
UT Southwestern
Medical Center

Master of Physician Assistant Studies Degree Program

Established 1972

Definition

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



Mission Statement

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

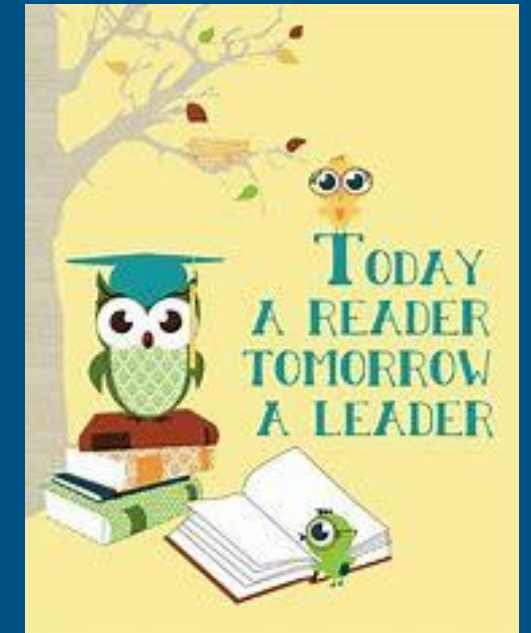
Commitment

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

57 will be enrolled

43 women/15 men

7 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)



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Summer Semester 1

13 Semester Hours Total

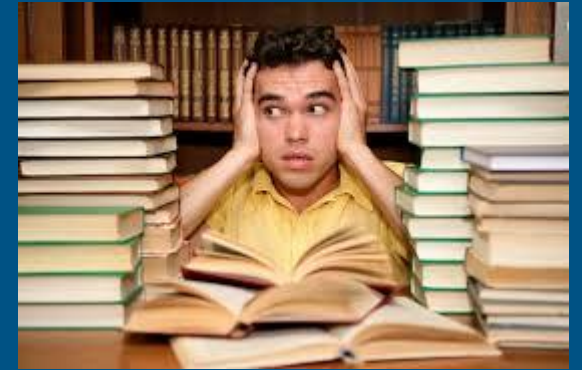
Human Anatomy Lecture

Human Anatomy Lab

Human Physiology

Introduction to Human Neuroscience

Professional Practice Issues I



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Fall Semester

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



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Spring Semester

16 Semester Hours Total

Clinical Medicine II

Clinical Prevention & Population Health

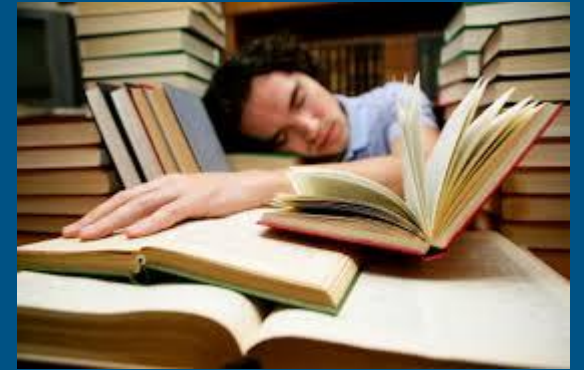
Evidence Based Medicine

Integration Skills II

Patient Evaluation II

Pharmacology II

Professional Development



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Summer Semester 2

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



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Didactic Highlights

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



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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.



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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



Psychiatry: 4 weeks

-
- The Phrenology chart overlaid on the man's head includes the following labels in its boxes:
- Top (Forebrain):** Ideality, Veneration, Admiration, Philoprogenitiveness, Love of Approbation, Firmness, Energy, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness.
 - Frontal (Frontal Cortex):** Firmness, Energy, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness.
 - Central (Central Cortex):** Firmness, Energy, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness.
 - Occipital (Occipital Cortex):** Firmness, Energy, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness.
 - Temporal (Temporal Cortex):** Firmness, Energy, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness.
 - Basal (Basal Ganglia):** Firmness, Energy, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness.
 - Brainstem (Brainstem):** Firmness, Energy, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness.
 - Spinal Cord (Spinal Cord):** Firmness, Energy, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Combativeness, Destructiveness.

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

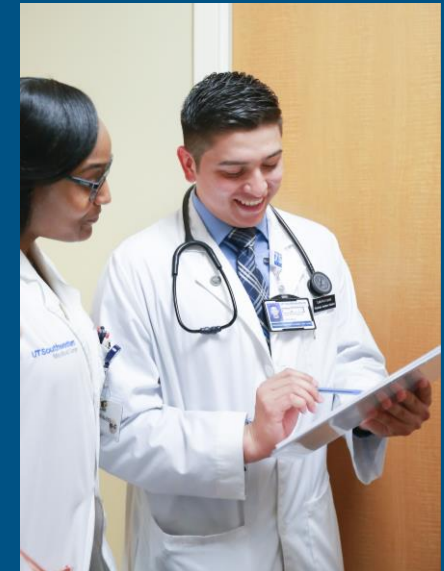
Labor & Delivery Exposure

Research Opportunities

Resume Workshop

PANCE Review Course

Ten Rotations Over Four Semesters



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Parkland Health & Hospital System

- 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



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William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital



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Ranking

Out of 170 Programs Ranked 2020
UT Southwestern: 7th



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PANCE

Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination

- Always inquire about first-time pass rates
- Our first-time pass rates are:
 - 2022-96% ■ 2018-100% ■ 2014-100%
 - 2021-93% ■ 2017-100% ■ 2013-100%
 - 2020-100% ■ 2016-100% ■ 2012-100%
 - 2019-98% ■ 2015-100% ■ 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>
- CASPA Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/CASPAOnlineApp
- Video instructions for entering coursework in the CASPA application:
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



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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
- Laurette Dekat, MD, MPH
 - Medical Director
- Bethany Grubb, MPAS, PA-C
- Temple Howell-Stampley, MD, MBA, MACP
 - Department Chair & Program Director
- Elizabeth Johnston, MPAS, PA-C
- Kirsten Katzen, MPAS, PA-C
- David Klocko, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C
- Laura Mattingly, MHS, PA-C
 - Academic Coordinator
- Venetia Orcutt, PhD, MBA, PA-C
- Samarpita Sengupta, PhD
 - Director of Research
- Michel Statler, DMSc, MLA, PA-C
- Bau Tran, PharmD, MS, PA-C, FCCP
- Jessica White, MMS, PA-C



PA Department Faculty



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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
- 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

QUESTIONS?

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Department of Physician
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