UTHSC DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Admission Checklist

We will only consider applications that are verified by CASPA by August 31st, 2020 (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 before August 1st.
- The CASPA 2020-2021 application cycle will open April 30, 2020
- We are only accepting applications for the class to matriculate in January of 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Minimum Requirement for grade point average (GPA)</th>
<th>Your score:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASPA Cumulative GPA</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASPA Science GPA</td>
<td>Minimum CASPA science GPA of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The program will take the average grade of any class which is repeated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE</td>
<td>UTHSC PA Program no longer requires the GRE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- Notification of Invitation to Interview: Applicants will be notified via the email address in CASPA of their interview invite status on September 4th, 2020.
- Interview dates: We will conduct interviews on these dates: 9/23, 9/24 9/25 9/28, and 9/29 2020. (Applicants only need to attend one interview day.) These dates could possibly change, though this is highly unlikely.
- Admission Decisions: Admission decision letters will be sent out on October 2, 2020.
Financial Aid

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 2020/2021 and another for 2021/2022 should you be admitted and want to apply for financial aid. The FAFSA becomes available October 1st.

FAFSA Link: [https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa)

*(Completion of a FAFSA application does not guarantee an interview or admission to our program.)*

Direct Patient Care Hours

- 500 hours of prior health care experience or shadowing is required.
- All clinical/shadow hours (500 minimum) must be completed prior to application submission.

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, pharmacy technician, X-ray technician, surgical technician, medical technician, emergency room technician, athletic trainer, chiropractor, dietician, medical scribe

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.

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.
- UTHSC PA Program requires that any anatomy and/or physiology courses, microbiology courses, and medical terminology must be taken within the last 5 calendar years.
- UTHSC PA Program will accept AP credits if accepted by the applicants university or college.
- We do not award advanced standing, or transfer credit, or credit for experiential learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Credits needed</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy and physiology with lab</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• May be comparative anatomy or human anatomy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• May be one course of anatomy and one course of physiology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Online anatomy and physiology lab courses will NOT meet this prerequisite.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>At least one course of an upper level biology. Typically these will be designated with a course number between 300 - 3000.&quot; Applicants who take above the requirement will receive additional consideration on their application.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbiology - lab not required</td>
<td>3</td>
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Admissions Policy

UTHSC’s Physician Assistant Program evaluates applications using a holistic process. Strong applications show evidence of academic potential, knowledge of the health care system, 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 with regard to GPA, GRE (verbal and quantitative) score, 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, non-traditional students, and those who represent the first in their family to pursue higher education, and/or have a 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