Physician Assistant

Physician Assistants (PAs) provide healthcare services under the supervision of physicians. PAs take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, make diagnoses, and prescribe medications. They should not be confused with medical assistants who perform routine clinical and clerical tasks. Many PA programs require completion of a Bachelor’s Degree before entry. (No specific undergraduate major is required, however science majors are often seen.) Some PA programs are direct first year student entry with limited seats for transfer students. It takes at least 5 - 6 years to become a PA.

Most MCC students are advised to prepare to transfer to a 4 year college for Biology or another science major, and then apply to PA graduate programs.

Typical Admission Requirements:
- Recent experience providing direct patient health care. The amount of experience required varies by college.
- Interviewing and shadowing a PA through daily routines.
- Bachelor’s Degree often required.
- **Minimum** cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.
- Applications are often submitted through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA).

Typical Prerequisite or Recommended Courses: two semesters of general biology with labs; two semesters of general chemistry; organic chemistry or biochemistry; calculus; microbiology; anatomy & physiology; sociology; psychology; English, statistics, medical terminology. **Requirements vary by program. Advanced Placement (AP) credit might not be accepted for science coursework.**

Examples of MCC courses that might be taken before transfer:
- BIO 155 & 156 - General Biology I & II
- CHE 151 & 152 - General College Chemistry I & II
- CHE 251 & 252 - Organic Chemistry I & II
- BIO 202 - Microbiology
- BIO 144 & 145 - Anatomy & Physiology I and II
- HIM 104 - Medical Terminology
- ENG 101 and/or 200 - English Composition
- MTH 200 - Statistics
- MTH 210 - Calculus (some programs may accept MTH 200)
- PSY 101 - Intro to Psychological Science
- PSY 206 - Abnormal Psychology and/or Developmental Psy - Lifespan
- SOC 101 - Intro to Sociology
- MTH 160 - Statistics

Research colleges for admission prerequisites and to verify course transferability.

Partial List of NYS colleges with PA Programs:
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Albany Medical College
- Clarkson University
- Cornell University
- Daemen College
- D'Youville College
- Hofstra University
- LeMoyne College
- Long Island University
- Pace University
- Mercy College
- New York Institute of Technology
- St. John’s University
- SUNY Upstate Medical University
- Touro College
- Wagner College
- York College (CUNY)
- Marist College
- SUNY Downstate Medical

Additional Information:
PAEA Accredited Programs by State

Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information. Updated 7/2019