



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**

	<b>Page</b>
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](http://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](http://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/pa.htm)

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

Diane Landon, MA  
Admissions Coordinator  
Physician Assistant Program  
984300 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-4300

Fax Number: 402/559-7996  
E-Mail: [dklandon@unmc.edu](mailto: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](http://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
		<b>21</b>

### 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
		<b>21</b>

### SUMMER SEMESTER

PHAS 635	Clinical Skills II .....	3
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
		<b>21</b>

## PHASE II

### FALL SEMESTER

PHAS 700	Clinical Education/Clerkships (by arrangement) .....	<b>12</b>
----------	--	-----------

### SPRING SEMESTER

PHAS 700	Clinical Education/Clerkships (by arrangement) .....	<b>16</b>
----------	--	-----------

### SUMMER SEMESTER

PHAS 700	Clinical Education/Clerkships (by arrangement) .....	<b>16</b>
----------	--	-----------

### FALL SEMESTER

PHAS 700	Clinical Education/Clerkships (by arrangement) .....	<b>16</b>
----------	--	-----------

**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. 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.

## College

Applicants to the Program must have completed a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university before entering. The undergraduate program of study must include 50 hours of required course work in specific disciplines as shown below. All 50 hours of required course work must be satisfactorily completed by **June 1** of the year of intended enrollment. **Required course work graded Pass/Fail or credit obtained by CLEP Examination or Advanced Placement (AP) will not be accepted for any of the 50 hours.**

### Required Courses

#### **Biological Sciences** - (minimum of sixteen semester hours)

Biology - 4 sem hrs

Human Anatomy - 4 sem hrs

Human Physiology - 4 sem hrs

NOTE: Anatomy and Physiology may also be taken in an 8 sem hr combined course.

Microbiology - 4 sem hrs

Immunology is strongly recommended

#### **Chemistry** - (minimum of sixteen semester hours)

General or Inorganic Chemistry with lab - 8 sem hrs (one year sequence)

Organic Chemistry with lab - 4 sem hrs (one year sequence recommended)

Biochemistry (lab recommended) - 4 sem hrs

#### **Psychology** - (minimum of nine semester hours)

General Psychology - 3 sem hrs

Abnormal Psychology - 3 sem hrs

Life Span/Developmental Psychology (or other psychology elective) - 3 sem hrs

#### **Mathematics** - (minimum of three semester hours)

Statistics - 3 sem hrs

Algebra is strongly recommended.

#### **English** - (minimum of six semester hours)

English Composition - 3 sem hrs

Additional Writing or English Composition - 3 sem hrs

Courses in chemistry, biology, mathematics, and psychology beyond the required minimums are encouraged.

## Requirements for Admission - (Continued)

A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (A=4.0) is required. Grades below "C" are not accepted in transfer to the University of Nebraska (e.g., C-, D+, D, D-, F). College level hours earned from community colleges with grades of "C" or better, in academic areas appropriate to the PA Program, may be applied up to a maximum of 66 semester hours.

### References

Three references are required and should include persons who are acquainted with the applicant's actual abilities, talents, personality and academic performance. References from college teachers who can comment on academic potential from first-hand knowledge, physicians, PAs and other health professionals who have worked with the applicant or know the applicant well are preferred. (Applicants are discouraged from asking physicians and PAs whom they have talked with or "shadowed" a few times for a reference if that is the only acquaintance they have had with the health professional.)

### Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

All applicants are required to submit scores on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (verbal, quantitative and analytical writing). The GRE must be taken by the application deadline of October 1 preceding the intended date of Fall admission and scores submitted by November 1. Candidates failing to submit GRE scores will **not** be considered for admission.

Applicants requesting scores from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) should specify that copies of their scores be sent to the University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Education Program, Code 4917.

Information and applications for the GRE may be obtained from:

Educational Testing Service  
P.O. Box 6000  
Princeton NJ 08541-6000  
Web: [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org)

## Requirements for Admission - (Continued)

### **Graduates of Foreign Institutions and Non-U.S. Citizen Applicants**

In addition to the admission requirements described above, foreign applicants and graduates of institutions outside of the United States are required to submit the following:

1. Applicants not having English as their native or first language must submit official scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum acceptance score on the TOEFL examination is 600 written, 250 computer-based or 100 Internet-based. (Note: The TOEFL Examination is administered by the Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 6155, Princeton, NJ 08541-6155, USA. Request that scores be sent to CASPA.)
2. If official transcripts or mark sheets of college work are in a language other than English, a certified English translation must be submitted.
  - a. Transcripts should clearly indicate hours of instruction and grades received on all course work.
  - b. If transcripts do not show the degrees earned and the dates on which they were conferred, official degree statements must also be provided in English translation.

For applicants who are, or previously have been, enrolled in a United States institution of higher education, the letters of recommendation should come from faculty members of that institution and should mention the applicant's English proficiency.

## Preference Factors

The requirements for admission described in the previous section are *minimum* requirements for admission. Because admission to the Program is highly competitive, the Program has designated a number of “Preference Factors” for applicants. In considering applicants for admission to the Program, the Admissions Committee will give preference for admission to applicants possessing the following:

- ✓ An overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.20 or higher (on a 4.00 scale).
- ✓ A science (biology and chemistry) grade point average of 3.20 or higher (on a 4.00 scale).
- ✓ Competitive Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. (50<sup>th</sup> percentile and above.)
- ✓ Strong motivation to become a physician assistant based on a thorough understanding of the PA profession.
- ✓ Strong motivation to practice in a medically underserved area.
- ✓ Prior work or volunteer experience demonstrating direct patient care.
- ✓ Significant extracurricular, professional, or service organization involvement and activity.
- ✓ Ability to communicate effectively in the personal written statement in the application and in the interview.
- ✓ Personal qualities relating to maturity and professionalism as demonstrated in the interview and letters of recommendation.

## Application Procedure

### Application Procedure - Requesting an Application

The University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Program, along with the majority of other physician assistant programs, 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. CASPA takes no part in the evaluation, selection or rejection of applicants. Applications, recommendation forms, and transcript request forms may be obtained from the CASPA web site at [www.caspaonline.org](http://www.caspaonline.org) starting around May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## **Application Procedure - (Continued)**

In addition to the CASPA application, official transcripts from each college or university attended, and three letters of recommendation are required and must be sent to the CASPA office. Results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test (verbal, quantitative and analytical) must be sent to the UNMC PA Education Program, Code 4917, or by selecting the University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Education Program after taking the computer-based test.

**You are strongly encouraged to apply early.** The sooner your application, transcripts and references are submitted to CASPA, the sooner the verification process can start which can take 4 to 6 weeks.

The CASPA application must be submitted to CASPA by October 1, 2010. GRE scores must be received at the UNMC PA Program by November 1, 2010. Additionally, all required course work for admission must be completed by June 1, 2011.

Contact information for CASPA is as follows:

Address: PO Box 9108, Watertown, MA 02471

Phone: 617-612-2080 or 617-926-3571

TTY Line: 617-612-2085

E-mail: [CaspaInfo@caspaonline.org](mailto:CaspaInfo@caspaonline.org)

Web site: [www.caspaonline.org](http://www.caspaonline.org)

### **Supplemental Application**

After review of the CASPA application, the UNMC Physician Assistant Program requires a Supplemental Application requesting additional information from qualifying applicants. The Supplemental Application will require a non-refundable fee of \$45. Instructions for completing the Supplemental Application will be sent via email to qualifying applicants once the complete CASPA application has been received at UNMC and reviewed by the Admissions Committee.

### **Deadlines and Application Fees**

The primary CASPA application must be submitted no later than October 1. For cost information, please go to the CASPA web site at [www.caspaonline.org](http://www.caspaonline.org). Those asked to submit a Supplemental Application must do so within two weeks of receipt. The Supplemental Application will require a non-refundable fee of \$45.

Once an applicant is accepted for admission a non-refundable \$100 acceptance fee is required to reserve a place in the next entering class.

## Admission Process

**Step 1:** Submission of completed application materials to CASPA by October 1, 2010. These materials include:

- a. The CASPA Application. (Must be submitted on or before October 1.)
- b. Three (3) letters of recommendation submitted on CASPA recommendation forms. (Can be received after October 1.)
- c. Official copies of transcripts from all colleges or universities attended using the CASPA Transcript Request Form. (Can be received after October 1.)

**Step 2:** General Test of the Graduate Record Examination scheduled before October 1. Scores received at the UNMC Physician Assistant Education Program, Code 4917, by November 1.

**Step 3:** Verification of complete applications by CASPA. Incomplete applications and those not meeting all requirements will not be considered for further evaluation.

**Step 4:** Supplemental Application information sent to those individuals chosen for further consideration.

**Step 5:** Evaluation of CASPA applications and UNMC Physician Assistant Supplemental Application by the UNMC Admissions Committee and selection of applicants for the on-campus interview.

**Step 6:** On-campus interview.

**Step 7:** Final selection process by the Admissions Committee.

**Step 8:** Admission decision letters sent to all applicants

The UNMC Program incorporates these steps in a “rolling” selection process. That is, applicants will be selected by the Admissions Committee on a continuing basis and offered a place in the class for the upcoming Fall semester, which starts in August. The selection process will occur throughout the months of December, January and February until the class is filled. By the end of February all applicants will have been notified of the status of their application.

### Applicant Interviews

An interview with the Admissions Committee is required for admission. However, only the most qualified applicants will be invited for an interview based on the Admission Committee's assessment of the application materials and the number of Preference Factors that apply.

Competitive applicants who have or will have met all requirements and will complete all required course work by June 1 of the year of intended enrollment will be invited for an interview. Each applicant who is invited for an interview will be required to fill out the University of Nebraska Medical Center Disclosure Statement (limited background check).

Admission to the PA Program continues to be highly competitive. Only one class of approximately 40-45 applicants is selected each year for admission. The most qualified applicants are selected for admission to the Program. Selection of applicants will be based on the Admission

Committee's assessment of the application materials, the interview with the Committee, and the number of Preference Factors that apply. Applicants not selected for admission in a given year may reapply in subsequent years.

## **Admission Time Table**

**May 1, 2010**

CASPA applications available at [www.caspaonline.org](http://www.caspaonline.org)

**October 1, 2010**

✓ Application deadline.

All application materials to CASPA including Application,  
Official Transcripts and Letters of Recommendation.

✓ GRE results deadline.

GRE scores to UNMC PA Program.

**UNMC Supplemental Application due two weeks after receipt.**

**December-February, 2010-2011**

Interviews.

**Late February to Early March, 2011**

Notification letters sent to all applicants.

**June 1, 2011**

Entering students must have completed all required course work.

**August 23, 2011**

Classes begin.

## Financial Information

### Tuition and Related Expenses

Tuition and fee charges are subject to change, as determined by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Questions regarding residency status should be directed to the Office of Academic Records, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 984230 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-4230, telephone 402-559-6468 or 800-626-8431. Approved tuition and fees charges for the 2009-10 academic year are as follows.

	Year 1 (3 semesters)	Year 2 (3 semesters)	Year 3 (1 semester)
Semester Hours	63	44	16
Resident Tuition *	15,561.00	10,868.00	3,952.00
Nonresident Tuition **	41,942.25	29,293.00	10,652.00
Course Fees	1,773.00	400.00	- 0 -
Health Care Fees: Outpatient Student Health, TB Screening,	359.50	359.50	139.75
Hospitalization and Disability Insurance	964.00***	964.00***	427.00***
Hepatitis B Vaccine	165.00***	-0-	-0-
Miscellaneous	354.00	252.00	105.50
Books	1,450.00	300.00	- 0 -
Medical Instruments	500.00-1,000.00	- 0 -	- 0 -
National Board Exam	- 0 -	- 0 -	425.00

Students should also be aware of additional expenses for travel, lodging and meals during the clinical clerkships throughout Phase II of the Program. The amount of these expenses will vary depending on individual schedules.

\* Resident tuition: \$247.50 per semester hour

\*\* Nonresident tuition: \$665.75 per semester hour

\*\*\* Add these costs if you need Hospitalization Insurance and/or the Hepatitis B Vaccine.

**Approximate Total Tuition and Fees for Entire Program:**

Nebraska Resident.....\$37,100.00\*\*\*

Non-Resident of Nebraska.....\$88,606.00\*\*\*

## Financial Information - (Continued)

### Financial Aid

The University of Nebraska Medical Center has financial aid programs to assist students with unmet financial need. The programs operate on the premise that students and parents have a responsibility to meet as much of the educational and related costs as possible. The Office of Financial Aid is prepared to supplement family contributions from its aid sources when students qualify for financial aid. Additionally, the Office of Financial Aid counselors are prepared to assist students in obtaining financial aid from outside sources. It is very important for prospective students to make sure all financial planning arrangements are complete prior to entering the Program.

Inquiries about financial assistance should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 984265 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-4265. Telephone 402/559-4199. Web Site: [www.unmc.edu/student-services](http://www.unmc.edu/student-services).

### Tuition Refund Policy

Tuition refunds are computed using the effective date on the withdrawal form required to be completed by any student withdrawing from any academic program. Students who withdraw are not relieved from the payment of any balance due. Refunds will be applied first to unpaid balances. Any remaining balance or obligation to any University service must be paid. Failure to do so may prevent future registration. Refunds are not made for fees.

Refunds are calculated from the official beginning of the semester as stated in the Physician Assistant Program academic calendar.

Students who receive financial aid and withdraw during the refund period may have to repay all or a portion of their financial aid received. A financial aid recipient should contact the Office of Financial Aid prior to withdrawal.

### Refund Schedule

Time of Withdrawal	% Refund	% Chargeable
Before 1 <sup>st</sup> day of semester	100%	0%
1 <sup>st</sup> Week of classes	100%	0%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of classes	75%	25%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of classes	50%	50%
4 <sup>th</sup> Week of classes	25%	75%
5 <sup>th</sup> Week of classes	0%	100%

## Technical Standards

The University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Program is dedicated to the education of students who strive to become competent and caring providers of primary health care services under the supervision of a licensed physician. The student must be able to achieve certain technical standards of knowledge and skill in order to successfully complete the Program. The technical standards stated in this document apply to satisfactory performance in all academic and clinical course work, as well as fulfillment of “non-academic” essential functions of the curriculum involving physical, cognitive, and behavior factors that are essential to a professional clinical practitioner.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center shall provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities otherwise qualified to complete the essential functions of the curriculum. However, such essential functions must be completed by the student in a reasonably independent fashion. The safety and welfare of a patient shall never be put in jeopardy as a result of an effort to reasonably accommodate a disability.

More specifically, a student in the Physician Assistant Program must have adequate abilities and skills in the following five areas: 1) Observation; 2) Communication; 3) Sensory and Motor Function; 4) Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Ability; and, 5) Behavioral and Social Attributes.

- 1. Observation:** The student must be able to observe demonstrations and conduct experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to chemical, biological, anatomic and physiologic sciences, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms. A student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and other sensory modalities. A student must be able to integrate all information visually and through the other senses.
- 2. Communication:** A student must be able to communicate effectively, sensitively, and rapidly in English with patients and members of the health care team. A student must be able to elicit information from patients, perceive nonverbal communications, and describe changes in mood, activity and posture. Communication includes not only speech, but writing, reading, interpreting tables, figures, graphs and computer literacy.
- 3. Sensory and Motor Function:** The student must have sufficient sensory and motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. The student will be required to coordinate both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of hearing, touch and vision.

More specifically, the student must be able to exercise such fine motor skills as to adequately perform laboratory tests, including but not limited to, wet mount, urinalysis and gram stain. The student must exercise such level of dexterity, sensation and visual acuity as to accurately complete such processes as administering intravenous medication, making fine measurements of angles and size, measuring blood pressure, respiration and pulse, performing physical examinations, and performing therapeutic procedures such as suturing and casting.

The student must be able to hear sufficiently to accurately differentiate percussive notes and auscultory findings, including but not limited to, heart, lung, and abdominal sounds, as well as discern normal and abnormal findings using instruments such as tuning forks, stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, and Doppler devices.

A student must be able to transport himself or herself in a manner which provides timely response in both general and emergency care situations. Moving patients and engaging in some procedures such as CPR will require a necessary level of strength.

## Technical Standards – (Continued)

4. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** A student must have the intellect necessary to quickly analyze and resolve problems. These intellectual abilities include numerical recognition, measurement, calculations, reasoning, analysis judgment and synthesis. The student must be able to identify significant findings from the patient's history, the physical examination and laboratory data, provide a reasoned explanation for likely diagnoses, and choose appropriate medications and therapy.

The ability to incorporate new information from many sources in formulating diagnoses and plans is essential. Good judgment in patient assessment, diagnostic and therapeutic planning is primary. When appropriate, students must be able to identify and communicate the limits of their knowledge to others.

5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** A student must possess the emotional health required for full use of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. The development of mature, sensitive effective and professional relationships with patients and members of the health care team is essential. Students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are desired in a health professional and assessed during the admissions and education processes.

## Additional Information

### Advanced Standing

The UNMC Physician Assistant Program does not grant advanced standing to any applicant admitted to the Program. No Program courses will be waived, and no advanced credit for any previous course work will be given even though it may be similar or identical to course work in the Program. All courses are designated as "required" and must be taken by every student.

### Background Checks

Healthcare facilities utilized by the Program for student clinical experiences require background checks in order to meet accreditation and/or state law requirements. Therefore all enrolled students are required to undergo a Background Check. PreCheck is the vendor that the University of Nebraska Medical Center utilizes. A \$50.00 fee for this service will be assessed to the first semester tuition statement. Instructions for completing the background check will be given upon admission to the Program.

### Employment While Enrolled in the PA Program

Physician assistant students are advised that part-time employment is not feasible because of heavy academic demands.

### Health Care Experience

Although health care experience is not required for admission, it is a Preference Factor. Applicants are therefore strongly urged to obtain direct patient care experience in hospitals, nursing homes or other health care settings.

## **Health Information**

Students enrolled in academic programs at the Medical Center must provide a medical history and evidence of certain vaccinations or immunities.

Students shall be expected to provide physician certification of the following:

1. A previous vaccination for rubella or evidence of an immune titer.
2. Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertusis (DPT) within the last two years.
3. Measles, Mumps, Rubeola (MMR) - must have 2 vaccinations or a positive titer.
4. Vaccinations for mumps and polio or documentation on the medical history form that the student had the disease previously.
5. Varicella (chicken pox) – documentation required for year of disease, date of immune titer or two immunizations.
6. TB Skin Test – must receive a negative skin test 1-6 months prior to entering the Program or results of treatment for a positive reaction.
7. Hepatitis B vaccine – must have started or completed 3 vaccinations and received a positive titer before entering the Program.

Medical History Forms are sent to all incoming UNMC students. Forms must be completed, signed and immunizations verified by a health care professional prior to enrollment. Students will not be allowed to enroll unless documentation has been provided for their required immunizations. All forms will be kept in the Student Health Administrative Office for a period of 10 years.

All full-time students are required to have inpatient health and disability insurance through a student health insurance program contracted by UNMC unless evidence of comparable coverage is provided.

## **Placement Assistance**

Information on employment opportunities, locally and nationally, is maintained by the Program. This information is updated continuously and is provided as a service to all students and graduates.

## **Professional Liability Coverage**

All students enrolled within the program are covered for professional liability policy approved by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska.

## **Reapplication**

Due to the competitive nature of the admissions process and limitation of class size, many applicants applying for the first time and not accepted into the Program. If an applicant plans to reapply, it may be helpful to attend the Admission Review session held on the UNMC campus in August. A specific date for this session will be posted on the PA Program website ([www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/pa.htm](http://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/pa.htm) under Program News), or may be obtained by calling 402/559-2232.

## **Understanding the Profession**

Applicants are expected to have a thorough understanding of the PA profession. Applicants should research the profession to learn how PAs work within the health care system, and understand the PA's role on the health care team. Applicants should get acquainted with and, if at all possible, follow ("shadow") one or more practicing physician assistants on the job in order to thoroughly understand the functions the PA performs in the clinical setting (especially family medicine PAs).

## **Withdrawal Policy**

Students may withdraw from courses with the approval of the Associate Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions in the event of serious illness or other circumstances that make completion of courses impossible.

If a student in good standing finds it necessary to withdraw from the University before the close of a current term, the Associate Dean may grant that permission. If the student is not a minor, withdrawal is granted at the student's request; if a minor, withdrawal is granted at the request of a parent or guardian.

Students withdrawing from the University are required to start their withdrawal process in the Office of Academic Records. A withdrawal form must be completed with appropriate signatures and returned to Academic Records to ensure appropriate entries for the permanent record. (The Tuition Refund Policy for students withdrawing from the University can be found on page 16 of this brochure.)