

Physician Assistant (PA)

A Full-time two and a half year Professional Degree Program (86 credit hours)



ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of a bachelor's degree from a college or university regionally accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- A grade of "C" or above is required for all prerequisite courses. In order to be competitive, however, it is strongly recommended that prerequisites be completed with a grade of A or B.
- All science courses must be less than 10 years old at the time of application. The program strongly encourages the Human Anatomy & Physiology prerequisites to be completed within the past 5 years. In some cases, work experience specific to the science course older than 10 years may substitute for repeating the course. Contact the PA program for information on how to request the substitution.

SH	Course
8	Human Anatomy & Physiology with labs
4	General or Introductory Chemistry with lab
3/4	Biochemistry (or Organic Chemistry with lab)
4	Microbiology with lab
3	Abnormal Psychology
3	Developmental Psychology (Child or Life Span)
3	Mathematics (preferably statistics)
1 - 3	Medical Terminology
29	TOTAL

*Distance education formats are strongly discouraged for the science courses that require a laboratory component. For more information visit <http://www.su.edu/physician-assistant/admissions/>.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Submit all application materials to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org including official transcripts for all institutions of higher education attended and three recommendations.
- As a part of the CASPA application, candidates will prepare an admissions narrative, which will be evaluated by the admissions committee and must be considered graduate student quality.
- Health-care experience (voluntary or paid) or observational experience with a physician assistant is not required, but highly suggested and considered by the SU PA admissions committee. This will also be documented within the CASPA application.
- Preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate a commitment to practice in primary care in rural or urban medically underserved areas. Candidates requesting this preference must do so in the form of a letter and upload it with their CASPA application.

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Summer II 2018 Admission

FINAL DEADLINE: November 1, 2017
 MINIMUM GPAs: 3.0 cumulative, science, and Shenandoah prerequisites.
 PREREQUISITES: Bachelor's Degree and prerequisite courses
 INTERVIEW: Required

Applying through CASPA

Begin the online application process by going to <https://portal.caspaonline.org/>

Required Tests

- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (No minimum GRE score required for admission. The successful candidate generally has composite scores above the 50th percentile.)
- Non-native English speakers must satisfy English Language Proficiency requirements by taking the TOEFL exam.

Foreign Transcripts

Must be evaluated by an accredited service before being sent to CASPA. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org.

Contact Us

Physician Assistant Program
pa@su.edu | 540-542-6208

Office of Graduate Admissions
 1460 University Drive
 Winchester, VA 22601
admit@su.edu | (540) 665-4581



Anthony A. Miller
M.Ed., PA-C
Professor and Director



Health Professions Building
1775 North Sector Drive
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 542-6208



Health & Life Sciences Building



Loudoun Campus
44160 Scholar Plaza
Leesburg, VA 20176
(571) 223-0238

School of Health Professions – Physician Assistant

The Physician Assistant Studies Program relies on the deep experiences of a future-focused faculty and hands-on experiences in clinical rotations. The school partners with two collaborative and close allies, Valley Health System and Inova Health System.

The Shenandoah University Physician Assistant program is a graduate entry-level professional course of study enabling individuals who hold baccalaureate degrees to become physician assistants. The program is designed to prepare graduates for primary-care practice with emphasis on service to medically underserved populations and the team approach to the delivery of health care. The program integrates graduate-level critical thinking and analysis, problem solving, scientific inquiry, self-directed learning and the effective use of modern technology for professional practice that includes elements of research, leadership, education and continued enhancement of the PA profession.

WINCHESTER CAMPUS

The SU Health Professions Building is located in historic Winchester, VA, on the campus of the Winchester Medical Center, a 445-bed regional referral hospital, which is part of Valley Health System. The PA program is in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, an area that offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking and camping at the nearby Shenandoah National Park.

Loudoun Campus

Leesburg, VA, is on the campus of Loudoun Hospital, a 183-bed nationally recognized hospital, which is part of the Inova Health System. Leesburg is part of the Northern Virginia metropolitan area - an area that offers access to the Dulles International Airport, Potomac River, restaurants, shopping, and is 40 minutes northwest of Washington, DC.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT CURRICULUM

The eight-semester, thirty-month curriculum design is based upon the concepts of adult-centered learning and professional education, which focus on mastery of knowledge, skills and attitudes required by the graduate to practice effectively as a PA. The curriculum, offered in didactic and experiential components, is an approach which moves from basic to more advanced skills. The didactic curriculum offers a variety of approaches to learning, which include self-directed study, recitation, lecture, integrated clinical cases and laboratory experiences assisting students to develop the necessary skills to be self-directed life-long learners and effectively apply what they learn in the clinical setting. The clinical curriculum provides core primary care and other learning experiences where students apply knowledge and skills in-patient care settings under the supervision and mentoring by licensed health care providers.