

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM

THE COLLEGE OF **SCIENCE+MATHEMATICS**

Pre-Physician Assistant

A physician assistant (PA) is a graduate of an accredited PA educational program who is authorized by all fifty states to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed physician. PAs are invaluable members of the health care team and work in concert with physicians to ensure the highest quality of care for patients.

To become a PA, a student must graduate from an accredited PA program. The typical entering student has a bachelor's degree and approximately four years of health care experience. The average PA program takes 27 months to complete. Subjects covered in PA school include anatomy, physiology, medical ethics, pathology, pharmacology, biochemistry, microbiology, behavioral sciences, physical diagnosis and differential diagnosis. To practice as a PA, individuals must pass a national PA certification exam and obtain state authorization (license, registration or certification). In order to maintain their certification to practice, PAs must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education over a two-year cycle and pass a recertification exam every six years.

Wright State University offers all the courses necessary for an individual to meet the prerequisites to any PA program. In addition, most of the required courses are offered twice per year.



Core Pre-Requisites

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|----------------|-----------------------------|
| • Biology | BIO 1120 & 1150 |
| • Chemistry | CHM 1210 & 1220 |
| • O-Chemistry | CHM 2110 & 2120 |
| • Human A&P | ANT 3100 & 3120 |
| • Microbiology | M&I 2200 or BIO 3100 & 3110 |
| • Statistics | STT 2640 |
| • Nutrition | BMB 2500 |
| • Biochemistry | BMB 4210 or 3220 |

Electives: courses in English, Sociology, Psychology, and Anthropology are recommended.

PA Programs in Ohio

Kettering College of
Medical Arts

Marietta College

Mount Union College

University of Findlay

University of Toledo

Cuyahoga Community
College/Cleveland State
University

Ohio Dominican University

University of Dayton

Lake Erie College

Baldwin Wallace
University

Ohio University

Case Western Reserve
University

Additional resources:

Physician Assistant
Education Association
(PAEA)

Central Application
Services for Physician
Assistant (CASPA)

American Academy of
Physician Assistants
(AAPA)

What can a PA legally do?

Physicians may delegate to PAs medical duties that are within the physician's scope of practice.

The duties include performing physical examinations, diagnosing and treating illnesses, ordering and interpreting lab tests, assisting in surgery, providing patient education and counseling, and making rounds in nursing homes and hospitals. All states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam authorize physicians to delegate prescriptive privileges to the PAs they supervise.

Numerous studies have found that the quality of care that PAs provide is comparable to that of physicians.

What does a competitive applicant look like?

In the 2013-14 application cycle, there were a total of 18,080 applications submitted to PA schools. Of those, only 7,887 were accepted and matriculated. The average matriculant age was 26.5 with 73.8% being female and 73.5% classified as Caucasian.

Avg GPA	3.49
Avg GRE	1119
Avg healthcare hours	1,870

5 Most Common Majors:

Biology, Psychology, Health Sciences, Exercise Science (Applied Physiology), Nursing

Perks of the Profession

Excellent Income: according to the AAPA census, in 2014 the median annual earnings for a PA was \$86,500. Median annual PA compensation for 2014 graduates by specialty were:

Primary Care	\$76,000
Internal Medicine	\$78,000
Pediatrics	\$80,000
General Surgery	\$76,250
Emergency Med	\$90,000

Satisfying professional career: most PAs work in physicians' offices, clinics and hospitals with increased flexibility

Fewer years of education: PA programs are at the master's level and require approximately 27 months of post-baccalaureate training in an accredited PA program.

Predominately female: proportion of enrollees who are who are female continues to rise, a continuous trend over the past decade.

Essential partners in America's health care workforce: with a shortage in health care providers, health care services are being provided by physicians, PAs and other providers in a teamwork effort.

Future Roles: medical professionals are anticipating future opportunities for PAs, such as clinical trial researchers, educators of PAs, business partners or practice co-owners, epidemiologists, or public health directors



WRIGHT STATE
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For additional information please visit
our website:

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