

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. First-time 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.liaisoncas.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.

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.

Code	Title	Credits
Didactic Year		
BIOL 5529	Regional Anatomy and Histology	3
BIOL 5529L	Regional Anatomy and Histology Lab	1
BIOL 5563	Human Pathophysiology	4
BIOL 5564	Lectures in Human Physiology	4
PAS 6601	Introduction to Physician Assistant	7
PAS 6602	Evidence-Based Medicine and Biostatistics	3
PAS 6603	Clinical Assessment	6
PAS 6604	Pharmacology	2
PAS 6629	Allergy/Immunology, Head/Ear/Nose/Throat, Ophthalmology	4
PAS 6631	Infectious Disease Module	2
PAS 6632	Hematology and Oncology Module	2
PAS 6633	Endocrinology Module	2
PAS 6634	Renal Module	2
PAS 6635	Pulmonary Module	3
PAS 6636	Cardiology Module	4
PAS 6637	Gastroenterology Module	4
PAS 6640	Rheumatology Module	2
PAS 6641	Orthopedics Module	2
PAS 6642	Psychiatry Module	3
PAS 6656	Alternative and Occupational Medicine Module	1
PAS 6639	Dermatology Module	2
PAS 6643	Genitourinary Module	4
PAS 6646	Neurology Module	2
PAS 6650	Obstetrics and Perinatology Module	1
PAS 6651	Pediatrics Module	2
PAS 6652	Geriatrics Module	1

PAS 6653	Surgery Module	2
PAS 6654	Emergency Medicine Module	8
PAS 6657	Comprehensive Evaluation	1
Total Credits		84

Code	Title	Credits
Clinical Year		
PAS 6661	Clinical Rotation I	4
PAS 6662	Clinical Rotation II	4
PAS 6663	Clinical Rotation III	4
PAS 6671	Capstone Assessment I	2
PAS 6664	Clinical Rotation IV	4
PAS 6665	Clinical Rotation V	4
PAS 6666	Clinical Rotation VI	4
PAS 6672	Capstone Assessment II	1
PAS 6667	Clinical Rotation VII	4
PAS 6668	Clinical Rotation VIII	4
PAS 6673	Capstone Assessment III	1
Total Credits		36

Additional Opportunities for MPAS Students

The PA Program has developed the Latino Health Track and the Rural Health Track to pair alongside the MPAS curriculum, allowing students to take part in additional training opportunities designed to increase graduate marketability and better serve the health care needs of our state, region, and country.

Regardless of whether an MPAS student is accepted into one of the below Health Tracks, MPAS students are welcome to pursue additional Graduate Certificates alongside their MPAS curriculum. The Spanish for Health Professions and Lifestyle Medicine certificates are particularly designed with MPAS students in mind, in joint cooperation with Dr. Helen Tarp, Director of the SHP Program, and other interprofessional health sciences programs.

Hispanic Health Track

Admitted MPAS students are able to apply for the Hispanic Health Track through an internal application administered by the PA Program that opens each summer. A maximum of nine students are accepted, taking into consideration Spanish language ability, volunteerism, and dedication to serving Hispanic populations after graduation. Students who are admitted to the Hispanic Health Track pursue the Graduate Certificate in Spanish for Health Professions (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate/artsandletters/languagesandliteratures/spanishhealthcert/>) (SHP) from the Department of Global Studies and Languages alongside their MPAS curriculum. They will complete a 10-week primary care rotation in a Hispanic-dense clinic or location. More information is available at isu.edu/pa/admission/medical-spanish-opportunities (<http://isu.edu/pa/admission/medical-spanish-opportunities/>).

Rural Health Track

Admitted MPAS students are able to apply for the Rural Health Track through an internal application administered by the PA Program that opens each summer. A maximum of twelve students are accepted, taking into consideration dedication to serving rural populations after graduation. Students who are admitted to the Rural Health Track pursue one of four possible Graduate Certificates alongside their MPAS curriculum: Lifestyle Medicine, Spanish for Health Professions, Interprofessional Geriatric (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate/healthscience/geriatriccert/>), or Rural Health (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate/college-of-health/community-and-public-health/certuralhealth/>). Several of their PA rotations are also guaranteed to be in rural locations. They also

become AHEC Scholars, receiving additional education around health inequities, disparities, and social determinants of health in rural communities. More information is available at [isu.edu/pa/admission/rht](https://www.isu.edu/pa/admission/rht) (<https://www.isu.edu/pa/admission/rht/>).

International Rotation and Medical Mission Experiences

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. International experiences are strictly voluntary. Credit in the SHP Program is available for these experiences.