Health Careers Fact Sheet – Physician Assistant

Physician assistants represent one of the fastest-growing health careers in the country, providing quality care in underserved areas to those who might otherwise have limited or no access to health care. Trained in the medical model, PAs are licensed to practice medicine with limited supervision of a physician. If you choose to pursue this career path you will one day provide a broad range of health care services that are traditionally performed by a physician, including conducting physical exams, diagnosing and treating illnesses, and writing prescriptions. Therefore, the ideal applicant possesses all the skills that make a great physician, including self-motivation to work independently and a strong desire to help those in need.

Degree
M.S. or P.A.

Program Length
2 years

Professional Schools’ Organization
American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)

Application Service
Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)

Academic Admission Requirements
Varies from school to school, however, many will require One full year of: Biology, Chemistry; Anatomy and Physiology. Many schools also require Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Statistics. For a more comprehensive list of requirements visit the Physician Assistant Education Association

Admission Exam
Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

Recommendation Letters
Letters of recommendation should be submitted to the Premedical advising office along with the waiver form. It is encouraged to obtain letters from science faculty, a professional in the field, and employers.