



School of Medicine
Graduate Medical Sciences



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM



MASTER OF SCIENCE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT



Program Overview

The mission of the Boston University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program is to provide innovative education to physician assistants who will deliver exceptional care for a diverse population of patients, including those from vulnerable communities. We value professionalism, service, and are committed to developing a successful model for interprofessional education and practice.

Program Accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Boston University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Boston University School of Medicine. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2028. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at: <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-boston-university/>

Program Goals

The goals of the Physician Assistant Program are to:

- Provide the didactic and clinical experiences that cultivate the development of competent entry level physician assistants.
- Support an environment of professionalism within the Program and the broader medical community.
- Prepare students to care for patients in vulnerable and underserved communities.
- Prepare students to practice medicine as an ethical member of a patient-centered interdisciplinary healthcare team.

Student Attrition Rate

	Graduated Classes		
	Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class Of 2020
Maximum entering class size (as approved by ARC-PA)	36	36	36
Entering class size	25	31	30
Graduates	23	28	28
*Attrition rate	0.08	0.10	0.07
**Graduation rate	0.92	0.90	0.93

*Attrition rate calculation: Number of students who attrited from cohort divided by the entering class size.

**Graduation rate: Number of cohort graduates divided by the entering class size.



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Curriculum

The 107-credit full-time masters degree program is designed to be completed in sequential order over 28 consecutive months, and is divided into two academic phases. The didactic phase, which begins in April of each year is 12 months in length and is delivered over three semesters. The clinical phase is 16 months in length, comprised of 14 one-month clinical clerkships and two months dedicated thesis preparation. Advanced placement is not given for similar academic work or previous health care experience.

Program Highlights

- Yearlong clinical medicine courses (Disease and Therapy I-VI) taken with second year medical students
- Early clinical experiences in the didactic phase
- Multiple electives in the clinical phase
- Masters thesis

Didactic Courses

Semester 1

Anatomy (with lab)	5 credits
Basic Medical Sciences	3 credits
Physiology (with lab)	4 credits
Introduction to Research	2 credits
Introduction to Clinical Medicine	2 credits
Foundations of Microbiology, Pathology and Pharmacology	2 credits

Semester 2

Disease and Therapy I	4 credits
Disease and Therapy II	4 credits
Disease and Therapy III	4 credits
Clinical Practicum I	2 credits
Preventive Medicine	1 credit

Semester 3

Disease and Therapy IV	4 credits
Disease and Therapy V	4 credits
Disease and Therapy VI	4 credits
Clinical Practicum II	2 credits

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Curriculum (continued)

Clinical Clerkships

Following the Advanced Clinical Medicine course in the spring semester, students rotate through clerkships in inpatient, outpatient, surgical and emergency settings over the 56 weeks of training in 13 specialty areas.

PA Professional Practice	2 credits
Internal Medicine I	4 credits
Internal Medicine II	4 credits
Family Medicine	4 credits
Emergency Medicine	4 credits
Pediatrics	4 credits
Psychiatrics	4 credits
Obstetrics and Gynecology	4 credits
Neurology	4 credits
General Surgery	4 credits
Elective Clerkships I-V*	4 credits

**Students can choose elective clerkships from a variety of sub-specialties offered in medicine, pediatrics and surgery including opportunities in primary care, emergency medicine, and vascular surgery. International clerkships are also available.*

Thesis Requirement

Students in the PA Program complete a research thesis proposal to demonstrate competency in interpreting the medical literature, developing a hypothesis-driven project, and analyzing the significance of the project and clinical outcomes. Thesis preparation is undertaken with a mentor from the School of Medicine or Boston University, during a two-month period in the clinical phase dedicated to completion of the project. There is no oral defense.

Graduate Outcomes

Upon completion of the BU PA Program curriculum, graduates are eligible to sit for the board exam (PANCE). The official PANCE score report, issued by the NCCPA will be published at: <https://www.bu.edu/paprogram/pance-performance/>

State Licensure

Students who complete the Boston University Physician Assistant Program are eligible for licensure in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and most US territories. The complete list can be found at: <https://www.bu.edu/state-authorization/master-of-science-physician-assistant-licensing-disclosure/>



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Admissions

Each April, the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) opens its yearly cycle. In order to be considered for Boston University's PA Program, your CASPA application must be complete and verified by September 1. It is recommended that all applicants submit materials four weeks in advance of the deadline to allow adequate time for processing.

The Admissions Committee selects a cadre of mature, self-directed candidates to interview each fall. Acceptance offers are extended to candidates who show the greatest promise of delivering patient-centered care to diverse populations in the widest variety of practice settings.

Consistent with standards and practices of the University, admissions to the PA Program is governed by the principal of holistic evaluation of the entirety of the applicant's admission file and the formal interview.

Boston University's admission policies and its program neither favor nor exclude persons of any background, and are conscientiously observed in all respects in admitting individuals to the PA Program.

Academic Prerequisites

In addition to earning a bachelor degree from an accredited college or university, the following prerequisite coursework must be completed in traditional classroom and laboratory settings (online coursework will not be accepted) prior to students beginning the application process:

General Biology or Zoology with lab	One semester
Human or Animal Physiology (300 or 400 level preferred)	One semester
General Chemistry with lab*	One semester
Organic Chemistry with lab*	One semester
Biochemistry (300 or 400 level preferred)	One semester
Upper level biology courses** (300, 400 or higher levels)	3 full semester courses

**Chemistry courses cannot be survey or non-degree chemistry courses*

*** Physiology and Biochemistry at the 300 and 400 level do NOT fulfill this requirement if they are being used to fulfill the Physiology or Biochemistry requirements*

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Admission Requirements

- Bachelor degree conferred by to the September 1 deadline
- Verified CASPA Application submitted to the program by the September 1 deadline
- CASPA calculated science grade point average 3.0 or above
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) – scores must be above the 50th percentile
- CASPer Test (<https://takecasper.com/>)
- 3 letters of recommendation: one from a Professor, an employer, and a PA or MD
- Supplemental Application – once we have received your CASPA application, the program will send instructions via email to complete the required supplemental. The fee is \$45, payable by credit card only
- Applicants must also meet the program’s Technical Requirements which are listed in detail at <http://www.bu.edu/paprogram/admissions/prerequisites/technical-standards>

Matriculating students will be subject to criminal background checks and drug testing as required by clinical education

Healthcare Experience

While there is no minimum hour requirement for healthcare experience, successful applicants must demonstrate an understanding of the PA profession and its contribution to the delivery of healthcare in the United States. The Admissions Committee expects that candidates display their commitment to helping others and their suitability for a profession that cares for sick and injured patients.

International Students

- TOEFL Examination scores are required unless you received your undergraduate degree in the United Kingdom or Canada
- All international coursework must be reviewed and verified by the World Education Services (WES)

Financial Aid and Student Resources

For the most up to date information on tuition and fees, please visit <https://www.bumc.bu.edu/osfs/>. Merit scholarships are awarded to PA students on an annual basis. Please note that the University assesses all program costs annually so changes, while small, are possible.

The Financial Aid Office at Boston University School of Medicine is available to assist students in identifying sources of financial support and tuition remission, including graduate and research assistantships, fellowships, and federal loans. Due to the intense nature of the education, we do not recommend students work while attending the program.

The BU Office of Housing Resources provides information regarding housing, transportation, and Boston neighborhoods. For more details, visit www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr.



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