MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

PROFESSIONAL PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PHASE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

AUGUST 2017 COHORT

CURRENT COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY PRE-PA STUDENTS

Current CSM students accepted as pre-PA students are assigned to a specific future PAS cohort upon admission as a pre-PA student and will have a guaranteed seat in their assigned PAS cohort as long as all progression requirements are followed and the applicant meets the minimum technical standards for the PAS program. College of Saint Mary does not offer advanced placement for the PAS program.

Acceptance and Progression Requirements:

Students with pre-PA status will be assigned to an appropriate level (1-3) based on previous coursework and available seats.

Once assigned an appropriate level (1-3), students with pre-PA status may not change levels without permission from the PAS Program Admissions and Progression Committee.

Summer coursework may be required for some students to complete levels 1-3 on schedule.

Immunology must be taken in level 4 and cannot be transferred into the program or taken in an earlier level.

The PAS program begins with level 4, at which time your status will be changed to PAS (level 4) student if all of the following criteria are successfully met:

- Minimum cumulative PAS prerequisite GPA* of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- All PAS prerequisite coursework must be completed within the last 7 years from the year starting the PAS program (level 4), except for General Chemistry and Developmental/Lifespan Development Psychology
- Full-time (12 credits) status maintained through all levels
- Possess or have the capability to earn a Bachelor’s degree by the start of the second semester of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program (MSPAS) (Level 4). Courses taken in the first semester of the PAS program may count as electives towards a CSM Bachelor’s degree.
- Able to complete all MSPAS matriculation requirements within 6 months of entry into level 4. This includes requirements for immunizations, tuberculosis screening, physical examination, criminal background check, urine drug screening, and health insurance requirements.
- Must meet the minimum technical standards for the PAS program.
• Achieve all PAS program admission criteria and follow the PAS admissions process and decisions
• Ability to meet college admission criteria to attend College of Saint Mary as a graduate student
• Healthcare experience preferred but not required

Any violation in the progression criteria above will result in the loss of your cohort seat in the PAS program. You will be able to complete your current program of study and may reapply to the PAS program (level 4).

Any violation of progression criteria may be appealed to the Admissions and Progression Committee for review, decision recommendation, and VPAA approval.

CSM pre-PA students are assigned to a specific future professional phase (PAS) cohort upon admission as a pre-PA status student and will have a seat in their assigned PAS cohort as long as all progression requirements are followed.

*Prerequisite GPA – Cumulative GPA of all PAS program prerequisite courses
The College of Saint Mary PAS program may admit up to 30 students in each yearly cohort. The seats in the PAS cohorts will be filled with current CSM students classified as pre-PA students. Additional applicants will be considered for seats that remain open at the beginning of the PAS program (level 4). Those applicants selected will begin as graduate students and upon successful completion of the PAS program, will receive a M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies degree. College of Saint Mary does not offer advanced placement for the PAS program.

**Admission requirements for non-pre-PA applicants (all requirements must be met):**

- A baccalaureate degree from a United States regionally accredited college or university
  - A baccalaureate degree from outside the United States will be accepted if the student can document equivalency of a U.S. bachelor’s degree through a foreign transcript evaluation service and completion of an additional 24 credit hours in biology or chemistry departments at a U.S. regionally accredited college or university prior to application.
- Minimum cumulative PAS prerequisite GPA* of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- All PAS prerequisite coursework must be completed within the last 7 years from the year starting the PAS program (level 4), except for General Chemistry and Developmental/Lifespan Development Psychology
  - Preference will be given to prerequisite coursework completed at 4-year institutions through biology and chemistry departments.
- Healthcare experience preferred but not required
- Must meet the minimum technical standards for the PAS program
- Able to complete all MSPAS matriculation requirements within 6 months of entry into level 4. This includes requirements for immunizations, tuberculosis screening, physical examination, criminal background check, urine drug screening, and health insurance requirements.
- Achieve all PAS program admission criteria and follow the PAS admissions process and decisions
- Ability to meet college admission criteria to attend College of Saint Mary as a graduate student
- CSM alumni, previous Master’s degree, military service, and fluency in a second language will receive special consideration on the application evaluation
- College of Saint Mary PAS program does not offer advanced placement

*Prerequisite GPA – Cumulative GPA of all PAS program prerequisite courses
PAS PROGRAM PREREQUISITE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite coursework must be completed within the last 7 years from the year starting the PAS program (level 4), except for General Chemistry and Developmental/Lifespan Development Psychology

General Chemistry with lab
  • Two semesters in a sequenced course

Developmental/Lifespan Development Psychology

Human Anatomy and Physiology with lab (minimum 10 semester credits)
  • Minimum of one semester of each or two semesters of a combined sequenced course

Statistics

Abnormal Psychology

The following must be completed at 4-year institutions through biology and chemistry departments.

Organic Chemistry with lab
  • Two semesters in a sequenced course

Microbiology with lab

Genetics

Pathophysiology or upper-level Biology course

Biochemistry
  • Acceptable course must at a minimum require Organic Chemistry 1 as a prerequisite

*Prerequisite GPA – Cumulative GPA of all PAS program prerequisite courses

**THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS CSM IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION PROCESS AND WILL MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO MEET THE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS.
MSPAS Technical Standards:
College of Saint Mary Physician Assistant Program is dedicated to the education of students who strive to become competent and caring providers of primary health care services under the supervision of a licensed physician. All students must meet the minimum technical standards necessary to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies required of an entry-level physician assistant. The technical standards stated in this document apply to satisfactory performance in all academic and clinical course work, as well as fulfillment of "non-academic" essential functions of the curriculum involving physical, cognitive, and behavior factors that are essential to a professional clinical practitioner. All candidates who are offered a seat in the program will be required to sign a statement attesting to their ability to meet these technical standards.

Each student is expected to perform the following, with or without reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation is defined as any change in the environment or in the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to participate as fully as possible in the academic program. It may include modification of policies, practices and procedures or the provision of auxiliary aids for communication. Students may make an initial request for accommodation to the ADA coordinator in the Achievement Center. A request for accommodation or modification is not cause for withdrawal of the offer of acceptance. If an accommodation is requested, the program may require additional documentation and information and will follow up with the student to discuss the specifics of the request and the appropriate plan of action. The College of Saint Mary shall provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities otherwise qualified to complete the essential functions of the curriculum. However, such essential functions must be completed by the student in a reasonably independent fashion. Students must not pose a threat to the safety or wellbeing of patients, other students, staff, or themselves.

A student in the Physician Assistant Studies program must have adequate abilities and skills in the following five areas: 1) Observation; 2) Communication; 3) Sensory and Motor Coordination and Function; 4) Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Ability; and, 5) Behavioral and Social Attributes.

Observation:
The student must be able to observe demonstrations and conduct experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to, chemical, biological, anatomic and physiologic sciences, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms. A student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision, hearing, and other sensory modalities. A student must be able to integrate all information visually and through the other senses.

Communication:
A student must be able to communicate effectively, sensitively, and rapidly in English with patients and members of the health care team. A student must be able to elicit information from patients, perceive nonverbal communications, speak intelligibly, hear sufficiently, and describe changes in mood, activity and posture. Communication includes not only speech, but writing, reading, interpreting tables, figures, graphs and computer literacy.

Sensory and Motor Coordination and Function:
The student must have sufficient sensory and motor coordination and function to elicit information from patients by inspection, palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. The student will be required to coordinate both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of hearing, touch and vision.
More specifically, the student must be able to exercise such fine motor skills as to adequately perform laboratory tests, including but not limited to, wet mount, urinalysis and gram stain. The student must exercise such level of dexterity, sensation and visual acuity as to accurately complete such processes as administering intravenous medication, making fine measurements of angles and size, measuring blood pressure, respiration and pulse, performing physical examinations, and performing therapeutic procedures such as suturing and casting.

The student must be able to hear sufficiently to accurately differentiate percussive notes and auditory findings, including but not limited to, heart, lung, and abdominal sounds, as well as discern normal and abnormal findings using instruments such as tuning forks, stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, and Doppler devices.

A student must be able to transport himself or herself in a manner which provides timely response in both general and emergency care situations. Moving patients and engaging in some procedures such as CPR will require a necessary level of strength.

**Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:**
A student must have the intellect necessary to quickly analyze and resolve problems. These intellectual abilities include numerical recognition, measurement, calculations, reasoning, analysis judgment and synthesis. The student must be able to identify significant findings from the patient's history, the physical examination and laboratory data, provide a reasoned explanation for likely diagnoses, and choose appropriate medications and therapy. The ability to incorporate new information from many sources in formulating diagnoses and plans is essential. Good judgment in patient assessment, diagnostic and therapeutic planning is primary. When appropriate, students must be able to identify and communicate the limits of their knowledge to others. Students must be able to recall and retain information in an efficient and timely manner.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes:**
A student must possess the emotional health required for full use of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. The development of mature, sensitive effective and professional relationships with patients and members of the health care team is essential. Students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Students must be able to use supervision appropriately and act independently, when indicated. Compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are desired in a health professional and assessed during the admissions and education processes.
PAS PROGRAM ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The PAS program does not award or grant advanced placement. The PAS program does not accept transfer credit from a student previously enrolled in another PA program or experiential credit. All PAS program courses must be taken at CSM due to the variations in graduate, PA and medical curriculums across different universities.

PAS ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND DECISIONS

Admission to the PAS graduate program is competitive with a limited number of seats in each cohort. Meeting the minimum admission requirements above does not ensure acceptance into the PAS program. Admission decisions are made by the PAS Admissions and Progression Committee and will be made based on the following:

- Past academic performance (GPA and completed courses, particularly science and math courses)
- Documented academic aptitude (GRE and collegiate GPA)
- Extra- and co-curricular activities
- Medical and/or clinical experiences (shadowing, volunteering, etc.)
- Recommendations from qualified individuals with knowledge of the applicant’s character and performance
- Communication, professionalism, and interpersonal skills via essay, interview, and review of letters of reference

PAS Application Process

1. Apply On-Line for pre-PA or through CASPA for MSPAS.
2. Submit Application Fee
3. Submit required transcripts
   a. If CSM pre-PA applicant, high school and college transcripts if applicable
   b. All other applicants require college transcripts
4. Submit Names, Phones and email Addresses of 3 References
5. Submit any previous medical and clinical experiences and extra- and co-curricular activities (form attached to electronic application)
6. Submit essay (attach to electronic application)
7. Review of application by the PAS Admissions and Progression Committee
8. If selected, participate in an on-campus interview with the PAS Admissions and Progression Committee. Initial application review and interview may occur prior to receiving all application materials. The PAS program technical standards attestation form must be signed during the interview stating the ability to meet all required technical standards.
9. Admission decision by the PAS Admissions and Progression Committee following a complete application and interview.