

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES (M.P.A.S.)

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.S.) program provides students with the entry-level education to become Physician Assistants (PAs) and practice medicine on healthcare teams with physicians and other providers. PA practice includes comprehensive patient care incorporating patient interviewing and history-taking, examination and evaluation, diagnosis, treatment plan development and implementation, patient follow-up, and patient education and counseling.

Upon graduation, students will be eligible for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

Program Accreditation

Information on FGCU institutional accreditation is available at www.fgcu.edu/accreditation (<https://www.fgcu.edu/about/accreditation/>)

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **Florida Gulf Coast University MPAS Program** sponsored by **Florida Gulf Coast University**. 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remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the *Standards*.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 **2032 March**. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the *Accreditation Standards* and ARC-PA policy.

For more information, <http://www.arc-pa.org>

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-fl-gulf-coast-university/>

Program Admission Requirements

Admission Policies

Admission to the MPAS program is highly competitive. All applicants must complete the FGCU PA program application through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA).

All prerequisites must be completed by the end of the fall semester prior to matriculation.

- Completed Application and Fee through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>).
- Applicants only need to apply online using CASPA. MPAS applicants do not need to apply to the Office of Graduate Admissions. Please disregard the instructions to submit an FGCU supplemental application on the FGCU CASPA instruction page. All application materials received through CASPA will be reviewed by FGCU.
- Earned baccalaureate degree from an institution that maintains accreditation by a U.S. Department of Education sanctioned accrediting body (<https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/higher-education-laws-and-policy/college-accreditation> ([https://](https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/higher-education-laws-and-policy/college-accreditation/)

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- In addition to a baccalaureate degree, applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Minimum Upper Division Grade Point Average (UG60) of at least 3.0 for the last 60 credits earned from a baccalaureate degree.
 - Earned graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent foreign institution with a minimum 3.0 grade-point average.
- A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 is required for all biology, chemistry, and physics (BCP) courses completed. CASPA calculates BCP GPA based on these Course Subject categories:
 - Biology/Zoology
 - Inorganic Chemistry
 - Biochemistry
 - Organic Chemistry
 - Physics
- Complete the following prerequisite courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better by the end of the fall semester prior to matriculation. ("C-" grades are not acceptable). A minimum combined overall grade point average of 3.0 is required for all prerequisite courses completed. Courses must be intended for science majors or health professions preparation. Survey courses are not acceptable. The MPAS program does not allow for exceptions or substitution of prerequisite courses.
 - Biology, including lab: 4 semester hours
 - General Chemistry I & II, including labs: 8 semester hours
 - Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry: 3 semester hours
 - Medical Terminology: 3 semester hours
 - The following prerequisite courses must be completed within 7 years prior to matriculation:
 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II, including labs: 8 semester hours
 - Microbiology including lab: 4-5 semester hours
 - Genetics: 3 semester hours
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Standardized Test – official scores are required and must be valid within the past five years. GRE code for FGCU MPAS Program on CASPA through ETS is 2066.
- A minimum of 250 hours of direct patient care is required.
 - This experience may vary and can be acquired on a full- or part-time basis.
 - All direct patient care hours must be completed prior to submitting your CASPA application. The program does not accept "anticipated" hours and/or hours completed after the application has been submitted to CASPA.
 - Direct patient care experience requiring certification and providing monetary compensation is the most competitive.
 - Healthcare experience as part of an academic training program (clinical rotations, internship) does not meet the requirement for direct patient care.
 - Examples of accepted patient care experience may be found at the Frequently Asked Questions button.
- The program strongly encourages applicants to obtain 20 hours of shadowing a physician assistant.
- Three professional letters of recommendation

- One letter must be from a Physician Assistant (PA)
- One letter must be from a non-PA clinician (MD, DO, or NP)
- One letter from a Professor or any individual who has worked with the applicant in a professional or educational environment. The reference should have worked with the applicant for a minimum of six months.

The Program does not accept references written by relatives, personal friends, or friends of the applicant's family. "Character references" (from pastors, teachers, counselors, family doctors, etc.) are also not acceptable.

- International students must demonstrate English language proficiency in accordance with University regulation.
- Official translations are required for all documents issued in a language other than English.
- Acceptance into and successful completion of the FGCU MPAS Program does not imply or guarantee that the student will be able to obtain state licensure or third-party certification upon graduation. Outside agencies control the requirements for taking and passing certification/licensing exams and are subject to change without notice to FGCU.
- Admissions decisions are competitive. Meeting admission standards does not guarantee acceptance.
- Selected applicants will be invited for an on-campus interview.

Program Progression and Additional Graduation Requirements

- Students must complete the Program of Study approved by the Program Director and the student's faculty advisor.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a "B" (80%) for all courses in the program.
- Complete the Physician Assistant Clinical Knowledge Rating and Assessment Test (PACKRAT).
- Successfully complete M.P.A.S. summative examination.
- Successfully complete M.P.A.S. Capstone project.
- Comply with M.P.A.S. standards of conduct and guidelines for professional and ethical conduct.
- Submit an application for graduation by the semester deadline listed in the FGCU Academic Calendar.
- Meet all FGCU graduate student requirements for graduation.
- Completion of the M.P.A.S. degree is required for eligibility to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).
- Students must register for a minimum of one credit during the semester in which they apply for graduation.
- Earn more than 50% of the credits toward the degree through FGCU.
- Earn a minimum of 90 credits.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses in the Major		(90 credits)
PAS 6002	Medical Communications	1
PAS 6005	Behavioral Medicine	2
PAS 6010	Clinical Medicine I	4
PAS 6012C	Clinical Integration	2

PAS 6013	Evidence-based Medicine	2
PAS 6017C	Clinical Integration II	2
PAS 6020	Clinical Medicine II	5
PAS 6021	Public Health	1
PAS 6022C	Gross Anatomy	4
PAS 6023	Pharmacology I	2
PAS 6025	Human Physiology	3
PAS 6026	Pharmacology II	2
PAS 6030	Diagnostic and Laboratory	3
PAS 6031C	Clinical Skills I	2
PAS 6032C	Clinical Skills II	1
PAS 6033	Clinical Medicine III	3
PAS 6034	Clinical Medicine IV	4
PAS 6036C	Physical Diagnosis I	2
PAS 6037C	Physical Diagnosis II	2
PAS 6045	Integrated Clinical Science	2
PAS 6050	Intro to PA Practice	2
PAS 6051	Legal and Ethical Issues	2
PAS 6100	Internal Medicine I (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6101	Internal Medicine II (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6125	Behavioral Health (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6200	Surgery (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6300	Pediatrics (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6400	Primary Care I (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6401	Primary Care II (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6505	Womens' Health (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6600	Emergency Medicine (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6935	Seminar	1
PAS 6940	Selective Rotation I (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6941	Selective Rotation II (Clinical Rotation)	3
PAS 6942	Selective Rotation III (Clinical Rotation)	3

Total Credits Required: 90