

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT



Building 3, Room 108, Brighton Campus • www.monroecc.edu/go/careercenter • 585.292.2248

Physician Assistants (PAs) provide healthcare services under the supervision of physicians. They should not be confused with medical assistants, who perform routine clinical and clerical tasks. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive healthcare services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of the healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and xrays, make diagnoses, and prescribe medications.

Degree: Many PA programs require completion of a baccalaureate degree before entry. Some programs are direct freshman entry, with limited seats for transfer students. Programs vary in length from 2 - 6 years of full-time study dependent upon requirements.

Typical Admission Requirements to Physician Assistant Programs:

- Recent experience providing direct patient health care is often required. The amount of experience required varies by college.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (with 3.0 in prerequisite coursework).
- Prospective students should meet practicing physician assistants and “shadow” one or more through daily routines.
- References and personal interview.
- Applications are submitted online through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org or directly to the college. Research colleges for processes and deadlines.

Typical Prerequisite or Recommended Courses for Physician Assistant Programs: Prerequisite requirements vary. Often required are: One year of biology with laboratories; One year of physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories, including organic; Calculus; Microbiology; Anatomy & Physiology; Sociology; Psychology, English, Medical Terminology. Examples of MCC courses include:

ENG 101 and/or 200 - English Comp	MTH 200/210 - Applied Calc or higher	CHE 151 - General College Chemistry I
PSY 101 - Intro to Psychology	BIO 142 - Anatomy	CHE 152 - General College Chemistry II
PSY 206 - Abnormal Psychology	BIO 143 - Physiology	CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I
PSY 212 - Developmental Psy - Lifespan	BIO 155 - General Biology I	CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II
SOC 101 - Intro to Sociology	BIO 156 - General Biology II	
MTH 160 - Statistics I	BIO 202 - Microbiology	

Physician Assistant programs may prefer some courses be completed at a 4-year institution. Contact each institution for specific information and to verify course transferability.

Partial Listing of New York State Colleges with Physician Assistant Programs:

Rochester Institute of Technology (see specific guide)	Hofstra University	St. John's University
Albany Medical College	Le Moyne College	SUNY Stony Brook
Cornell University (Weill Cornell Medical)	Long Island University	SUNY Upstate Medical University
Daemen College	Pace University	Touro College
D'Youville College	Mercy College	Wagner College

Additional Information:

USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Physician Assistant - www.bls.gov/oco/ocos081.htm

Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) - www.arc-pa.org/acc_programs/

American Academy of Physician Assistants - www.aapa.org/index.php

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Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career and Transfer Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.