

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Courses offered by the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program are listed under the subject code PAS (<https://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?view=catalog&academicYear=&page=0&q=PAS&filter-departmentcode-PAS=on&filter-coursestatus-Active=on>) on the Stanford Bulletin's Explore Courses web site.

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Physician Assistant Studies program is a 30-month program (with one summer break) that includes streamlined courses with innovative content delivery, a state-of-the-art simulation lab, and world-class clinical anatomy experiences as well as early exposure to patient care. Students receive mentorship and support in their academic and research focus areas by clinically practicing Stanford PAs. During the didactic work, PA students are located at the School of Medicine and enroll as a cohort in a clinically focused curriculum. A substantial portion of their courses are integrated with medical students, allowing for an invaluable interprofessional education experience. During their clerkship year, students rotate through Stanford-affiliated hospitals and ambulatory practices as well as select sites throughout California. In an innovative approach to PA education that encourages the next generation of PA leaders, students are required to select one area of scholarly concentration and complete a capstone project. The areas of scholarly concentration include:

- Community Health
- Health Services and Policy Research
- Clinical Research
- Medical Education.

Upon completion of this 30-month program, students are prepared to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program is open to external as well as internal applicants. Advanced placement and coterminal degrees for Stanford University undergraduates are not available at this time. Individuals who wish to apply to the program should do so via the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com>). The application window typically opens at the end of April and closes on September 1.

The University requirements for the M.S. degree are described in the "Graduate Degrees (<http://exploreddegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees>)" section of this bulletin.

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program is for individuals who wish to pursue a career as a PA. The program is available to external and internal candidates. Advanced placement and coterminal degrees for Stanford University undergraduates are not available at this time.

The first five quarters of the 30-month program involve acquiring fundamental medical knowledge through course work in clinical anatomy, the basic sciences, pharmacology, and pathophysiology and disease management, as well as attaining core skills in medical interviewing and the physical examination. The last four quarters of the program are dedicated to experiential learning through clinical rotations in inpatient and outpatient medicine, pediatrics, women's health, emergency medicine, surgery, and behavioral medicine, as well as elective rotations.

Admission

- Applicants must have received an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university by July 15 of the year of matriculation; no specific discipline or major is prescribed.
- Prior healthcare experience (> 500 hours) through either prior employment and/or volunteer work is strongly recommended.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. Note that GRE scores are only valid for five years and must be current at the time of application.
- Candidates are required to submit a personal statement of no more than 5,000 characters and three letters of reference as part of the application process via CASPA (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com>).
- Candidates are also required to answer four questions in CASPA (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com>) specifically designed for the Stanford School of Medicine M.S. in PA Studies program. The questions relate to future PA practice, leadership potential, area of scholarly interest, and contributions to diversity.

It is strongly recommended that students complete the following coursework prior to applying to the program:

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Chemistry
- General Statistics or Biostatistics
- Psychology
- Three upper-division science courses (e.g., in cell biology, genetics, or microbiology) are recommended before matriculation.

Degree Requirements

All students in the program must complete the Master of Science in PA Studies program core curriculum (160 units) and additional work in an area of scholarly interest (6 units).

Upon completion of the didactic coursework (5 quarters), students begin 12 months of clinical clerkship within the Stanford Healthcare Community and in other select clinical sites.

Students choose an area of scholarly concentration which include:

- Community Health
- Health Services and Policy Research
- Clinical Research
- Medical Education

All students must complete a capstone project in their area of scholarly interest.

Graduate Advising Expectations

The Physician Assistant Studies program is committed to providing academic advising in support of graduate student scholarly and professional development. When most effective, this advising relationship entails collaborative and sustained engagement by both the adviser and the advisee. As a best practice, advising expectations should be periodically discussed and reviewed to ensure mutual understanding. Both the adviser and the advisee are expected to maintain professionalism and integrity.

Faculty advisers guide students in key areas such as selecting courses, designing and conducting research, developing of teaching pedagogy, navigating policies and degree requirements, and exploring academic opportunities and professional pathways.

Graduate students are active contributors to the advising relationship, proactively seeking academic and professional guidance and taking responsibility for informing themselves of policies and degree requirements for their graduate program.

For a statement of University policy on graduate advising, see the "Graduate Advising (<http://exploreddegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#advisingandcredentialstext>)" section of this bulletin.

Leadership

Associate Dean for PA Education and Program Director: Susan Fernandes

Associate Program Director: Rhonda Larsen

Medical Director: Andrew Nevins

Associate Medical Director: Ian Nelligan

Core Faculty

Director of Pre-Clerkship Education: Nicole Burwell

Director of Clerkship Education: Andrew Chastain

Early Clinical Experience Coordinator: Lucinda Hirahoka

Educators for Care PA (E4C-PA) Faculty

Chad Anderson

Camille Bloom

Jennifer Hunter

Courtney Nelson

Kendra Patton

Adam Seligman