

Physician Assistant Studies



What is a Physician Assistant?

Physician Assistants (PA) are certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) – a mark of professional accomplishment – and state-licensed. They are health professionals who practice medicine as members of a team with their supervising physicians. PAs deliver a broad range of medical and surgical services to diverse populations in rural and urban settings. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications. PAs promote quality, cost effective medical care to all members of society.

About the Program

Graduates of the Physician Assistant Studies program are awarded a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies after completing the 29-month curriculum. Graduates are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination and upon successful completion, are then eligible for state certification/licensure to practice as a certified Physician Assistant.

The Physician Assistant Studies Program at UK was initiated in 1973 and is one of two Physician Assistant programs in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), which is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

In 1996, the program was extended to include instruction at Morehead State University. Now, 10 dedicated faculty members, two based at Morehead State University, and eight based in Lexington, provide instruction. Each year, 40 students are admitted to the Lexington campus, and 16 to Morehead State site.

The PA program also offers international opportunities for its students including some who choose to do their clerkship rotations in various countries including Kenya, Swaziland and England. There are also other opportunities within the college to travel internationally on short term trips to Ecuador and Mexico, with other partnerships developing as well.

Prerequisites

- ➔ 4-year college degree
- ➔ One semester each of the following prerequisite courses with a C grade or better:
 - General Chemistry I with lab
 - General Chemistry II with lab
 - Organic Chemistry with lab (Pre-med or Chemistry major level)
 - Developmental Psychology
 - Microbiology (lab recommended) ²
 - Human Physiology²
 - Human Anatomy²
 - Statistics
 - Medical Terminology
 - General Psychology
 - Sociology/Anthropology
 - Biology/Zoology with lab Not Biology for non-majors

- ➔ **Applicants must obtain a minimum of 1,000 hours of direct patient contact care before enrolling in the PA program. Further, applicants must also observe a primary care PA for a minimum of 50 hours.**
- ➔ **Minimum GRE score of 900, preferred greater than 1,000.**

Notes:

1. Pre-requisite courses are under review. Several courses will likely be added (e.g. Genetics 304, Biochemistry 401G, Abnormal Psychology 533 and some other courses will be removed for the 2013 application cycle.
2. For detailed information on pre-requisites and course equivalencies see our website.

Admission

Admission to the PA program involves a 3-step application and an in-person interview for the best-qualified candidates. You must apply to the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA), the UK Graduate School and the College of Health Sciences. Applications for admission to the PA program are due August 1st, 2012 and classes will begin in January 2013.

The UK PA program is moving toward rolling admissions for the 2012 admissions cycle. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early in the cycle as possible. Please refer to PA admissions information found at <http://www.mc.uky.edu/PA/app.html>.



Want more information?

Visit the Physician Assistant Studies website for updates and contact information for program faculty and staff.

www.mc.uky.edu/pa