



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
MEDICAL CENTER

Physician Assistant Program

2010-2011

Admissions Guide

**University of Nebraska Medical Center
Physician Assistant Program
Admissions Guide - Printable Version 2010-2011 (20 pages)**

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	2
Description of the Profession	3
The Physician Assistant Program at UNMC	4
◆ Administration	
◆ Mission	
◆ Degree Offered	
◆ Accreditation	
Facilities for Instruction	5
Plan of Instruction	5
Curriculum	6
Requirements for Admission	
◆ High School	8
◆ College	8
◆ Graduate Record Examination (GRE)	9
◆ Graduates of Foreign Institutions and Non-U.S. Citizen Applicants	9
Preference Factors	10
Application Procedure	11
Admission Process	12
Financial Information	
◆ Tuition and Related Expenses	14
◆ Financial Aid.....	15
◆ Tuition Refund Policy.....	15
Technical Standards	16-17
Additional Information	17-18
◆ Advanced Standing	
◆ Background Checks	
◆ Employment While Enrolled in the PA Program	
◆ Health Care Experience	
◆ Health Information	
◆ Placement Assistance	
◆ Professional Liability Coverage	
◆ Reapplication	
◆ References	
◆ Understanding the Profession	
◆ Withdrawal Policy	

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Program. This brochure is designed to answer the most commonly asked questions about the Program. We hope it will be a useful reference.

The UNMC Physician Assistant Program participates in a centralized application service called the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). The service collates materials, computes grade point averages and transmits standardized information to the applicant and the physician assistant programs the applicant designates.

To access information about the centralized application service, visit CASPA's web site at:

www.caspaonline.org

The latest and most complete information regarding the UNMC Physician Assistant Program, including admissions, curriculum and other academic information, may be found on the Program's website at:

www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/pa.htm

For specific questions related to requirements or the application/admission process you may contact:

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Physician Assistant Program
984300 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-4300

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E-Mail: dklandon@unmc.edu
Phone: 402/559-2232
800/626-8431 ext. 9-2232

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy

In accordance with University policy, the University of Nebraska Medical Center prohibits the denial of admission, or of Medical Center privileges, to students or applicants on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or religious or political beliefs. These privileges include, but are not limited to, admission, class assignments, scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, and financial aid as well as housing and recreational facilities. Furthermore, student organizations must base their selection of students for memberships on criteria which will not include race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap.

Admittance to UNMC Programs will not be denied to otherwise qualified handicapped individuals solely by reason of their handicap. Qualified handicapped persons are those who meet the academic and technical standards required for participation in the specific education program.

Description of the Profession

A physician assistant (PA) is a health professional licensed by a state or credentialed by a federal employer to practice medicine as delegated by and with the supervision of a physician. Upon graduation from an accredited program, PAs are eligible to take the national certifying examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Only those passing the examination can use the title “Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C).” PAs keep up with medical advances through continuing medical education courses (CME). In order to maintain national certification, PAs must complete 100 hours of CME every two years and take a recertification exam every six years.

A hallmark of physician assistant practice is that PAs provide a broad range of medical and surgical services as part of a team with their supervising physicians. As part of the physician/PA team, PAs diagnose and treat illness and injuries and can exercise a degree of autonomy in their decisions. Physician assistants perform physical examinations, order and interpret diagnostic tests, prescribe medications and provide patient education and preventive health care counseling. They also perform therapeutic procedures such as suturing lacerations and applying casts. A particular PA’s responsibilities vary with training, experience, state law, and what is delegated by the supervising physician. PAs are recognized throughout the nation as quality health care providers.

PAs are employed in virtually all types of health care settings - hospitals, clinics, private physician offices, schools, and HMO’s. PAs can be found in communities of all sizes, from the smallest rural town to major metropolitan areas, and in virtually every medical and surgical specialty. Although the majority of PAs work in primary care medicine - family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology - many also work in specialty medicine, such as cardiothoracic surgery and orthopedics. Voluntary specialty certification in some areas will soon be available. PAs may also work in the areas of medical education, health administration and research.

Additional information about the profession may be obtained from the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

American Academy of Physician Assistants
950 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1552

Phone: 703/836-2272
Web: www.aapa.org

The Physician Assistant Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center

Administration

The Physician Assistant Program is part of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), a comprehensive academic health sciences center located in Omaha, Nebraska. The Program is administered as the Division of Physician Assistant Education within the School of Allied Health Professions in the UNMC College of Medicine. While the Program has its own administrative policies for PA students, as a Division within the School of Allied Health Professions and the College of Medicine, PA students are governed by the same general regulations and share in the same privileges that apply to all students on the UNMC campus. PA students derive many benefits from being a part of a major academic health science center including access to UNMC's Regional Medical Library, instruction from College of Medicine faculty, opportunities to learn from a broad range of clinical and research oriented activities, and the opportunity for interaction with students from many different health care professions.

Mission

The mission of the Physician Assistant Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center is to educate a diverse student population as entry-level practitioners of primary care medicine, working with physician supervision, in order to provide the citizens of Nebraska, particularly those in rural and underserved areas, with quality medical care.

Degree Offered

Upon successful completion of the physician assistant professional program at UNMC, students receive an entry-level Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree.

Accreditation

The Physician Assistant Program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) and approved by the Nebraska Department of Education. Graduates of the Program are eligible to sit for the national certification examination administered by the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Graduates are required to pass this examination in order to practice in Nebraska and most other states.

Additionally, UNMC enjoys full accreditation (of all its colleges, programs, and sites) by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504, telephone 800-621-7440.

Facilities for Instruction

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) is a major urban academic health center with facilities for health care education in multiple disciplines and comprehensive patient care at all levels. In recent years, this medical center has become a major health resource for Nebraska and surrounding areas. A member of the University of Nebraska system, UNMC is home to Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Dentistry, a School of Allied Health Professions and a Graduate College with programs in the medical sciences. UNMC has access to teaching hospitals, a comprehensive cancer center and rehabilitation institute. More than 3,000 students are enrolled in programs at UNMC.

Students who enroll at UNMC find that the campus is a small community in itself. There is a large faculty whose members are outstanding in their specialties and are readily accessible to students. PA students learn with other health professional students, fostering a better understanding of the “team approach” to taking care of patients. Clinical experiences are available to PA students in the hospital and the outpatient clinics on campus, as well as in affiliated institutions in Omaha and the region. An extensive network of private physicians throughout Nebraska also provides excellent individualized clinical experiences for PA students.

Plan of Instruction

The Program requires 28 continuous months (7 semesters) of instruction divided into two phases. **Phase I**, the Didactic Phase, consists of 13 months of basic medical sciences, pre-clinical sciences and professional studies course work. The basic medical and pre-clinical science courses introduce students to the fundamentals of scientific and clinical medicine. The professional studies courses are designed to provide understanding of professionalism, legal aspects of practice, medical ethics, practice-based learning and improvement and systems-based practice.

Phase II, the Clinical Education phase, consists of 10 months of *Required* clerkships and 5 months of *Elective* clerkships. The required clerkships are in specific areas of clinical medicine, designed to provide a broad foundation for primary care clinical practice. Elective clerkships may be selected from specialty or primary care areas.

Curriculum

Course No.

Semester Hours

PHASE I

FALL SEMESTER

GCBA 571	Structures of the Human Body	9
CIP 606	Physiology	6
PHAS 620	Introduction to the Physician Assistant Profession	1
PAMM 690	Biology of Disease	5
		21

SPRING SEMESTER

CLS 500	Application and Interpretation of Clinical Laboratory Data	2
PHAR 507	Pharmacology	5
CLS 511	Medical Microbiology	2
PHAS 630	Clinical Skills I	2
PHAS 632	Communication in Medicine I	2
PHAS 650	Adult and Pediatric Medicine I	8
		21

SUMMER SEMESTER

PHAS 635	Clinical Skills II	2
PHAS 637	Communication in Medicine II	1
PHAS 645	Behavioral Medicine	4
PHAS 655	Adult and Pediatric Medicine II	11
PHAS 660	Medical Ethics	1
PHAS 665	Systems in Health Care Management	1
PHAS 670	Research Applications in Medicine	1
		21

PHASE II

FALL SEMESTER

PHAS 700	Clinical Education/Clerkships (by arrangement)	12
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SPRING SEMESTER

PHAS 700	Clinical Education/Clerkships (by arrangement)	16
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SUMMER SEMESTER

PHAS 700	Clinical Education/Clerkships (by arrangement)	16
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FALL SEMESTER

PHAS 700	Clinical Education/Clerkships (by arrangement)	16
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TOTAL 123

Curriculum - (Continued)

Required Clerkships Weeks

PHAS 702	Psychiatry Clerkship	4
PHAS 703	Internal Medicine Clerkship	4
PHAS 704	Pediatrics Clerkship	4
PHAS 705	OB/GYN Clerkship	4
PHAS 706	Surgery Clerkship	4
PHAS 707	Family Medicine Clerkship	12
PHAS 708	Emergency Medicine Clerkship	4
PHAS 709	Geriatric Clerkship	4

Elective Clerkships

PHAS 721	Cardiology Elective	4
PHAS 722	Endocrinology Elective	4
PHAS 724	Infectious Disease Elective	4
PHAS 726	Oncology/Hematology Elective	4
PHAS 727	Pulmonary Medicine Elective	4
PHAS 729	Cardiovascular Surgery Elective	4
PHAS 731	Neurosurgery Elective	4
PHAS 732	Orthopedic Surgery Elective	4
PHAS 733	Orthopedic Sports Medicine Elective	4
PHAS 736	Plastic Surgery Elective	4
PHAS 737	Urology Elective	4
PHAS 742	Dermatology Elective	4
PHAS 744	International Elective	4
PHAS 749	ENT-Otolaryngology Elective	4
PHAS 754	Radiology Elective	2

(This is not an inclusive list. Clerkships in other specialties are available to meet student needs.)

Clerkships are scheduled after mutual collaboration and agreement between the student and the Clinical Coordinator. Assignments to clerkship sites are made after careful consideration of the individual student's educational needs, site availability and the Program's goal for clinical education. These sites are located throughout the state of Nebraska and are known collectively as the Nebraska Clinical Network. All required clerkships and most elective clerkships will be assigned within the Nebraska Clinical Network. Because of the location of clinical educational sites, all applicants accepted into the program **must** agree to spend at **least three**, and up to fifteen months in clerkship sites outside of the Omaha and Lincoln metropolitan areas if required to do so by the program.

Requirements for Admission

High School

A strong college preparatory program which includes three units of English, two units in mathematics (one each of algebra and geometry), and one unit each of biology, chemistry, and physics is recommended.