

# Master of Physician Assistant Studies

## Admission Requirements

1. Baccalaureate Degree: A baccalaureate degree needs to be completed by June 30th of the year you plan to enter the PA Studies program. It must be from a regionally accredited U.S. institute of higher learning.
2. Prerequisite Courses: Required courses must also be completed at a regionally accredited U.S. institute of higher learning. The required prerequisite courses are:
  - Microbiology
  - Biochemistry
  - Human Anatomy (as a single course or as part of a two-semester combined anatomy and physiology course)
  - Human Physiology (as a single course or as part of a two-semester combined anatomy and physiology course)
  - Statistics
  - Abnormal Psychology (or Developmental Psychology throughout the Lifespan)

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative prerequisite grade point average of 3.0 as well as a minimum grade of C in all prerequisite courses (listed above). Coursework ten years or older is not accepted as prerequisite coursework. First-time applicants may have up to two prerequisite courses in progress during spring of the year they plan to enter the program. This coursework and any degree work must be completed by June 30 of the year of admission.

| Code   | Title                        | Credits |
|--|------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Highly Recommended Upper Level Biology Courses</b>                        |                              |         |
| (Note: This is not meant to be all inclusive and includes suggestions only.) |                              |         |
| <b>Advanced Anatomy</b>  |                              |         |
| BIOL 4420  | Musculo-Skeletal Anatomy     | 2       |
| BIOL 4470  | Cross-Sectional Anatomy      | 2       |
| <b>Advanced Human Physiology</b>   |                              |         |
| BIOL 4449  | Human Physiology I           | 4       |
| BIOL 4456  | Human Physiology II          | 4       |
| BIOL 4464  | Lectures in Human Physiology | 4       |
| BIOL 4486  | Human Systemic Physiology    | 5       |
| <b>Immunology</b>  |                              |         |
| BIOL 4451  | Immunology                   | 3       |
| BIOL 4454  | Advanced Immunology          | 3       |
| <b>Genetics</b>  |                              |         |
| BIOL 3358  | Genetics                     | 3       |
| BIOL 4461  | Microbial Genetics           | 3       |
| <b>Endocrinology</b>   |                              |         |
| BIOL 4443  | Endocrinology                | 3       |

- Other health-related courses from departments such as Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Health Education, and Gender Studies.
- Proficiency in a second language, especially Spanish

Additional considerations for admission include:

- Maturity
- Work and health care experience

- Evidence of the ability to achieve academic success in a rigorous academic program
- Interpersonal skills and the ability to relate effectively with patients, peers, and at a professional level
- Evidence of a desire to practice primary care in Idaho, particularly among the medically underserved

## Required Applications

**Central Application Services for Physician Assistants (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/>)**

The CASPA application must be completed by the PA program application deadline of November 1. As part of the CASPA application process, you will be required to submit three letters of recommendation and official transcripts.

**Graduate Record Exam (GRE) (<http://www.ets.org>)**

The GRE is an important admission requirement as the scores are used for ranking applicants. Please go to the ETS website for information about testing locations and scheduling the exam.

The GRE must be taken by November 1. The ISU GRE School Code is 4355 and the Department Code is 0634.

**ISU Graduate School Application ([www.isu.edu/graduate](http://www.isu.edu/graduate))**

The ISU Graduate School application (also called the "Supplemental Application") is required for admission to the PA program. When applying to the Graduate School, select the Fall semester. Please refer to the ISU Graduate School for information regarding the application, requirements, and fees.

CASPA DOES NOT forward transcripts to the Graduate School or the PA program. A separate set of official transcripts must be requested for ISU's Graduate School.

Official transcripts are to be sent from the granting institution directly to the Graduate School at the following address:

ISU Graduate School  
921 S 8th Ave, Stop 8075  
Pocatello, ID 83209-8075  
gradadmissions@isu.edu

The Graduate School application deadline is November 1.

## Technical Standards

All entering students must meet the required list of Technical Standards. A complete list of technical standards covering essential capacities for observation, communication, sensory and motor function, intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities, behavioral and social attributes, and other student performance requirements is available from the program or on the program's website at <https://www.isu.edu/pa/admission/technical-standards/> (<https://www.isu.edu/pa/admission/technical-standards/>).

## Curriculum

The ISU PA Program Graduate Curriculum is twenty-four (24) months in length, divided into twelve (12) months of didactic (3 semesters) and twelve (12) months of clinical education (3 semesters).

The Didactic Curriculum is comprised of foundation courses in the fall semester, followed in the spring and summer semesters by modules that provide an immersion experience in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases commonly encountered in primary care medicine.

Elective coursework in Medical Spanish is available to Physician Assistant students. The Department of Global Studies and Languages offers a graduate certificate in Spanish for Health Professions along with other elective courses. This is an excellent opportunity for students as well as graduates to enhance their credentials.

Clinical Year Rotation goals are designed to meet the needs of the student and to address the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) accreditation standards. The Clinical Year staff places students in eight rotations that best address PA student educational objectives and at sites that promote continued, quality, preceptor relations with the ISU PA Program. There are seven required content areas, including Internal Medicine, Outpatient Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, and Psychiatry. One rotation will be an elective. Students are expected to travel during the clinical year and to pay for the expenses incurred for this travel.

There are three Capstone Assessment Courses in the second year of the PA Program. Together they represent a comprehensive assessment of the students. The Capstone Assessment III course is the third one in the series and students are required to study for and pass multiple objective examinations.

**Didactic Year**

| Fall         | Credits | Spring    | Credits | Summer    | Credits |
|--------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| BIOL 5529    | 3       | PAS 6629  | 4       | PAS 6639  | 2       |
| BIOL 5563    | 4       | PAS 6631  | 2       | PAS 6643  | 4       |
| BIOL 5564    | 4       | PAS 6632  | 2       | PAS 6646  | 2       |
| PAS 6601     | 7       | PAS 6633  | 2       | PAS 6650  | 1       |
| PAS 6602     | 3       | PAS 6634  | 2       | PAS 6651  | 2       |
| PAS 6603     | 6       | PAS 6635  | 3       | PAS 6652  | 1       |
| PAS 6604     | 2       | PAS 6636  | 4       | PAS 6653  | 2       |
| SPAN 5510    | 1-3     | PAS 6637  | 4       | PAS 6654  | 8       |
|              |         | PAS 6640  | 2       | PAS 6657  | 1       |
|              |         | PAS 6641  | 2       |           |         |
|              |         | PAS 6642  | 3       |           |         |
|              |         | PAS 6656  | 1       |           |         |
| <b>30-32</b> |         | <b>31</b> |         | <b>23</b> |         |

**Total Credits: 84-86**

**Clinical Year**

| Fall     | Credits | Spring   | Credits | Summer   | Credits |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| PAS 6661 | 4       | PAS 6664 | 4       | PAS 6667 | 4       |
| PAS 6662 | 4       | PAS 6665 | 4       | PAS 6668 | 4       |

|           |   |           |   |          |   |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|----------|---|
| PAS 6663  | 4 | PAS 6666  | 4 | PAS 6673 | 1 |
| PAS 6671  | 2 | PAS 6672  | 1 |          |   |
| <b>14</b> |   | <b>13</b> |   | <b>9</b> |   |

**Total Credits: 36**

**Additional Opportunities for MPAS Students**

The PA Program has developed the Latino Health Track and the Rural Health Track to pair alongside the MPAS curriculum, allowing students to take part in additional training opportunities designed to increase graduate marketability and better serve the health care needs of our state, region, and country.

Regardless of whether an MPAS student is accepted into one of the below Health Tracks, MPAS students are welcome to pursue additional Graduate Certificates alongside their MPAS curriculum. The Spanish for Health Professions and Lifestyle Medicine certificates are particularly designed with MPAS students in mind, in joint cooperation with Dr. Helen Tarp, Director of the SHP Program, and other interprofessional health sciences programs.

**Hispanic Health Track**

Admitted MPAS students are able to apply for the Hispanic Health Track through an internal application administered by the PA Program that opens each summer. A maximum of nine students are accepted, taking into consideration Spanish language ability, volunteerism, and dedication to serving Hispanic populations after graduation. Students who are admitted to the Hispanic Health Track pursue the Graduate Certificate in Spanish for Health Professions (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate/artsandletters/languagesandliteratures/spanishhealthcert/>) (SHP) from the Department of Global Studies and Languages alongside their MPAS curriculum. They will complete a 10-week primary care rotation in a Hispanic-dense clinic or location. More information is available at [isu.edu/pa/admission/medical-spanish-opportunities](http://isu.edu/pa/admission/medical-spanish-opportunities) (<http://isu.edu/pa/admission/medical-spanish-opportunities/>).

**Rural Health Track**

Admitted MPAS students are able to apply for the Rural Health Track through an internal application administered by the PA Program that opens each summer. A maximum of twelve students are accepted, taking into consideration dedication to serving rural populations after graduation. Students who are admitted to the Rural Health Track pursue one of four possible Graduate Certificates alongside their MPAS curriculum: Lifestyle Medicine, Spanish for Health Professions, Interprofessional Geriatric (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate/healthscience/geriatriccert/>), or Rural Health (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/graduate/college-of-health/community-and-public-health/certruralhealth/>). Several of their PA rotations are also guaranteed to be in rural locations. They also become AHEC Scholars, receiving additional education around health inequities, disparities, and social determinants of health in rural communities. More information is available at [isu.edu/pa/admission/rht](http://isu.edu/pa/admission/rht) (<https://www.isu.edu/pa/admission/rht/>).

**International Rotation and Medical Mission Experiences**

MPAS students are eligible to participate in two medical missions to Spanish-speaking countries (Dominican Republic and Peru) and an international clinical rotation in Belize. International experiences are strictly voluntary. Credit in the SHP Program is available for these experiences.