

Physician Assistant Education Program

Admissions Procedures

Minimum requirements:

- 2 years of undergraduate university
- 3.0 GPA (OMSAS 4.0 scale)
- No specific course requirements
- Calculate a cumulative GPA for all undergraduate study



Apply by February 1st, 2017:

- Submit OUAC Form 105D (including fees) www.ouac.on.ca
- Send all transcript to Registrar's Office (Gilmour Hall, Room 109)
- Transcript must include fall grades



Supplementary Application:

- Access will be sent by email in mid-February

Supplementary Application Assessment fee:

\$85 fee cheque or money order made payable to McMaster University - PA Program



Interviews:

- Held by mid-May
- Mini Multiple Interview (MMI)
- 70-80 individuals
- Invitations emailed by early April



Class of 2019:

- 24 PA Students accepted
- Offers sent by email early June

Admissions Committee will consider:

- GPA and Transcripts
- Supplementary Application
- Interview (MMI)

What is a PA?

Physician Assistants (PAs) are health care professionals who work under the supervision of a physician. PA scope of practice is determined by the supervising physician and the rules and regulations of the province in which they are practicing. PAs undertake tasks delegated to them by physician supervisors who ensure excellence in healthcare. PAs provide a broad range of health care services in primary and specialty care, including patient assessments, clinical investigations, diagnoses and treatment plans, therapeutic interventions, and counselling on preventive care.

Program Overview

CURRICULUM

- 24 months
- Problem-based, small-group, self-directed
- Focus on the Physician Assistant role in health care
- Promotion of inter-professional education and training

YEAR 1: CLINICAL SCIENCES

- Modeled on the McMaster Medical School Curriculum
- Designed to meet the **Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA)** CanMEDS-PA national competency profile and accreditation standards

First year components:

- Medical Foundations Tutorials
 - Small group tutorials covering pathophysiology, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, pharmacology,
- Interviewing, Examination and Reasoning
 - Clinical skills, communications, professional competencies, workshops, large group sessions and simulated patient encounters
- Clinical placements in a variety of healthcare settings

YEAR II: CLERKSHIP

- 48 weeks of supervised clinical placements
- Hands on, direct patient exposure to enhance history taking, physical exam, communication, investigation, diagnostic and patient management skills

Second year components:

- Core placements in the following settings:
 - Family medicine
 - Medicine
 - Surgery
 - Emergency medicine
 - Psychiatry
 - Pediatrics
- Elective rotations

Professional Certification

After graduation, PAs are eligible to challenge the national certification examination through the Canadian Physician Assistants Certification Council of Canada (PACCC). Upon successful completion of this examination, the PA is designated as a Canadian Certified Physician Assistant (CCPA). Once certified, the PA must adhere to the professional standards and continuing medical education requirements outlined by CAPA.

Financial Information

Careful consideration should be given to the financial requirements of this program.

☑ **Tuition:** 2016/2017 fees = approximately \$13,186.87 for a 12 month academic term, including supplementary fees of \$1000.00 per year.

It is anticipated that these fees will moderately increase for the 2017/2018 academic year.

☑ **Vehicle & Transportation costs:** Students must have their own transportation for clinical placements and rotations.

☑ **Travel & Living expenses:** Students are placed in a variety of clinical sites and may need to relocate to different regions within Ontario. Travel and living expenses are the responsibility of the student.

☑ **Additional costs:** Books, diagnostic equipment and other learning resources estimated at \$2,500.00.

For more information regarding fees:

http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/student/SAC_fees_other.html

Conditions of Enrollment

Upon acceptance, successful applicants will be required to provide detailed medical information, including a record of completion of required immunizations, evidence of Basic Cardiac Life Support certification (Health Care Professional) and a satisfactory Police Records Check (at the applicant's expense) upon entering the program and annually thereafter.

For more information:

PA Program Information Night
Wednesday, November 23rd, 2016
@7pm in HSC 1A1

(registration is not required)

Campus map: McMaster University, building #37
<http://www.mcmaster.ca/welcome/campusmap.cfm>

Website: <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/physicianassistant>

Contact: paprogram@mcmaster.ca

Learning Format

Problem-based learning requires students to use a clinical problem as a stimulus for identifying important concepts for learning. Students are presented with a series of health care problems, requiring for their solution, the understanding of underlying physical, biological, and behavioural principles, the appropriate collection of data and the critical appraisal of evidence. In each problem area, the student may select the most appropriate issues to ensure the understanding and application of the fundamental concepts. The central focus of the program is the tutorial. Tutorial groups are made up of a small group of PA students and a tutor. In the tutorial session, students develop a series of learning objectives from each health-care problem and negotiate how they will approach their learning tasks. They then acquire the knowledge and skills to meet the objectives of the Medical Foundation unit in which they are working. They also learn to work as a team, helping and learning from their peers. The study habits and sense of responsibility to self and others provides a strong foundation for lifelong learning and inter-professional work environments.

Accredited by:

Canadian Medical Association (CMA) – June 2016

Links:

Health Force Ontario:

<http://www.healthforceontario.ca>

Canadian Association of Physician Assistants:

<http://www.caopa.net/>

Physician Assistant Education Association:

<http://www.paeonline.org/>