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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. Physician assistants (PAs) are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs perform a comprehensive range of medical duties, from basic primary care to high-technology specialty procedures. PAs often act as first or second assistants in major surgery and provide pre- and postoperative care. In some rural areas where physicians are in short supply, PAs serve as the primary providers of health care, conferring with their supervising physicians and other medical professionals as needed and as required by law. PAs can be found in virtually every medical and surgical specialty. Working as members of the healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests, make diagnoses, counsel patients, and prescribe medications.

The PA's responsibilities depend on the type of practice, his or her experience, the working relationship with physicians and other health care providers, and state laws.

RIT's Physician Assistant program is a five year BS/MS degree. It is divided into the pre-professional phase (years 1 and 2) which includes prerequisite and recommended courses listed below; and the professional phase (years 3, 4, and 5) which features didactic medical education and clinical rotations.

Basic Science Coursework for RIT Physician Assistant Program:

MTH 160 - Statistics I

MTH 200 - Applied Calculus

BIO 142 - Human Anatomy

BIO 143 - Human Physiology

BIO 155 - General Biology I

BIO 156 - General Biology II

BIO 202 - Microbiology

CHE 151 - General College Chemistry I

CHE 152 - General College Chemistry II

Recommended Courses:

ENG 101 - English Composition

ENG 105 - Introduction to Literature

ENG 201/202/203/204 - Literature Elective

PHL 103 - Introduction to Ethics

HIS 105/106/108/111/112 - History Elective

PSY 101 - Introduction to Psychology

PSY 206 - Abnormal Psychology

PSY 212 - Developmental Psych: Lifespan

SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology

BIO 217 - Nutrition

BIO 221 - Principles of Biochemistry

HIM 104 - Medical Terminology

HED 115 - Death & Dying

HED 118 - Intro to Safety & Emergency Care

Recent Experience in direct patient/health-related care is highly recommended. Working as an EMT would be one way to obtain this experience. EMT training (EMS 110 at MCC) though not required, is strongly recommended prior to applying to the program.

Students Transferring to RIT should complete the RIT application and indicate the Physician Assistant Program as their first choice. The department personnel evaluate transfer credit and determine eligibility for first, second or third year status. Transfer applicants must meet the December 1st deadline date for the following fall class. The minimum grade point average for acceptance into the physician assistant program at RIT is 3.0 for transfer students; however a higher GPA is necessary to be competitive for admission. **Note: This is a highly competitive program with limited seat availability.**

Other Criteria of Importance for Acceptance:

- It is very useful for prospective students to meet and "shadow" practicing physician assistants through a daily routine to gain insight into the depth and breadth of the profession.
- A well written essay is a highly important component of the application.
- Personal interview (by invitation only).

Additional Information:

Physician Assistant program at RIT: www.rit.edu/cos/medical/physician_assistant.html

Transfer Admissions at RIT: www.rit.edu/emcs/admissions/transfer-admission

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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.