



Health Careers Fact Sheet

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Physician Assistant

Physician assistants represent one of the fastest-growing health careers in the country. 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 treat 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

Physician Assistant – American Academy of Physician Assistants (PA-AAPA)

Program Length

Most programs are approximately 26 months (3 academic years) and award master's degrees.

Professional Schools' Organization

[American Academy of Physician Assistants](#) (AAPA)

Application Service

[Central Application Service for Physician Assistants](#) (CASPA)

Academic Admission Requirements

An undergraduate degree. One year each: Biology, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, English. Some schools may also require a full year of Calculus, it is recommended to discuss your math plans with the premedical advisor. Some schools have very specific requirements often including Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology, Statistics, and Biochemistry.

For a more comprehensive list of requirements visit the [Physician Assistant Education Association](#).

Many PA programs also require prior health care experience with hands-on patient care.

Admission Exam

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

Applications

The Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) Cycle opens in April and closes the following April. [Transcript requests](#) should be sent to the Registrar's office ASAP.

Beginning at the start of the cycle, a limited number of [fee waivers](#) are provided to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis.

PREMEDICAL AND ALLIED HEALTH ADVISING

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