Physician Assistant

Practicing medicine under the supervision of a licensed doctor, physician assistants take medical histories, perform examinations, order laboratory tests and prescribe medications. They diagnose problems and work with other health care professionals to develop treatment plans. If your goal is to become a physician assistant, there’s only one university in Kansas that has the program and resources to make your career happen, and that’s Wichita State.

Career Opportunities

The future is bright for physician assistants. The combination of an aging population and a predicted shortage of physicians means that the physician assistant profession is one of the fastest growing professions over the next decade, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Physician Assistant at Wichita State

The WSU PA Program is one of the oldest programs in the country and awards a Master of Physician Assistant (MPA) degree upon completion. The program is fully accredited through the Accreditation Review Commission on the Education of Physician Assistants (ARC-PA).

This seven semester program lasts 26 months and is divided in two parts: 53 semester hours of didactic course work and 40 semester hours of research and clinical rotations in a variety of settings including rural, urban and under-served communities.

Graduates will be eligible to take the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants exam, which is required for a physician assistant to practice in all states.

To be admitted to this full-time program, students must meet the following requirements:

- Be admitted to WSU Graduate School
- Hold a bachelor’s degree or demonstrate intent to complete a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution by the spring semester prior to entering the PA program

- All Core Science Prerequisites must be completed at the time of application with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and a grade of C- or higher in each course. Other prerequisites may be in progress at the time of application but must be completed by the spring semester with a grade of C- or higher prior to entering the PA program.
- Have an overall cumulative GPA and a science GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Complete an on-site interview assessing academic potential, commitment to the profession and communication skills
- Must meet Academic and Technical Standards for Physician Assistant students
- Health care experience (direct patient care) is strongly preferred but not required

Hands-On Learning

WSU offers students unique, real-world learning opportunities in diverse settings across Kansas. Our location in central Kansas’ medical hub offers the opportunity for professional connections and exposure to a variety of medical specialties.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

In addition to resources available through the WSU Office of Financial Aid, there are additional scholarships available through the College of Health Professions. To find out more, and how you can apply, visit wichita.edu/chpscholarships and wichita.edu/financialaid.

Contact Information

For more information about the physician assistant program at Wichita State University call (316) 978-3011 or email physician.assistant@wichita.edu. You may also visit the department online to review our information packet or RSVP for an information session at wichita.edu/pa.

To schedule a campus visit or contact the Office of Admissions, go to wichita.edu/visit or call (316) 978-3085.
Prerequisite Courses

Core Science Prerequisites
- Hours of Chemistry with Lab - 12 credit hours
- Hours of Biology to include Microbiology w/ Lab - 9 credit hours
- Hours of Human Anatomy and Physiology w/ Lab - 5 credit hours

Other Prerequisites
- General Psychology (or higher level) - 3 credit hours
- Medical Terminology - 1-3 credit hours
- Statistics - 3 credit hours

Physician Assistant Program Curriculum

Summer Semester (6 credit hours)
- PA 721 Clinical Medicine Genitourinary Renal - 2 credit hours
- PA 801 Advanced Clinical Rotation I - 4 credit hours

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

Spring Semester (15 credit hours)
- PA 805 Advanced Clinical Rotation V - 4 credit hours
- PA 806 Advanced Clinical Rotation VI - 4 credit hours
- PA 807 Advanced Clinical Rotation VII - 4 credit hours
- PA 850 Experiential Learning - 1 credit hour
- PA 897 Directed Study in Research II - 2 credit hours

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

Total number of credit hours are subject to change.

For more information
If you have further questions or would like to schedule a campus visit, please contact the Office of Admissions.

Marcus Welcome Center
Office of Admissions
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0124
wichita.edu/admissions
wichita.edu/visit

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KSStateStats.org

For more information on the Physician Assistant program at WSU visit wichita.edu/pa or call (316) 978-3304.