

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

utmb Health

School of Medicine



Physician Assistants (PAs) are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality. (Reference: American Academy of PAs)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to the Physician Assistant Studies program:

- Applicants should meet the minimum criteria for application and admission. All course work is used in GPA calculations. Overall grade point average and science grade point average must be 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale.
- Admission criteria and deadlines are posted at <http://som.utmb.edu/physician-assistant/admissions-application>. Requirements and deadlines are subject to change.
- Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university or college and must have completed all prerequisites with grades of "C" or better. All prerequisite courses must be assigned a letter grade; therefore, advanced placement or CLEP courses do not meet our requirements. The program does not accept prior learning experience to fulfill prerequisites and/or professional course work credit. All prerequisite credits and receipt of the bachelor's degree must be completed no later than the spring semester of the year of matriculation.
- Applicants must submit and complete the CASPA application, official transcripts, and supporting documents on or before the published deadline.
- Applicants must complete the CASPer assessment requirement.
- Completion of the PA-CAT is recommended but not required.
- Applicants must complete the UTMB supplemental application.
- Official results of the Graduate Record Examination (verbal and quantitative scores) must be received by CASPA in order for the application to be considered complete. GRE scores are valid five years from the date taken.
- Applicants must have paid appropriate fees to CASPA and UTMB.
- Prerequisites must be completed within the last ten years.

Program Prerequisites

Credit Hours

The following prerequisite courses are required for applicants and must be completed at an accredited college or university.

Behavioral Sciences (sociology/psychology)	6
Biological Sciences for biology majors (with lab)	8
Chemistry for biology majors (with lab)	8
Genetics (without lab)	3
Human Anatomy (with lab)	4
Kinesiology courses do not count toward this requirement	
Human Physiology (with lab)	4
Kinesiology courses do not count toward this requirement.	
Immunology/Virology	3
Molecular biology, cellular or embryology may be submitted although immunology or virology is preferred.	
Medical Terminology	2-3
Microbiology/Bacteriology for biology majors (with lab)	4 (or 3*)
Organic Chemistry/Biochemistry (with lab)	4 (or 3*)
Statistics	3
(with analysis of variance and/or multiple regression)	

* 3 credits acceptable when college/university does not offer lab with course.

Please refer to the [General Information Catalog](#) section for [Graduate Requirements for Admission](#) available at <http://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/catalog.asp>



MISSION

UTMB's mission is to improve health for the people of Texas and around the world by offering innovative education and training, pursuing cutting edge research and providing the highest quality patient care.

The mission of UTMB Department of Physician Assistant Studies is to develop and graduate academically and clinically exceptional physician assistants.

Qualities Needed to Be a Physician Assistant

The clinical role of PAs includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practice settings. Professional competencies for physician assistants include the effective and appropriate application of medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, patient care, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement, and systems based practice. Patient-centered physician assistant practice reflects a number of overarching themes. These include an unwavering commitment to patient safety, cultural competence, quality health care, lifelong learning, and professional growth. (Reference: American Academy of PAs).

Program Facts

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies at The University of Texas Medical Branch, established in 1971, offers a two year professional curriculum in Physician Assistant Studies. The training program provides experiences in clinical practice, research, and professional services progressing from didactic to clinical courses and clinical rotations. Upon completion, students are awarded a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree and may sit for the national certifying examination to achieve licensure and certification. The UTMB PA program provides students with the basic and fundamental knowledge, skills, and attitudes for development into primary care physician assistants. The training program is designed to provide students with a flexible, broad-based curriculum offering didactic and clinical experiences in primary care medicine. The program's vast clinical affiliations network offers a wide variety of medical learning experiences ranging from assignments at academic health science centers to community-based rural health experiences. During the clinical year, the student must plan for the expense of rotations away from campus.

CASPA Application

<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com>

CASPer

www.takeAltus.com

PA-CAT

www.pa-cat.com/register-and-schedule/

Tuition and Fees

<https://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/future-students/tuition-and-fees>

Scholarships Available

<https://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/resources/scholarships>

For additional information about the Physician Assistant Studies Program at UTMB please visit our website at:

<http://som.utmb.edu/physician-assistant/pas>

Accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to **The University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **The University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston**. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by ARC-PA will be **June 2027**. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

For verification, you may contact the Commission at the following address:

Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant

12000 Findley Road, Suite 275
Johns Creek, Georgia, 30097

P: (770) 476-1224

W: <http://www.arc-pa.org>

E: webmaster@arc-pa.org



School of Medicine

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action

The University of Texas Medical Branch, in compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations, strives to maintain an environment free from discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin sex (including pregnancy), age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, or veteran status. This includes, but is not limited to, academic program admissions, employment, financial aid, health care services, educational services, and access to UTMB programs, facilities, or services. This applies to all employees and students, and anyone who utilizes UTMB facilities.

(Revised 01/25/22)



<http://som.utmb.edu/physician-assistant/pas>



<https://www.facebook.com/OSAA.SOM>



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