

Pacific Union College

Pre-Physician Assistant for Admission to Loma Linda University

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DEGREE

General Areas of Service:

Physician Assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. Common services provided by a PA include taking medical histories and performing physical examinations; ordering and interpreting lab tests; diagnosing and treating illnesses; assisting in surgery; prescribing and/or dispensing medication; and counseling patients. Many PA programs offer specialty training in family practice, Ob-Gyn, etc.

PA programs vary greatly in requirements and in the degree earned by completing all requirements. Pacific Union College recommends the program offered by the Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions. It is a two year graduate program which leads to the M.S. degree.

Applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree plus required prerequisite courses. A baccalaureate degree in any field is acceptable, but preference is given to degrees more directly related to health care. One option is a health-related associate degree in addition to a baccalaureate degree in another field. Acceptance is based on a combination of factors including degree, patient care experience, GPA, and confidence/enthusiasm as evidenced by an interview. Applicants should be able to document one year (approximately 2,000 hours) of patient care experience in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, or laboratories; either paid or voluntary. A minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 (B) is required.

It is strongly recommended that PUC students contact LLU directly early in their pre-PA program to ensure adequate preparation.

Prerequisite Courses:

Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 101+102, w/lab)
 Microbiology (MICR 134, w/lab)
 Introductory Chemistry (CHEM 101-2-3, w/lab)
 or General Chemistry (CHEM 111-12-13, w/lab)
 College Algebra (MATH 106)
 General Psychology (PSYC 121)
 Sociology (SOC 121)
 or Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 124)
 English Composition (ENGL 101+102)

Recommended Courses:

Statistics (STAT 222), Medical Terminology, Computer Literacy

If you wish to apply to a PA school other than LLU and have program materials, we will be pleased to help you prepare to meet their requirements.

Professional Training: Twenty four months of lectures and clinical experience.

Job Outlook: Good. Demand has been growing steadily.

Earnings: Starting salaries \$65,000-\$75,000 per year.

Sample Programs: See pre-PA program of your choice: Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, Medical Technology, Occupational Therapy, Biology, Chemistry-Biochemistry, Psychology, etc.

For more information:

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<http://www.puc.edu/PUC/academics/curricula/MEDI-21.pdf>

<http://www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/pa/>