

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM



PA employment opportunities include:

- ◆ Primary care, including family practice, pediatrics, and internal medicine
- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Emergency rooms
- ◆ Urgent care centers
- ◆ Nursing homes
- ◆ Medical subspecialties, such as cardiology, gastroenterology, endocrinology
- ◆ Surgical subspecialties, such as orthopedics, ENT, urology, plastic surgery



Students in the PA program spend their first 15 months on campus, in Syracuse. The remaining 12 months are spent at clinical sites in Central New York communities.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the SUNY Upstate Medical Center Physician Assistant Program sponsored by the State University of New York. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2026. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The Office of Student Admissions
SUNY Upstate Medical University
(315) 464-4570

e-mail: admiss@upstate.edu

www.upstate.edu/chp/programs/pa

Physician Assistant Master's Degree Program

- ◆ Established at Central New York's only medical university.
- ◆ Affordable SUNY tuition.

Physician assistants:

- ◆ Are highly qualified licensed health care professionals who practice medicine with physician supervision.
- ◆ Complete a demanding academic and clinical curriculum.
- ◆ Are found in many settings and disciplines.
- ◆ Examine, diagnose, and treat patients. This includes: taking the patient's medical history, performing physical exams, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests, performing clinical procedures, and formulating plans for managing an illness.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

PA students at SUNY Upstate study and train at the only academic medical center in Central New York, one of only 140 in the country.

Our program has dedicated classroom and laboratory space, as well as a state of the art medical simulation lab in the newest academic building on campus. Students practice their patient assessment skills in the PA Skills Lab, and participate in student assessment at our Clinical Skills Center, one of only several such centers in the country. And during their clinical rotations, which include a wide range of medical and surgical disciplines, our students work with experienced community-based preceptors.

Physician Assistants practice medicine with physician supervision in many settings and in various medical and surgical disciplines. The profession is one of the fastest growing careers in the country and includes people with backgrounds in nursing, emergency medicine, the military, sports medicine, exercise physiology and many other health professions.

Our PA program focuses on primary care in medically underserved and rural areas of Upstate New York, although our physician assistant alumni can be found in all areas of medicine and surgery.

We are seeking candidates who will assist us in fulfilling our mission, which involves serving these communities. Although out-of-state applicants are considered, preference will be given to residents of New York State.

Our program has a June start date only. Deadline for applications is **December 1** of the year preceding matriculation.

Information and application instructions for our program can be found on our website at www.upstate.edu/chp/programs/pa/. If you have any questions after review of our website, please contact our Office of Student Admissions at 315-464-4570 or admiss@upstate.edu



Sandra Banas, MST RPA-C
Chair, Associate Professor
Physician Assistant Studies
College of Health Professions
SUNY Upstate Medical
University



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The PA master's program is full-time, starts in the summer, and is 27 months long.

The first 15 months focus on classroom training with a strong emphasis on basic sciences, pharmacology, clinical medicine, interviewing skills, physical diagnosis, diagnostic studies, professionalism, ethics, and research methods.

The remaining 12 months are spent in month-long rotations at supervised practice sites. In addition to these eleven clinical rotations, students must complete a Master's Capstone Project on a relevant medical topic of the student's choosing.



"Every time we go through something new in class, there's always someone with a little extra expertise you can draw upon. It's been a great decision to become a PA and enroll in Upstate. When I got here it felt this is what I should have been doing all along."
- Katie Bubnack, PA.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

PA admission requirements include:

- Baccalaureate degree, including
 - General Biology I & II
 - Anatomy & Physiology I & II (or a semester of each)
 - General Chemistry I & II
 - Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry
 - Microbiology
 - Genetics
 - Statistics
 - English (2 courses, including composition)
 - Behavioral or Social Science (2 courses)
 - Medical Terminology
- All science courses, with the exception of genetics, require a lab.

*Note: One biology and one chemistry course must be taken within five years of matriculation in the program.

- GPA of 3.0 or greater.
- Recommend GRE scores in the top 50th percentile.
- 1,000 hours of paid or volunteer health care related experience. For a complete list of requirements e-mail admiss@upstate.edu or visit www.upstate.edu/chp/pa
- Shadowing of a PA is strongly recommended
- **Application Deadline: December 1**

CLINICAL ROTATIONS

A full year of the PA program is devoted to hands-on experience in supervised patient care settings. These clinical rotations will primarily be in rural or medically underserved communities throughout Upstate New York—including the regions surrounding cities like Watertown and Binghamton, NY. Students will be responsible for acquiring their own housing and covering their living expenses.

SUNY Upstate Medical University is located in Syracuse, the center of New York state. Built around the mission of excellence in education, research and patient care, SUNY Upstate employs more than 9,000 people at its colleges and hospitals and maintains a large network of volunteer faculty in practice settings across the state.

DIDACTIC

Credits

YEAR I - SUMMER (starts June) 8 weeks	
Human Anatomy	9
Professional Issues I	1
Population Medicine	1
EKG Interpretation	1
	Total Credit Hours: 12

YEAR I - FALL (starts late August) 15 weeks	
General Medicine I	5
Human Physiology I	3
Clinical Pharmacology I	3
Physical Diagnosis	2
Diagnostic Studies for Health Care Providers	2
Interviewing & Documentation	2
	Total Credit Hours: 17

Semester Break: 2 Weeks

YEAR I - SPRING (starts January) 16 weeks	
General Medicine II	5
Behavioral Science	3
Clinical Pharmacology II	3
Research Design & Evidence-Based Medicine	2
Human Physiology II	3
Advanced Physical Diagnosis	2
	Total Credit Hours: 18

Semester Break: 1 Week

YEAR II - Summer Session I (starts May) 4 weeks	
Pediatrics	2
Professional Issues II	1
Infection Control	1
Master's Clinical Research I	1
	Total Credit Hours: 5

Session II (starts June) 8 weeks	
Clinical Pharmacology III	2
General Medicine III	3
Clinical Procedures	2
Clinical Decision Making	1
	Total Credit Hours: 8

CLINICAL

CLINICAL YEAR II - FALL (starts August) 16 Weeks (4 rotations) + Master' Clinical Research II	
	Total Credit Hours: 17

CLINICAL YEAR II - SPRING (starts January) 20 Weeks (5 rotations) +1 week vacation + Master' Clinical Research III	
	Total Credit Hours: 21

CLINICAL YEAR III (starts May) 8 weeks (2 rotations) + Competency assessment	
	Total Credit Hours: 8

Total Credit Hours: 106