PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

This is a 4+2 program leading to a Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant) degree from Arcadia University

Adviser

Assistant Professor Donna Agnew, PA-C, MSPAS

About the Pre-Physician Assistant Program

The Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant) degree is designed to produce graduates who will be well-equipped to deliver high-quality, cost-effective primary health care in a wide variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices and community settings. The physician assistant is trained to take medical histories, perform physical examinations, diagnose common illnesses, order laboratory tests, determine treatment, and educate patients about their medical problems.

This is a 4+2 program, with four years of undergraduate study and two years of graduate study in the Physician Assistant program. A student interested in becoming part of the Physician Assistant program must first earn a bachelor's degree in a major such as Biology, Chemistry or Psychology that enables him or her to complete the prerequisite courses. Arcadia University undergraduates whose academic records and Graduate Record Examination scores meet the 4+2 entrance requirements are assured admission into the graduate program at the end of the senior year.

The 24-month graduate portion of the program combines classroom instruction with extensive clinical experience in a variety of medical specialties. The overall emphases during these two years are primary health-care delivery and the role of the physician assistant as a valuable member of the health-care team. Transfer students also are eligible for assured admission to the graduate programs in Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant. Students are strongly urged to work closely with the advisers from their chosen majors. They also take prerequisite courses for graduate-level professional work. During the senior year, interested students apply to the Office of Enrollment Management for entrance into the Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant) program. To maintain the ongoing quality of the Physician Assistant program, the University reserves the right to limit the enrollment in all its offerings.

Minimum Requirements for Admission to the M.M.S. Degree (Physician Assistant)

Prerequisite courses must be taken through the appropriate department, e.g. Biology Chemistry, or Psychology.

Requirements for Students Who Begin Their Undergraduate Education at Arcadia University as Freshmen

1. Students must have completed the following prerequisites:
   a) **Biological Sciences:** six lab/lecture courses in Biology to include at least Anatomy (Human or Comparative), Physiology and Microbiology. Biochemistry is recommended.
   b) **Chemistry:** four lab/lecture courses in Chemistry to include a minimum of one semester of Organic Chemistry.
   c) **Psychology:** one course in Psychology. Abnormal or Developmental Psychology is recommended.
   d) **Mathematics:** at least one Statistics course.
   e) **Humanities:** at least five courses in the humanities (A course in Ethics or Medical Ethics is highly recommended.)
2. Students must have a minimum 3.2 overall GPA in prerequisite courses taken at Arcadia and elsewhere. A grade of "**C**" or better must be earned in each prerequisite course. (A grade of "**C–**" is unacceptable for prerequisite credit.) When calculating the

prerequisite GPA, the University includes all courses in the various areas. Courses taken in prerequisite areas that were graded on a pass/fail basis will not be calculated into the prerequisite GPA.

3. Students must take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). A minimum score of 1,100 is expected from the verbal and quantitative portion of the test, with no single test score below 450. A minimum score of a 4 is expected for the analytic portion of the exam. This test is generally taken in the junior year. Due to changes in the GRE, we strongly advise all applicants to take the test before July 31, 2011. However, applicants who take the test after July 31 should be warned that minimum score requirements for the new test will likely not be determined until Fall, 2011.
4. Students must have knowledge of the profession through work or volunteer experience in a clinical setting. A minimum of 200 hours of patient care experience or a combination of health-care experience and research.
5. Students must obtain a recommendation from a practicing, licensed physician or physician assistant who can attest to their ability to succeed in the Physician Assistant program.

Requirements for Students Who Begin at Arcadia University as Transfer Students

Transfer students also are considered for automatic admission provided that they meet all the criteria for freshmen as well as the following:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 15 credits per semester and no fewer than 64 credits over the last four semesters of work at Arcadia University, excluding summers.
2. Students must earn a bachelor's degree from Arcadia University.
3. Students must take eight of the prerequisite science courses at Arcadia University.
4. Students must complete at Arcadia University: BI 206 Human Physiology or a 300-level Biology course with a lab (if Human Physiology is already completed).

Students whose credentials do not meet requirements that assure automatic admission to the master's program can still apply. They will, however, be considered in relation to other qualified candidates in the general applicant pool.