

Herkimer College

Transfer Advising Guide

Physician Assistant

Physician Assistants (Pas) provide healthcare services under the supervision of physicians. They should not be confused with medical assistants, who perform routine clinical and clerical tasks. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive healthcare services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of the healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and xrays, make diagnoses, and prescribe medications.

Degree: Many PA programs require completion of a Bachelor's Degree before entry. Some programs are direct freshman entry, with limited seats for transfer students. Programs vary in length from 2-6 years of full-time study dependent upon requirements.

Typical Admission Requirements to Physician Assistant Programs:

- Recent experience providing direct patient health care is often required. The amount of experience required varies by college.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (with 3.0 in prerequisite coursework).
- Prospective students should meet practicing physician assistants and "shadow" one or more through daily routines.
- References and personal interview.
- Applications are submitted online through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org or directly to the college. Research colleges for processes and deadlines.

Typical Prerequisite or recommended Courses for Physician Assistant Programs: Prerequisite requirements vary. Often required are: One year of biology with laboratories; One year of physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories' including organic; Calculus; microbiology; Anatomy & Physiology; Sociology; Psychology; and English. HCCC courses include:

EN 111/EN 112- English Composition & Intro to Literature.
SC 155 & SC 156 Biological Science I & II
SC 253 & SC 254 Anatomy & Physiology I & II
SC 153 & SC 154 General Chemistry I & II
SC 225 & SC 226 Organic Chemistry I & II
MA 245 Calculus I

SS 151 Intro to Psychology
SS 152 Developmental Psychology
SS 155 Abnormal Psychology
SS 161 Intro to Sociology
MA 127 Statistics
SC 211 Microbiology

Physician Assistant programs may prefer some courses be completed at a 4-year institution. Contact each institution for specific information and to verify course transferability.

Partial Listing of New York State Colleges with Physician Assistant programs:

Rochester Institute of Technology
Albany Medical College
Clarkson University
Cornell University(Weill Cornell Medical)
Daemen College
D'Youville College

Hofstra University
Le Moyne College
Mercy College
LIU-Brooklyn
Pace University
St. Francis College

St. John's University
SUNY Stony Brook
New York Institute of Tech.
SUNY Upstate Medical U.
Touro College
Wagner College
York College

Additional Information:

USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Physician Assistant <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos081.htm>

Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) http://www.arc-pa.org/acc_programs/

American Academy of Physician Assistants <http://www.aapa.org/index.php>

Please note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with the transfer counselor at HCCC to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and most up to date information. Herlimer's Transfer Office is located in the Counseling Center RMCC- 302 Phone: 315-866-0300 ext. 8308

Updated 1/2013 KAS