

UTHSC DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Admission Checklist

We will only consider applications that are verified by CASPA by September 1st, 2025 (11:59 p.m. CST)

Per CASPA, “Once all of your required application materials are received, your application's status changes to Complete and your application is placed in line to be verified. **Verifications occur in chronological order and on average take two weeks to complete.**”

We regret that we are not able to review individual transcripts or courses to determine qualifications.

- We strongly suggest that you have your materials submitted to CASPA by August 1st 2025.
- The CASPA 2025-2026 application cycle will open on April 24, 2025.
- We are only accepting applications for the class to matriculate in January of 2026

Program Minimum Requirement for grade point average (GPA) and PA-CAT		
		Your Score:
CASPA Cumulative GPA	Minimum CASPA cumulative GPA of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. All course grades are used in this GPA calculation. The program will take the average grade of any class which is repeated.	
CASPA Science GPA	All course grades are used in this GPA calculation. The program will take the average grade of any class which is repeated.	
PA-CAT	UTHSC does not have a minimum requirement for the PA-CAT. Competitive scores are >500	

Admission information and suggestions	
Degree	Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university by August 31st of the year prior to matriculation
Letters of Recommendation	We require 3 letters of recommendation (LORs). We prefer 1 from a professor, an MD, and a PA but will accept 3 from other sources

Interview dates	<p>Interviews will occur in July, August, and September. July 16 & 30th • The first interview session is for highly competitive applicants who are extremely interested in attending UTHSC. August 13 & 27th September 10, 17, 24th</p>
Notification of Invitation to Interview	<p>July interview notices will be emailed on July 3rd, 2023 September interview notices will be emailed on September 5th, 2023</p>
Admission Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission decisions for the July interview sessions will be announced on August 5th 2025 • Admission decisions for the August interview sessions will be announced on September 3rd, 2025 • Admission decisions for the September interview sessions will be announced on September 30, 2025
Financial Aid	<p>Should you intend to apply for financial aid we strongly encourage you to complete a FAFSA application. Due to our academic calendar you will need to complete one application for 2025/2025 and another for 2026/2027 should you be admitted and want to apply for financial aid. The FAFSA becomes available October 1st.</p> <p>FAFSA Link: (https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa)</p> <p><i>(Completion of a FAFSA application does not guarantee an interview or admission to our program.)</i></p>
<p>Direct Patient Care Hours</p> <p>We do not require a minimum amount of direct care hours. Only hours that you submit on your CASPA application will count. We do not accept any hours submitted after your application.</p>	<p>Desirable Patient Care Experience (in no particular order) medical assistant, physical therapist/PT aide/assistant, respiratory therapist, occupational therapist, EMT/paramedic, licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, certified nursing assistant, nurse's aide, phlebotomist, medical corpsman, X-ray technician, surgical technician, medical technician, emergency room technician, athletic trainer, chiropractor, dietician, medical scribe</p> <p>Not accepted for Patient Care Experience non-clinical research positions, CPR or ACLS instructor, patient transporter, pharmaceutical representative, ski patroller, massage therapist, life guard, personal (fitness) trainer, aerobics instructor, registrar, laboratory-based researcher, unit or medical secretary, ward/insurance clerk, peer educator, reader or other non-medical work in waiting room or other medical setting, volunteering at marathons, blood donor clinics, fundraising for medical causes, caring for sick family member or friend.</p>

Prerequisite Courses

- **All pre-requisite courses must have been completed with a "C" or better.** If a course has been repeated, the grades will be averaged for the final grade.
- Prerequisites older than 5 years may be accepted; however, the admissions committee reserves the right to request the applicant take additional courses to ensure they are appropriately prepared for the classroom setting.
- We do not award advanced standing, or transfer credit, or credit for experiential learning.

Required Courses	Credits Needed	Grade
<u>Anatomy and physiology with lab</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be comparative anatomy or human anatomy • May be one course of anatomy and one course of physiology • Online anatomy and physiology lab courses will meet this prerequisite. 	8	
<u>Biology Sciences</u> We require at least one course of an upper level biology. Examples included: (Biochem, Epidemiology, Genetics, e.g.,) We assume that an applicant has completed Biology 1 and 2 or received advanced placement	3	
<u>Microbiology</u> - lab not required	3	
<u>Chemistry</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any chemistry with lab for science majors • The Admission Committee does recommend though DOES NOT require an applicant take Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry 	8	
<u>Medical Terminology</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be an accredited traditional or online course • Certificate of completion is not acceptable • Must receive college credit hour(s) upon completion of the course 	1	
General Psychology/Sociology/Anthropology	3	
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Algebra, Calculus, or Statistics (prefer bio-statistics) 	3	

Admissions Policy

UTHSC's Physician Assistant Program evaluates applications using a holistic process. Robust applications show evidence of academic potential, healthcare system knowledge, motivation, personal maturity, self-assurance, and good interpersonal skills.

All verified applications that meet the minimum requirements are reviewed by faculty and receive a score based on our admission rubric. Applicant's scores are weighted about GPA, PA-CAT scores, Prerequisite GPA, Direct care hours, medical certification/licenses held (e.g., medical assistant, CRN, RN, EMT, etc.), volunteer experience, and leadership experience.

In addition, applicants who have Tennessee residency, are UT alumni, have military experience, are applicants from groups currently underrepresented in the PA profession, are non-traditional students, and who represent the first in their family to pursue higher education, and/or have the willingness to provide care to the underserved, will receive additional consideration.

Immunization Policy

The University of Tennessee and the State of Tennessee require certain immunizations be obtained for enrollment/registration purposes. Please refer to this webpage to make sure you meet these requirements. <https://uthsc.edu/student-health-services/immunization.php>