**physician assistant Studies**

**Master of Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.S.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Priority Admission Application Deadlines:**

Spring April

(Contact department for exact date)

**Minimum Total Hours:** 90

**Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 51.0912

**Dept Code:** MPA

**Major/College:** MPA / MCOM

Approved Effective Fall 2016

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

College: Morsani College of Medicine

Department Physician Assistant Program

Contact information

[www.health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/](http://www.health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/)

**MAJOR INFORMATION**

The goal of the USF PA Major is to prepare its graduates to deliver high-quality, evidence-based, patient-centered health care. This is accomplished through a robust, systems-based curriculum. The major (delivered over 24 continuous months) begins with a rigorous 12-month phase in basic and medical sciences. Educational methodologies include traditional lecture, clinical simulation, team-based problem solving, and hands-on laboratory learning experiences – often delivered with students from other USF health students. The 12-month clinical phase follows and students engage in approximately 2300 hours of supervised clinical practice experiences. Students will participate in the following five week, core clinical clerkships: Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Women’s Health, Behavioral and Mental Health, and two elective clerkships. Upon successful completion of the two-year curriculum, the student is awarded the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree. The graduate is then eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

**Accreditation**

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation - Provisional status to the USF Morsani College of Medicine Physician Assistant Program sponsored by the University of South Florida. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed major that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the degree program’s ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

**Admission Information**

All applicants to the USF MCOM PA major must apply through the [Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)](https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login).

Degree, GPA and GRE

* Baccalaureate Degree from a U.S. regionally accredited College or University. (Baccalaureate degrees must be completed by the Fall semester prior to matriculation.)
* Degree and prerequisite coursework taken outside of the U.S. is not accepted (regardless if made equivalent by a U.S. institution).
* Overall GPA of 3.0 and Science GPA of 3.0;
* Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Test is required– official scores are required and must be from tests taken within the past five years.
* GRE Scores are to be sent directly to CASPA. The Univ South Florida PA Prgm CASPA GRE code **8854. (DO NOT** use USF institution code of 5828).
* Transfer credit or Admission with Advanced Standing from another PA major is not accepted. All curriculum requirements for the major are required for graduation and must be completed at the USF PA major.

Prerequisites Coursework

* CLEP (College Level Examination Program), AP (Advanced Placement), IB (International Baccalaureate), and AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) course credit may not be used or substituted to meet prerequisite requirements. Dual enrollment course credits from an accredited college or university are acceptable for prerequisites.
* Prerequisite coursework must be completed by the end of the fall semester preceding matriculation.
* Courses designed for non-science majors will not be accepted.
* All prerequisites are required for an applicant to be considered for acceptance into the PA program.
* Veterans are encouraged to apply, and as all other applicants, must meet all the prerequisites for admissions. Veterans with questions regarding prerequisite course work should contact the PA program. Please provide a copy of the Joint Services Transcript with course descriptions to determine if the course in question satisfies the prescribed prerequisite.
* The courses listed below are required for acceptance into the PA program.
* [~~Mathematics – 6 Credit Hours~~](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/prospective-students/requirements#collapse1)
* [Biology with Laboratory –](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/prospective-students/requirements#collapse3) 1 semester
* [Microbiology with Laboratory –](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/prospective-students/requirements#collapse4) 1 semester
* [Chemistry with Laboratory –](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/prospective-students/requirements#collapse5) 2 semesters
* [Organic Chemistry with Laboratory –](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/prospective-students/requirements#collapse11) 1 semester
* Organic Chemistry II **OR** [Biochemistry –](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/prospective-students/requirements#collapse12) 1 semester
* [Anatomy & Physiology with Laboratory –](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/prospective-students/requirements#collapse6) 2 semesters
* [Medical Terminology –](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pa/prospective-students/requirements#collapse7) 1 semester or course

Experience in Healthcare Setting

* A minimum of 500 hours of direct patient care experience in a health care setting must be completed prior to application.
* Hands-on patient care experiences may come from a variety of places. The extent to which an applicant is actually involved in patient care will be weighed based on the description of the applicant’s duties during those hours. The title of a position is not as important as the duties the applicant performed in terms of patient contact and interaction with the patients and other healthcare providers (physicians, PAs, nurses, etc.)
* Example as of direct patient care experiences may include, but are not limited to EMT, paramedic, medical assistant, scribe, patient care tech, nurse, surgical tech, athletic trainer, physical therapy aide, etc.
* Applicants will submit verifiable information regarding their health care experiences on CASPA.
* Shadowing experiences are not accepted as direct patient care.

Letters of Recommendation

* Three letters of recommendation are required.
* Letters should be from Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Research Mentors, Professors, Volunteer Coordinators/Supervisors who had direct interaction with the applicant and can attest to his/her qualities, strengthens and suitability for a career as a Physician Assistant.
  + One letter of a recommendation must be from someone who supervised the applicant in a clinical setting.
  + Letters should not be from a peer or family member.

Residency

* U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident Alien
  + Permanent Resident Alien must possess a valid Green Card at the time of application. Documentation will be required.
* [In State or Out of State](http://www.registrar.usf.edu/Residency/General_Procedures.php) for tuition purposes
  + To qualify for in state tuition, proof of residency for the 12 months preceding matriculation is required.
  + For more information, please visit our [General Classifications Procedures page.](http://www.registrar.usf.edu/Residency/General_Procedures.php)

**Curriculum Requirements:**

Total minimum hours required: (if doctoral, are these post-bacc or post-masters)

**Curriculum for Year 1**

**Summer – 18 Credits**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Course Name | Credits |
| Anatomy I | 2 |
| Pathophysiological Basis of Disease I | 3 |
| Clinical Medicine I | 5 |
| Clinical Pharmacology I | 3 |
| Physical Diagnosis I | 2 |
| Role of the Physician Assistant in American Healthcare | 1 |
| Clinical Laboratory and Diagnostics I | 2 |

**Fall – 18 Credits**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Anatomy II | 2 |
| Pathophysiological Basis of Disease II | 3 |
| Clinical Medicine II | 5 |
| Clinical Pharmacology II | 3 |
| Physical Diagnosis II | 2 |
| Biostatistics and Epidemiology: An Introduction to Clinical Research | 1 |
| Clinical Laboratory and Diagnostics II | 1 |
| Basic Medical Genetics | 1 |

**Spring – 17 Credits**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Clinical Medicine III | 8 |
| Advanced Clinical Pharmacotherapeutics | 3 |
| Clinical Skills and Procedures | 2 |
| Evidence-Based Medicine | 1 |
| Behavioral Medicine | 2 |
| Cultural Issues in Healthcare | 1 |

**Curriculum for Year 2**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Course Name | Length of Clerkship Weeks | Credits |
| Capstone Research Project |  | 1 |
| Internal Medicine | 5 | 4 |
| Surgery | 5 | 4 |
| Pediatrics | 5 | 4 |
| Family Medicine | 5 | 4 |
| Women’s Health | 5 | 4 |
| Emergency Medicine | 5 | 4 |
| Behavioral and Mental Health | 5 | 4 |
| Elective | 10 | 8 |

**Core Course Requirements**

All courses above.

**Electives**

Students chose clinical electives in year two of the major.

**Comprehensive Exam**

Capstone Research Project

The major culminates in a required capstone research project. The goal of the capstone research project is to develop competency in the critical appraisal of research and the application of the best evidence to patient care, health policy, and advocacy; ultimately resulting in improved patient outcomes.

**Internship**

**Other**

Upon graduation, the MPAS graduate will be eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).