

Course Requirements

Applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree plus required prerequisite courses and documented patient care experience as follows:

Prerequisite Courses:

Take the following required courses:

BIOL 101+102	Human Anatomy & Physiology	5+5
ENGL 101+102	College English I, II	4+4
MATH 106	College Algebra	4
MICR 134	General Microbiology	5
PSYC 121	General Psychology	4

Take the one of the following sequences: 12-15

CHEM 101+102+103	Introductory Chemistry (4+4+4)
CHEM 111+112+113	General Chemistry (5+5+5)

Take the one of the following courses: 4

ANTH 124	Cultural Anthropology (4)
SOCI 121	Introduction to Sociology (4)

The following courses are not required, but they are recommended:

BIOL 223	Medical Terminology (2)
SPAN 105	Spanish for Health Care (3)
STAT 222	Introduction to Statistics (4)

Patient Care Experience:

Students are required to document at least 2,000 hours of direct patient care experience.

Examples of Preferred Clinical Experiences/Professions:

Direct patient care experience including, but not limited to:

- Military Medic or Corpsman
- Paramedic/EMT
(waiting and transportation time not included)
- Nurse (LVN or RN)
- Radiology Technologist/Radiographer
- Physical Therapist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Medical Technologist
- Medical Assistant (back office)
- Athletic Trainer
- Dietitian

Other professions not listed above that include Loma Linda University's preferred definition of clinical experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Both paid and volunteer hours are acceptable.

Clinical experiences that are not preferred would include, but are not limited to: administrative duties, massage therapy, home care aid, home health aid, phlebotomy, and "shadowing a physician".

Occupational Information

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.

Professional Training

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. The two years include twenty four months of lectures and clinical experience.

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 overall and science G.P.A. of 3.0 (Letter Grade of B) is required.

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

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, Exercise Science, etc.

For More Information

Vicki Saunders, Pre-Allied Health Advisor
Nursing and Health Sciences Department
Pacific Union College
One Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508
Phone: (707) 965-7632
Website: www.puc.edu/nursing
E-mail: vasaunders@puc.edu

Physician Assistant Program
School of Allied Health Professions
Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350
(800) 422-4558, ext. 4
www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/pa/

To apply online go to: www.caspaonline.org

Note: Admission requirements are subject to change each year.
