Physician Assistant

+ Doisy College of Health Sciences

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

The mission of the Saint Louis University physician assistant program is to educate men and women to become competent, compassionate physician assistants dedicated to excellence in health care and to the service of humanity. SLU’s resources allow the P.A. program to draw on a vast network of experts in their respective fields for lectures and clinical experience.

The P.A. program is a 27-month, year-round graduate program with a rigorous didactic and clinical curriculum that provides a broad foundation in medicine and surgery. The Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.) degree is awarded upon program completion. A total of 40 students are selected to begin the program each year.

In addition to their academic and clinical obligations, students are involved in a variety of University and community service as well as national physician assistant activities. The department strives to empower students as socially responsible learners to help assure high quality care and advocacy for each patient whose life is touched by P.A. program students or graduates.

Educational facilities provide an exceptional learning environment and house classrooms, a computer laboratory, a lecture hall, a 300-seat auditorium and a simulated medical office with eight exam rooms. The simulated medical office is equipped with cameras in each exam room for recording and reviewing student performance.

Recognition:
As one of the first physician assistant programs in the country, Saint Louis University has maintained a tradition of academic excellence and earned a national reputation as a solid leader in physician assistant education.

The Saint Louis University physician assistant program maintains continued accreditation since its inception. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has grants Accreditation-Continued status to SLU’s physician assistant program. This status is 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 organization's Accreditation Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be March 2020. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

DEGREES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- CASPA application, including three letters of reference
- SLU supplemental application and processing fee
- Health care experience
- Interview

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Baccalaureate degree
- Science GPA of at least 3.0
- Overall GPA of at least 3.0
- Successful completion of these courses: medical terminology, statistics, college chemistry I and II, organic chemistry I and II, biochemistry, microbiology, vertebrate or human anatomy, vertebrate or human physiology, and genetics
- At least 500 hours of health care experience
- Health care experience (direct patient care preferred)
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FACULTY ///
The principal faculty of the department of physician assistant education offer a breadth of background and experience in health care and education. In addition, more than 150 area physicians, P.A.s and other health professionals may lecture in the P.A. program, as well as basic science faculty from within the University.

A. Caroline Chang, M.M.S, PA-C
Michael J. Cox, M.D., FACP, FCCP
Carol R. Danter, M.P.A.S., PA-C
Genevieve DelRosario, M.H.S., PA-C
Anne C. Hart Garanzini, M.Ed., PA-C
Jennifer Storm, M.S., PA-C
Chezna W. Warner, M.H.S., M.S.W., PA-C
Christine Werner, Ph.D., RD, PA-C
Mary White, M.S., PA-C

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS ///  
Career Paths:  
Physician assistants are employed in essentially every medical and surgical specialty and subspecialty in which physicians are employed. P.A.s work in hospitals, clinics, offices and other settings. They obtain histories, perform physical exams, order various diagnostic tests, interpret the results, diagnose and treat illnesses, counsel and educate patients, assist in surgery and prescribe medications.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT ///  
Information concerning financial aid and scholarships can be obtained from the student financial services website: finaid.slu.edu.