tutorials
Clinical Phase

- August-November (15 months)
- UTSW’s affiliate institutions do require students training at their locations to comply with all applicable site policies, including vaccination. Those policies vary by location and some site policies do not contain exemptions.
Clinical Rotations

Family Medicine: 8 weeks
- Multiple private practice sites
- Outpatient-based
Clinical Rotations

Internal Medicine/Hospitalist: 8 weeks
Parkland Health & Hospital System,
Clements University Hospital, Baylor
Scott & White Medical Center

- Hospitalist inpatient teams led by
  staff attending physicians
- Students housing provided at Scott &
  White
Clinical Rotations

Primary Care Preceptorship: 8 weeks
• Designated primary care specialty setting of either Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics or Women’s Health
Clinical Rotations

Emergency Medicine: 4 Weeks

- Clements University Hospital
- Parkland Health & Hospital System
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Methodist Medical Center
- Charlton Methodist Hospital
- Medical Center-multiple locations
  - 4 weeks ER: 10 twelve-hour shifts
Clinical Rotations

Infectious Diseases: 4 weeks
- Parkland Health & Hospital System
- Dallas Veterans Medical Center
- Clements University Hospital
Clinical Rotations

Pediatrics: 4 weeks

- Private practice settings
Clinical Rotations

Psychiatry: 4 weeks
- Hospital and Correctional Facility based
  - 2 weeks inpatient
  - 2 weeks outpatient
Clinical Rotations

Surgery: 4 weeks

- Parkland Health & Hospital System
- Zale Lipshy University Hospital
- Clements University Hospital
- Dallas VA Hospital
Clinical Rotations

Women’s Health: 4 weeks
- Clements University Hospital
  - 2 weeks inpatient Obstetrics
- Community Practices
  - 2 weeks outpatient Gynecology
Clinical Rotations

Elective: 4 weeks

- Approximately 25 to choose from
- Popular choices include dermatology, surgery specialties, emergency medicine
- International possibilities
Clinical Highlights

Stellar Sites & Preceptors across the state of Texas
Balanced Mix of Private, Public, Inpatient & Outpatient settings
Internationally Renowned Preceptors
Job Fair
Labor & Delivery Exposure
Research Opportunities
Resume Workshop
PANCE Review Course
Ten Rotations Over Four Semesters
Internationally recognized Level 1 trauma and burn centers

2.8 million-square-foot campus

Specialty ER’s in Medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, and OB-Gyn

1 million patient visits per year

>40,570 admissions per year

878 beds
Parkland Hospital
Ranking

Out of 170 Programs Ranked 2020
UT Southwestern: 7th
PANCE

Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination
  ▪ Always inquire about first-time pass rates
  ▪ Our first-time pass rates are:
    ▪ 2022-96%
    ▪ 2021-93%
    ▪ 2020-100%
    ▪ 2019-98%
    ▪ 2018-100%
    ▪ 2017-100%
    ▪ 2016-100%
    ▪ 2015-100%
    ▪ 2014-100%
    ▪ 2013-100%
    ▪ 2012-100%
    ▪ 2011-100%
Program Accreditation

Accreditation required for PA licensure and certification

UT Southwestern has maintained continuing accreditation since 1973, with no adverse accreditation actions
Application Service

- Web-based application system sponsored by the Association of PA Programs.
- Allows applicants to apply to any number of participating PA programs.
- Beat the deadline; early application recommended.
- Apply to several programs if being a PA is your ultimate goal. Applying to only one program is not advised.
- [https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login](https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login)
- CASPA Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CASPAOnlineApp](http://www.facebook.com/CASPAOnlineApp)
- Video instructions for entering coursework in the CASPA application: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPXppeYKbZQ&feature=player_detailpage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPXppeYKbZQ&feature=player_detailpage)
CASPA Application Outcomes

- 25% chance of acceptance if only applying to one program
- 49% chance of acceptance if applying to 12 programs
  - (No additional advantage was noted if applying to more than 12 programs)
Application Cost

Number of Designated CASPA Programs

1. $184
2. $245
3. $306
4. $367
5. $428
Web Site

UT Southwestern PA Department Home Page

www.utsouthwestern.edu/pa
catalog, course descriptions, application information, general information
Other Sites

American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)
www.aapa.org

Texas Academy of Physician Associates (TAPA)
www.tapa.org

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)
www.paeaonline.org

Scribe.ology
www.scribeology.com

ScribeAmerica
www.scribeamerica.com
Disclosure

- PA education is intense, fast-paced, and difficult for the duration of enrollment.
- The expectation of having life balance as a PA student is often not realistic—that comes with the end point—graduation and employment.
- It is very important to have all support systems in place and all personal health conditions well-managed prior to starting the curriculum.
UT Southwestern Faculty

- Carolyn Bradley-Guidry, DrPH, MPAS, PA-C
- Veronica Coleman, MPAS, PA-C
  - Director of Admissions
- Bethany Grubb, MPAS, MPH, PA-C
- Temple Howell-Stampley, MD, MBA
  - Department Chair & Program Director
- Elizabeth Johnston, MS, MS, PA-C
- Kirsten Katzen, MPAS, PA-C
- David Klocko, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C
- Laura Mattingly, MHS, PA-C
  - Academic Coordinator
- Jasmine McElhany, MPAS, PA-C
- Samarpita Sengupta, PhD, MSc
  - Director of Research
- Michel Statler, DMSc, MLA, PA-C
- Bau Tran, PharmD, MMS, PA-C
- Jessica White, MMS, PA-C
PA Department Faculty
UT Southwestern Staff

- Anthony Ballard, Education Assistant
- Rita Billups, Senior Administrative Associate
- Beverly Curtis, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Lynn Giarratano, Program Coordinator
- Tom Knight, Clinical Site Coordinator
- Isela Perez, Senior Education Coordinator
- Heather Salinas, Clinical Coordinator
- Ayanna Watson, Education Assistant
PA Department Staff
COVID-19 Provisions & Common Questions

- WE review the COVID specific essays
- GRE scores obtained via at home version are accepted
- We do not accept Grades of pass/fail or satisfactory/unsatisfactory for any prerequisite course – all prerequisite courses must have an accompanying letter grade (A-C)
- Online labs and other courses being taught in a virtual setting are accepted as long as taught at a regionally accredited institution