

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Admission Requirements

1. Baccalaureate Degree: A baccalaureate degree needs to be completed by June 30th of the year you plan to enter the PA Studies program. It must be from a regionally accredited U.S. institute of higher learning.
2. Prerequisite Courses: Required courses must also be completed at a regionally accredited U.S. institute of higher learning. The required prerequisite courses are:
 3. Microbiology
 4. Biochemistry
 5. Human Anatomy (as a single course or as part of a two-semester combined anatomy and physiology course)
 6. Human Physiology (as a single course or as part of a two-semester combined anatomy and physiology course)
 7. Statistics
 8. Abnormal Psychology (or Developmental Psychology throughout the Lifespan)

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative prerequisite grade point average of 3.0 as well as a minimum grade of C in all prerequisite courses (listed above). Coursework ten years or older is not accepted as prerequisite coursework. Applicants may have up to two prerequisite courses in progress during spring of the year they plan to enter the program. This coursework and any degree work must be completed by June 30 of the year of admission.

Code	Title	Credits
Highly Recommended Upper Level Biology Courses		
(Note: This is not meant to be all inclusive and includes suggestions only.)		
Advanced Anatomy		
BIOL 4420	Musculo-Skeletal Anatomy	2
BIOL 4470	Cross-Sectional Anatomy	2
Advanced Human Physiology		
BIOL 4449	Human Physiology I	4
BIOL 4456	Human Physiology II	4
BIOL 4464	Lectures in Human Physiology	4
BIOL 4486	Human Systemic Physiology	5
Immunology		
BIOL 4451	Immunology	3
BIOL 4454	Advanced Immunology	3
Genetics		
BIOL 3358	Genetics	3
BIOL 4461	Microbial Genetics	3
Endocrinology		
BIOL 4443	Endocrinology	3

- Other health-related courses from departments such as Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Health Education, and Gender Studies.
- Proficiency in a second language, especially Spanish

Additional considerations for admission include:

- Maturity
- Work and health care experience

- Evidence of the ability to achieve academic success in a rigorous academic program
- Interpersonal skills and the ability to relate effectively with patients, peers, and at a professional level
- Evidence of a desire to practice primary care in Idaho, particularly among the medically underserved

Required Applications

Central Application Services for Physician Assistants (<https://caspa.liasoncas.com/>)

The CASPA application must be completed by the PA program application deadline of November 1. As part of the CASPA application process, you will be required to submit three letters of recommendation and official transcripts.

Graduate Record Exam (GRE) (<http://www.ets.org>)

The GRE is an important admission requirement as the scores are used for ranking applicants. Please go to the ETS website for information about testing locations and scheduling the exam.

The GRE must be taken by November 1. The ISU GRE School Code is 4355 and the Department Code is 0634.

CASPer Test (<https://takecasper.com/>)

The CASPer Test assesses non-cognitive skills and interpersonal characteristics important for successful students and graduates of the program and is used to complement the other applicant screening tools. CASPer results will be evaluated during various steps of the admissions process. This may include but is not limited to the CASPA application review process for determining whether or not to call an applicant for an interview and the review of applicant interview performance results.

The CASPer Test must be taken on or before November 1. Results are valid for one admissions cycle.

ISU Graduate School Application (www.isu.edu/graduate)

The ISU Graduate School application (also called the "Supplemental Application") is required for admission to the PA program. When applying to the Graduate School, select the Fall semester. Please refer to the ISU Graduate School for information regarding the application, requirements, and fees.

CASPA DOES NOT forward transcripts to the Graduate School or the PA program. A separate set of official transcripts must be requested for ISU's Graduate School.

Official transcripts are to be sent from the granting institution directly to the Graduate School at the following address:

ISU Graduate School
921 S 8th Ave, Stop 8075
Pocatello, ID 83209-8075
gradadmissions@isu.edu

The Graduate School application deadline is November 1.

Technical Standards

All entering students must meet the required list of Technical Standards. A complete list of technical standards covering essential capacities for observation,

communication, sensory and motor function, intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities, behavioral and social attributes, and other student performance requirements is available from the program or on the program's website at <https://www.isu.edu/pa/admission/technical-standards/> (<https://www.isu.edu/pa/admission/technical-standards/>).

Curriculum

The ISU PA Program Graduate Curriculum is twenty-four (24) months in length, divided into twelve (12) months of didactic (3 semesters) and twelve (12) months of clinical education (3 semesters).

The Didactic Curriculum is comprised of foundation courses in the fall semester, followed in the spring and summer semesters by modules that provide an immersion experience in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases commonly encountered in primary care medicine.

Elective coursework in Medical Spanish is available to Physician Assistant students. The Department of Global Studies and Languages offers a graduate certificate in Spanish for Health Professions along with other elective courses. This is an excellent opportunity for students as well as graduates to enhance their credentials.

Clinical Year Rotation goals are designed to meet the needs of the student and to address the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) accreditation standards. The Clinical Year staff places students in eight rotations that best address PA student educational objectives and at sites that promote continued, quality, preceptor relations with the ISU PA Program. There are seven required content areas, including Internal Medicine, Outpatient Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, and Psychiatry. One rotation will be an elective. Students are expected to travel during the clinical year and to pay for the expenses incurred for this travel.

There are three Capstone Assessment Courses in the second year of the PA Program. Together they represent a comprehensive assessment of the students. The Capstone Assessment III course is the third one in the series and students are required to study for and pass multiple objective examinations.

Didactic Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
BIOL 5529	4	PAS 6629	4	PAS 6639	2
BIOL 5563	4	PAS 6631	2	PAS 6643	4
BIOL 5564	4	PAS 6632	2	PAS 6646	2
PAS 6601	7	PAS 6633	2	PAS 6650	1
PAS 6602	3	PAS 6634	2	PAS 6651	2
PAS 6603	6	PAS 6635	3	PAS 6652	1
PAS 6604	2	PAS 6636	4	PAS 6653	2
SPAN 5510	1-2	PAS 6637	4	PAS 6654	8
		PAS 6640	2	PAS 6657	1
		PAS 6641	2		
		PAS 6642	3		

PAS 6656	1	
31-32	31	23

Total Credits: 85-86

Clinical Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
PAS 6661	4	PAS 6664	4	PAS 6667	4
PAS 6662	4	PAS 6665	4	PAS 6668	4
PAS 6663	4	PAS 6666	4	PAS 6673	1
PAS 6671	2	PAS 6672	1		
	14		13		9

Total Credits: 36

Medical Spanish elective offerings available to MPAS students

The Department of Global Studies and Languages, in cooperation with the Division of Health Sciences, has created a new cooperative, interdisciplinary major in Spanish for the Health Professions (SHP), as well as a SHP graduate certificate. The hybrid undergraduate degree and graduate certificate are designed to increase graduate marketability and to better serve the health care needs of our state, region, and country.

Matriculated PA students may take individual SHP courses or pursue a Graduate Certificate in SHP. Dr. Helen Tarp, Director of the SHP Program, has a joint appointment with the Department of Languages and Literature and the Department of PAS. She teaches regularly scheduled Spanish courses for PAS students during the Didactic Year as well as other Spanish coursework in the Literature and Languages Department.

Access to individual Spanish for Health Professions courses

These SHP courses are designed to be flexible enough to fit a PA student's schedule and also enhance what the PA student is learning in the MPAS curriculum. Here are examples of the course offerings: SPAN 5594 (<http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=SPAN%205594>) Topics in Language and Culture for the Professions I (1-3 cr) and SPAN 5595 (<http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=SPAN%205595>) Topics in Language and Culture for the Professions II (1-3 cr) are variable-credit courses covering special topics such as Spanish Medical Terminology, Spanish for Pharmacy, for OBGYN, Diabetes Management, Oral Health, Mental Health, Emergency Room/Trauma, the Physical Exam, and Nutrition. These courses are hybrid courses combining online coursework and a workshop experience with mock patients. SPAN 5501, Spanish for the Physician Assistant, is an eight-week course designed specifically for PAS to enable students to conduct a medical history and physical exam for a Spanish-speaking patient. PA students wishing to take these courses S/U may take them as undergraduate courses (SPAN 4494 (<http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=SPAN%204494>), SPAN 4495 (<http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=SPAN%204495>), SPAN 4499 (<http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=SPAN%204499>)). More information can be found at: <https://www.isu.edu/globalstudies/spanish-for-health-professions/>.

Graduate Certificate in SHP (minimum of 9 credits)

Coursework credits counting toward the Graduate Certificate can be earned by PAS coursework/clinical rotations, as well as coursework and experience

obtained after graduation from the PA program while continuing pursuit of the Certificate. There are three core areas of instruction: the Language Core, Health Professions Core, and Culture Core. The assessments in the three cores of instruction are designed to provide students with a thorough grounding in all three areas and to have their proficiency be a significant, tangible contribution to their MPAS degree. The Department of Global Studies and Languages provides the Language Core and elements of the Culture Core, which are delivered by faculty with qualifications in medical interpretation and translation. The Culture Core and diversity courses are provided by several departments in the College of Arts and Letters. For more details see: <https://www.isu.edu/globalstudies/spanish-for-health-professions/graduate-certificate/>.

International Rotation and Medical Mission experiences

In addition to course offerings and the Graduate Certificate in SHP, MPAS students are eligible to participate in two medical missions to Spanish-speaking countries (Dominican Republic and Peru) and an international clinical rotation in Belize. These international experiences are strictly voluntary. SHP credit (SPAN 5593 (<http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=SPAN%205593>) Spanish Internship, SPAN 5505 (<http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=SPAN%205505>) Spanish Exchange, or SPAN 5580 (<http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=SPAN%205580>) Special Topics) is available for these experiences.