

Pre-Physician Assistant - Fact Sheet

*** This is an overview of the admission requirements for the Michigan Physician Assistant (PA) schools. Always double check the PA programs websites for the specific schools requirement. This is for general information purposes only.

On-Campus Clubs

Pre-Physician Assistant Society

P.A.T.C.H (Pre Professional Association towards Careers in Health)

Pre-requisite Courses Needed

Major is not important when applying to PA school only courses completed. All pre-requisite courses must be completed before a student can apply to a PA program. The courses must be completed within a certain number of years of application. A bachelor's degree is required before a student can start in a PA program.

General Biology 1	BIO 111 & 116
Human Genetics	BIO 341
Biochemistry	BIO 325 & 326
Anatomy	BIO 205 & 206
Human Physiology	BIO 207
Human Physiology (300 Level)	BIO 321 & 322 (WSU and WMU only)
Microbiology with lab	BIO 319 & 320
General CHM	CHM 157 & 158 (as of Fall 2014 – CHM 144, 147, 145, and 148)
Organic CHM	CHM 234, 235 & 237
Statistics	STA 225
Basic Composition	WRT 150 (WSU only)
Intermediate Composition	WRT 160 (WSU only)
Medical Terminology	MLS 210 (WSU only)
Intro PSY	PSY 100
Developmental PSY	PSY 225
Nutrition	HS 301 (UDM and WSU only)
Pathophysiology	NRS 227 (CMU only)
Medical Ethics	PHL 318 or HS 450 or AHS 450 or MLS 450 (UDM only)

Experiences Needed

100 hours of direct patient care prior to application for Central Michigan University; 500 hours of direct patient care prior to application for Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University, and Grand Valley State University; 1000 hours of direct patient care prior to application for Western Michigan University and University of Detroit Mercy.

Note: Average number of hours is *higher* than 1000 for all MI schools for 2015 admits.

To obtain strong direct patient care experience, students should be certified (Examples: paramedic, nurse's aide, phlebotomist, medical assistant, radiologic technologist, EKG (electrocardiogram) tech, EMT (Emergency medical technician), or LPN (Licensed practical nurse)). For help with finding experiences, contact the local hospitals in your area to find out the certification programs they offer.

To be a strong candidate the community service should be included on your application. It is not required but highly recommended. It helps the schools see that the candidate is an altruistic person.

GPA Needed

3.0 minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA

3.0 minimum prerequisite GPA (some schools require 3.0 in each prerequisite class)

Note: These are minimums. PA programs are competitive and the average successful applicant has a *much higher* GPA (see Admission Stats).

Michigan Physician Assistant Schools

University of Detroit Mercy (UDM)

Western Michigan University (WMU)

Central Michigan University (CMU)

Wayne State University (WSU)

Eastern Michigan University (EMU)

Grand Valley State University (GVSU)

Additional Physician Assistant Schools

List of additional program can be found at <http://www.pacaonline.org/> .

GRE Prep Resources

Kaplan

1-800-KAP-TEST

www.kaptest.com

Princeton Review

1-888-955-4600

www.princetonreview.com

Kresge Library also has preparation materials and practice test that can be found at

<http://www.learningexpresshub.com/learningexpress-hub/college-center/prepare-for-graduate-school-admissions-exams/gre-preparation/gre-practice-tests> .

GRE Score Needed

University of Detroit Mercy - requires a minimum total score of 291

Wayne State University - requires a minimum of 285 combined for verbal and quantitative and a 3.5 on for analytical writing

Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, and Grand Valley State University – GRE is required but no minimums listed on website

Western Michigan University- GRE not required

GRE registration at <http://www.ets.org/gre>

Application

A primary application needs to be submitted through CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants) at <https://portal.caspaonline.org/>. The application is available May 1st through September 1st.

Chances are better of getting into a program, if you apply as soon as it opens.

See <https://portal.caspaonline.org/caspaHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/> for detailed instructions on how to apply. Note: Grand Valley State University does not use CASPA.

A supplemental application is also needed for each individual school.

Personal Statement

5000 characters are given to write a statement expressing your motivation or desire to become a physician assistant. This statement is sent to all the schools you apply to, so you do not want to direct it to a specific school.

For additional help on how to write a personal statement, contact the Writing Center at 248-370-3120 or

<http://www.oakland.edu/ouwc> .

Resume

For some of the schools, a resume is needed for your supplemental application.

For help with writing a resume, contact Writing Center at 248-370-3120 or <http://www.oakland.edu/ouwc> or Career Services at 248-370-3250 or <http://www.oakland.edu/careerservices> .

Letters of Reference

Two or three Letters of Reference are needed depending on the PA school you are applying to. Letters of Reference should be from a health care professional, such as PA, MD, or DO. At least one of the three recommendations must be completed by an individual who has observed the applicant during direct patient contact experience. To be a strong applicant, references should know the student for longer than one year and can comment on their performance with direct patient health care.

Personal Interview

Personal Interviews are given to the top applicants who meet the requirements. If you are selected for an interview, it is important to have good interview skills. Interviews can be individual or group interviews. Completion of the Personal Interview does not guarantee admission to the program.

If you need help with interview skills, contact Career Services at 248-370-3250 or <http://www.oakland.edu/careerservices>.

Cost

GRE prep ranges from hundreds to thousands of dollars

GRE - \$185

Primary Application - \$175 for the first program you apply to. Any additional programs you choose to apply to will cost \$45 per designation

Supplemental Application - \$25 to \$100 per school

Helpful Websites

Eastern Michigan University PA website - www.emich.edu/chhs/hphp/pa/

Wayne State University PA website - www.pa.cphs.wayne.edu/

Grand Valley State University PA website - www.gvsu.edu/grad/mpas/

Western Michigan University PA website - www.wmich.edu/pa

Central Michigan University PA website -

www.cmich.edu/colleges/CHP/hp_academics/physician_assistant/Pages/default.aspx

University of Detroit Mercy PA website - <http://healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/programs/paprogram/>

CASPA website - <https://portal.caspaonline.org/>

Writing Center at OU - <http://www.oakland.edu/ouwc>

Career Services at OU - <http://www.oakland.edu/careerservices>

Kresge Library, Learning Express website - <http://0->

www.learnatest.com.elibrary.mel.org/LEL/index.cfm/learningCenter/collegeStudents/Grad_School_Entry_LEL/

Admission Stats (The following are the all the schools in MI that list Stats on their website)

Wayne State University – 2014 (Admitted Average Student)

Cumulative GPA – 3.6

Prerequisite GPA – 3.7

GRE – 1635 (older version) no data on newer version

Health Care Hours – 2844

Central Michigan University (Average academic and practical qualifications for the graduating class of 2015)

Cumulative GPA – 3.57

Prerequisite GPA – 3.62

GRE – Scores unavailable due to “revised” scoring with new exam

Direct Patient Care Experience – 2524

References

Eastern Michigan University PA website - <http://www.emich.edu/cbhs/bphhp/pa/>, Wayne State University PA website - <http://www.pa.cphs.wayne.edu/>, Grand Valley State University PA website - <http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/mpas/>, Western Michigan University PA website - <http://www.wmich.edu/pa>, Central Michigan University PA website - https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/CHP/bp_academics/physician_assistant/Pages/default.aspx, University of Detroit Mercy PA website - <http://healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/programs/paprogram/>, CASPA Frequently Asked Questions website - <https://portal.caspaonline.org/caspaHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/>, CASPA website - <https://portal.caspaonline.org/>, Kaplan - www.keaptest.com, Princeton Review - www.princetonreview.com, Kresge Library - http://0-www.learnatest.com.elibrary.mel.org/LEL/index.cfm/learningCenter/collegeStudents/Grad_School_Entrance_LEL/

Journal for Pre-Professional Activities

Type of Experience

- Health Care Experiences
- Volunteer and Service Experiences
- Research Experiences
- Work Experiences
- Honors and Awards

Date _____

If Award, type of Recognition _____

Average Hours per week/ Total Hours _____

Location _____

Contact Person:

Name _____

Title _____

Email Address and/or phone _____

Description (Describe experience or award and what gained/learned from experience or award)
