

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

How to Apply

Penn State College of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program uses Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>) and adheres to CASPA's Admissions Code of Conduct.

Before beginning your CASPA application, please review the program admissions requirements. All verified CASPA applicants will receive, and must submit, a Penn State Physician Assistant secondary application to receive full admissions consideration. There is no application fee to complete your PSU PA secondary application.

What are the Application Requirements?

A number of prerequisites apply to students seeking to join the PA Program. Be sure to read the detailed prerequisites before beginning your application. (<http://med.psu.edu/physician-assistant/prerequisites/>)

CASPA applications must include the following items to be eligible for consideration. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- **Completed online application**
- **Official transcripts** from all post-secondary institutions attended
- **Standardized Exam Scores:** GRE school code 0900
- **Personal/biographic information**
- **Academic history**
- **Three letters of recommendation**
- **Experiences** (see details on CASPA (https://help.liasonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_CASPA_Application/3_CASPA_Supporting_Information/2_Experiences/))
- **Achievements and certifications** (see details on CASPA (https://help.liasonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_CASPA_Application/3_CASPA_Supporting_Information/3_Achievements/))
- **Essay** (see details on CASPA (https://help.liasonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_CASPA_Application/3_CASPA_Supporting_Information/9_Essay/))
- **Release statement** (see details on CASPA (https://help.liasonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_CASPA_Application/1_CASPA_Personal_Information/01_CASPA_Release_Statement/))
- **Professional Code of Conduct** (see details on CASPA (https://help.liasonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_CASPA_Application/Getting_Started_with_Your_CASPA_Application/4_CASPA_Professional_Code_of_Conduct/))
- **Admissions Code of Cooperation** (see details on CASPA (https://help.liasonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_CASPA_Application/Getting_Started_with_Your_CASPA_Application/5_CASPA_Admissions_Code_of_Cooperation/))

Secondary Applications

Penn State requires each applicant to submit a secondary application to receive full consideration by the admissions committee. The secondary application primarily consists of short essay responses.

All CASPA-verified applicants will receive the request to complete the secondary application. You'll receive this request via email. There is no application fee to submit the secondary application.

Preference Factors

In accordance with the PA Program's mission and goals, special consideration for admission is given to applicants who are veterans, who are from underrepresented populations or who are from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.

Additionally, special consideration for admission is given to those applicants who have graduated from or will be graduating from Penn State University.

Early Assurance

The Penn State PA Program has early assurance programs with the following institutions:

- Elizabethtown College
- Franklin and Marshall College
- Lebanon Valley College

Students at these institutions should speak directly with their pre-med pre-health adviser to discuss requirements and eligibility. The Early Assurance program allows students to apply to the PA Program during the junior year of undergraduate. Early Assurance applicants have the opportunity to be granted admission at the completion of the Early Assurance process, forgoing the entire CASPA application process as a senior. Information regarding this program is available on request.

Key Dates

- **Dec. 18:** Date by which you are strongly encouraged to complete your CASPA application, which allows sufficient time for CASPA processing.
- **Jan. 15 (Firm):** Deadline by which your primary application must be CASPA-verified to be considered for a May start in the program
- **Jan. 30:** Firm deadline by which your secondary application must be completed
- **End of May:** Start of two-year PA Program.

Standardized Testing Requirements

We require completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for admission to our PA Program.

Alternately, if you have previously tested on any exam listed, you may provide these scores in lieu of completing the GRE:

- MCAT total score of at least 29 or higher (old version) or 505 (new version)
- PCAT total score 75th percentile rank or higher
- DAT total score of 18 or higher

Plan of Course (PA Program) GRE Code is **0900**. Official GRE scores are uploaded directly to CASPA.

If it has been more than five years since you took the GRE, and the Educational Testing Service no longer has record of your score, we will accept a student copy of your GRE results. You must upload this document into the CASPA-Penn State Program Materials-Document tab. If you no longer have a student copy, you will need to retake the GRE.

International students for whom English is not the native language must also submit TOEFL/IELTS scores with their application. The Penn State University School Code is **2660**. International applicants are exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement if they have received a baccalaureate or graduate degree in one of the following countries: Australia, Belize, British Caribbean and British West Indies, Canada (excluding Quebec), England, Guyana, Republic of Ireland, Liberia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the United States or Wales.

Minimum acceptable scores for the TOEFL are 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (internet-based, with at least a 19 on speaking section). The IELTS exam minimum accepted composite score is 6.5.

Interview

We will invite the most qualified applicants to the Penn State College of Medicine campus in Hershey, PA, for an in-person interview so we can get to know you better, and you can learn more about our PA Program. Penn State hosts more than 20 interview days throughout the entire admissions cycle.

The Candidate Interview Day consists of the following activities:

- Faculty one-on-one interviews
- Real (not standardized) patient interview
- Timed writing sample
- Program presentation
- Lunch with current students
- Campus tour
- Participation in Team-Based Learning class

Equal Opportunity, Non-Discrimination and Campus Safety

Penn State College of Medicine is an equal-opportunity employer and accepts all qualified applications regardless of their gender, ethnic origin or religious background.

The College of Medicine is also committed to fostering an environment free from discrimination and harassment. Learn more about non-discrimination (<http://med.psu.edu/non-discrimination/>).

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and Pennsylvania Act of 1988 require that crime statistics for Pennsylvania colleges and universities be made available to applicants upon request. Learn more about campus safety and security (<http://med.psu.edu/safety/>).

Contact Us

If you have questions about the PA Program, please contact us at 717-531-0003, ext. 285595 or PSUPAProgram@pennstatehealth.psu.edu (psupaprogram@pennstatehealth.psu.edu).