

Physician Assistant

Central Michigan University

www.grad.cmich.edu

Welcome

Physician assistants perform increasingly important responsibilities in modern medicine. As licensed health care professionals serving on teams with medical doctors, physician assistants provide many of the services that traditionally were performed only by physicians. They take patient histories, conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret laboratory tests, perform minor surgery, prescribe medications, and more.

Physician Assistant Program at Central Michigan University

CMU's physician assistant program, which is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistant Inc., prepares students to provide quality and cost-effective primary care in a variety of settings, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of people living in rural and medically underserved areas. The program also focuses on preparing health care leaders who can adapt to rapid changes and advances in medicine.

As a CMU physician assistant student learning in a team environment, you will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to effectively care for patients. You will develop the poise and confidence required of a physician assistant by learning and working alongside seasoned professionals who have decades of medical care experience.

CMU's physician assistant program offers these additional features:

- Our Health Professions Building offers advanced learning environments and resources, including a multiservice outpatient clinic, an advanced instructional wing customized to support all styles of learning, and a modern laboratory and research wing
- Our students regularly score in the top 5 to 15 percent of all students taking the physician assistant national certifying examination
- Our faculty and students are committed to advancing the profession through membership activities in national organizations such as the American Academy of Physician Assistants
- Some of our graduates have gone on to open their own clinics, and many work in a variety of environments, including hospitals, primary care clinics, and universities

Curriculum

Completion of CMU's physician assistant graduate program curriculum takes 27 months. The first 15 months are spent primarily on campus in the classroom and laboratory, complemented with off-campus clinical experience. The remaining 12 months consist of clinical rotations in various medical specialties such as:

- Primary care/family medicine
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Pediatrics
- Surgery
- Emergency medicine
- Psychiatry
- Long-Term Care



Recent Physician Assistant Alumni working at Sparrow Hospital ER Unit, Lansing, Michigan.

Admission Criteria

To be considered for admission, applicants must complete specific course work in each of the following areas:

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Pathophysiology
- General and organic chemistry
- Biochemistry
- General and developmental psychology
- Biostatistics

Applicants must have completed or be near completion of an undergraduate degree and must have completed a minimum of 100 hours of paid direct health care experience. Clerical work performed in a paid medical setting or shadowing a physician assistant or physician is not considered acceptable direct health care experience.

Students also must have earned a minimum 3.0 grade point average in prerequisite and overall undergraduate academic course work.

Applicants must submit their GRE scores (general test) to the College of Graduate Studies (institution code 1106) at the time of application. There is no department code.

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Admission Process

Applicants must apply to the PA program via CASPA before October 1, along with completing a supplemental application, which is located on the PA web site: www.chp.cmich.edu/pa. The admissions committee reviews the applications and the most qualified applicants are invited to campus for interviews.

The program seeks exceptionally qualified applicants who are likely to practice in rural or underserved locations or with disadvantaged populations. Applicants are assessed on traits such as professional motivation, background knowledge, academic performance, interpersonal skills, diversity of life and professional experiences, and orientation to the medical practitioner role.

Financial Assistance

Financial aid for physician assistant students includes fellowships, scholarships, and loans.

Many graduate students are awarded competitive fellowships. Students receiving fellowships qualify for in-state tuition rates.

Information about graduate fellowships is available through the College of Graduate Studies (see www.grad.cmich.edu). Information about other financial assistance is available through the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (see financialaid.cmich.edu).

About the Health Professions Building

CMU's Health Professions Building greatly enhances the university's health care education, research, and outreach services. The \$50 million facility offers a technologically advanced environment conducive to student learning, collaboration, and discovery. The building's clinical, instructional, and research wings house state-of-the-art clinical facilities, laboratories, classrooms, and other resources that support CMU's growing health professions programs and offer students practical learning and research opportunities.

About CMU's College of Graduate Studies

The CMU College of Graduate Studies currently provides master's, specialist's, and doctoral degree programs in more than 70 fields.

The college's on-campus graduate programs serve approximately 2,000 students, many of whom are working professionals who commute to evening and weekend classes.

CMU, an AA/EQ institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see www.cmich.edu/aaeo).



Central Michigan University's state-of-the-art Health Professions Building incorporates research, education, and clinical practice into one facility and facilitates sharing among faculty, students, researchers, and practitioners.

Apply Online

www.grad.cmich.edu/apply-pa

For More Information

To learn more about CMU's physician assistant program, please contact:

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions
Office of Admissions
Health Professions Building 1212
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Telephone: (989)774-1730
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