Physician Assistant (M.S.) Admission Requirements

Admission to this program is extremely competitive with approximately 40 students admitted to a cohort class each January. Our admission policy emphasizes the selection of students who reflect varied social, cultural, educational and professional backgrounds.

- An application submitted through CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants)
- Official transcripts documenting a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college/university
- Verification of a cumulative GPA (CASPA overall) of **3.0** on a 4.0 scale
- Verification of CASPA science (BCP) GPA of **3.0** on a 4.0 scale
- Verification of the Graduate Records Examination (GRE) within the last 5 years. Competitive applicants score at least 300 on the verbal and quantitative portions, and a 4.0 on the analytical writing portion. Applicants that have completed a graduate degree from an accredited U.S. university or college may submit graduate GPA in lieu of GRE scores. To schedule the GRE exam, visit http://www.gre.org. Our GRE code for CASPA is 0523.
- A minimum TOEFL score of 550 for the paper exam or 85 for the web based exam if English is their second language. Students must also submit their foreign transcripts to an approved credentials evaluation agency. An official report from the credentials evaluation agency must be received prior to admission to the program.
- A minimum of 500 hours of formal, hands-on clinical experience in a medical setting. Work may be paid, volunteer, or shadowing. At minimum, it should be service and health system related.
- *****Completion of the following prerequisite classes with a cumulative **3.0** G.P.A. on a 4.0 scale from an accredited college/university:
  - o Biology with lab (8 semester hours or 12 quarter hours)
  - o Anatomy and Physiology; preferably with a human emphasis and with a lab (8 semester hours or 12 quarter hours)
  - o Chemistry with lab (8 semester hours or 12 quarter hours)
  - o Microbiology (1 course)
  - o Genetics (1 course)
  - o Statistics (1 course)

    *All prerequisite coursework must be current within seven (7) years of admission to the PA program for applicants with an undergraduate degree, ten (10) years for applicants with a graduate or higher level degree. Upper level coursework may be substituted for expired prerequisite courses at the discretion of the Admissions Director.
- Three letters of recommendation included with the CASPA application. **Appropriate references are supervisors, instructors/professors, academic advisors, or colleagues**. Do not submit a reference from a provider with a short period of shadowing contact (<100 hours), a family member or friend.
- Students are required to submit to a criminal background check and urine drug testing in order to matriculate and a second time to advance to clinical rotations. Additionally, fingerprinting may be required for clinical rotations. The fees associated with the background check, drug testing and fingerprinting are the responsibility of the student. **Refusal to submit to the background check or drug screen will result in dismissal from the program.**

The Physician Assistant program does not offer or accept advanced placement, including and not limited to CLEP, or credit for experiential learning or international medical experience and/or transfer of credit from another Physician Assistant program or medical school. Essentially, students must complete the entire 27 month curriculum offered by the University of St Francis regardless of prior education or experience. In regards to pre-requisites, if an applicant received AP credit for a required pre-requisite course at the undergraduate level, for example Biology 101, the pre-requisite GPA calculation will simply credit the applicant for completion of the course. The USF PA Program will not reasonably expect the applicant to repeat such a course.

Tuition Deposit

Upon acceptance to the Physician Assistant program, a $650 non-refundable tuition deposit is required and will be applied to the applicant's bill.