

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
<https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/physician-assistant-masters/>

Program Director: Dr. Daniel O'Donoghue
 Phone: 410-704-6183
 Email: dodonoghue@towson.edu

Towson University offers a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies. The program begins in June of each year and is 26 months in length. In a time efficient manner, students complete the requirements to earn their Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies. At the completion of the program graduates are eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination. The program prepares the physician assistant to assume roles in clinical practice, health care leadership, advocacy for clients, education of others and clinical research, as well as carrying out the other responsibilities of a physician assistant. Such roles are important for physician assistants in a variety of practice, education and administrative positions.

Accreditation

The program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant Inc. (ARC-PA).

At its **September 2023** meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) placed the **Towson University Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **Towson University** on **Accreditation-Probation** status until its next review in **September 2025**.

Probation accreditation is a temporary accreditation status initially of not less than two years. However, that period may be extended by the ARC-PA for up to an additional two years if the ARC-PA finds that the program is making substantial progress toward meeting all applicable standards but requires additional time to come into full compliance. Probation accreditation status is granted, at the sole discretion of the ARC-PA, when a program holding an accreditation status of Accreditation - Provisional or Accreditation - Continued does not, in the judgment of the ARC-PA, meet the Standards or when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened. Once placed on probation, a program that fails to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and is subject to having its accreditation withdrawn.

Specific questions regarding the Program and its plans should be directed to the Program Director and/or the appropriate institutional official(s).

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Application deadlines and a full listing of materials required for admission can be found on the website. All applicants will need to submit an

application through **Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)**.

Prerequisites for Admission

Please visit the program's Admission Requirements & Deadlines website for specific deadlines and additional admission criteria.

- A minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a GPA of 3.00 or higher.
- An undergraduate science GPA of 3.00 or higher. This GPA is cumulative and counts all undergraduate science course work completed at regionally accredited colleges or universities.
- A minimum of 800 patient contact hours completed in a health care setting.
- Completion of prerequisite courses and labs with a grade of "B" or better. These courses must have been taken within the last 10-years at a regionally accredited college or university. Online courses and labs are acceptable provided they meet the above requirements.

There are currently six prerequisite courses:

- Anatomy (or Anatomy and Physiology I) with lab* (4)
- Physiology (or Anatomy and Physiology II) with lab* (4)
- Microbiology with lab* (4)
- Biochemistry (3) Note: Organic Chemistry is not a substitute for Biochemistry
- Medical terminology (minimum 2 units, 3 preferred)
- College-level Statistics in any discipline (3)

*Note Lab Requirement

- The most competitive applicants **will be invited** by the program director for an interview. This interview is a compulsory part of the application process.

Degree Requirements

The master's degree program in Physician Assistant Studies requires successful completion of a minimum of 98 units at Towson University. A GPA of 3.00 or better overall must be obtained in the graduate courses.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
PAST 601	RESEARCH METHODS IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE	3
PAST 603	MEDICINE I	2
PAST 604	MEDICINE II	6
PAST 605	MEDICINE III	2
PAST 606	PEDIATRICS I	2
PAST 607	PEDIATRICS II	2
PAST 608	MEDICINE IV	6
PAST 609	PHARMACOLOGY I	2
PAST 610	PHARMACOLOGY II	2
PAST 612	PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE	2
PAST 614	PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES IN MEDICINE I	2
PAST 616	PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES IN MEDICINE II	2
PAST 624	GROSS ANATOMY	2
PAST 625	HUMAN PATHOPHYSIOLOGY	2

PAST 626	ETHICS, ISSUES AND TRENDS IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE	3
PAST 630	DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES I	2
PAST 631	DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES II	2
PAST 632	DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES III	2
PAST 636	BASIC PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS	2
PAST 637	ADVANCED PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS	2
PAST 650	INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL PRACTICE	4
PAST 651	CLINICAL PRACTICUM I	6
PAST 652	CLINICAL PRACTICUM II	6
PAST 653	CLINICAL PRACTICUM III	6
PAST 654	CLINICAL PRACTICUM IV	3
PAST 655	CLINICAL PRACTICUM V	11
PAST 730	CLINICAL MANAGEMENT I	2
PAST 731	CLINICAL MANAGEMENT II	2
PAST 756	FINAL CLINICAL PRACTICUM	6
PAST 801	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT GRADUATE SEMINAR	1
PAST 802	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT GRADUATE PROJECT	1
Total Units		98

Learning Outcomes

PA Program Competencies

- **Medical Knowledge:** demonstrate core knowledge about biomedical and clinical sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care.
- **Interpersonal and Communication Skills:** demonstrate verbal, nonverbal and written communication skills that result in effective information exchange with patients and all other persons regarding the health care system.
- **Patient Care:** demonstrate care that is effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of wellness.
- **Professionalism:** demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements.
- **Systems-Based Practice:** demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger system of health care to provide patient care that is of optimal value. Also incorporated within this goal is that students will use technologies to identify, retrieve, and apply relevant information.