College of Allied Health Professions
CASPA – Physician Assistant

www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/pa
Physician Assistant Profession
www.aapa.org

Practice Medicine:
Diagnose
Treat
Prescribe
Follow-up

Patient Counseling

Patient Education
Physician Assistant Program

Master of Physician Assistant Studies Degree

Primary Care Emphasis

28 Months – Continuous

August start, Graduate 2 yrs later in December
Physician Assistant Program

**Phase I** - 13 months
Rigorous didactic training (classroom work)
- Anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology
- Clinical medicine, clinical skills, behavioral medicine, communication skills
- Ethics, health care management, research

**Phase II** - 15 months
10 months of required clinical rotations
- Family practice, pediatrics, geriatrics, internal medicine
- OB/GYN, surgery, psychiatry, emergency medicine
5 months of elective clinical rotations
- Primary care, surgery, internal medicine specialties
PA Program Highlights

PANCE Results – past five year average
  • 98% (First time takers)
  • 100% (Second time takers)

Well-rounded education

Graduation Rate – 98%

Academic Medical Center setting

Training sites in Omaha and Kearney
Admission Requirements

Bachelor’s Degree

- Any major
- Regionally accredited institution
- Completed prior to Orientation in August

Minimum Cumulative GPA of 3.0

- Repeated course work is averaged into the GPAs

GRE General Test – Taken by August 15th

- Submit when CASPA is open for that cycle
- Usually opens the end of April
PA Requirements

“C” or above in all Prerequisite course work
No “pass/no pass” grades for required courses
Courses completed by July 15th of the year of entry

**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 courses.

- Microbiology - 4 sem hrs

Immunology and Genetics are strongly recommended.
Chemistry (minimum of 16 semester hours)
  General or Inorganic Chemistry with Labs – two semester series
  Organic Chemistry with Lab - at least one semester
    (two semester series recommended)
  Biochemistry (Lab optional if 16 semester hours will be met)

Psychology (minimum of 9 semester hours)
  General or Introductory Psychology
  Abnormal Psychology
  Developmental (Life Span) Psychology (or other psychology)
PA Requirements

Mathematics (3 semester hours minimum)
  Statistics
  Algebra is strongly recommended

English  (minimum of 6 semester hours)
  English Composition – 3 semester hours
  Additional Writing or English Composition – 3 semester hours
Other Requirements

Technical Standards
Background Check

If Applicable:
TOEFL - Minimum score: 100
IELTS - Minimum score: 7.5
OR 45 semester hours in U.S.

Official transcripts evaluation
- Non-English to English: Course by Course
- Indicate hours of instruction and grades
- Show degrees earned
Preferences

- Nebraska residency
- Bordering states
- Direct patient experience
- Shadowing – broad exposure
- Extracurricular activities
- Well rounded applicant
Admissions Process: Communication is Electronic
Admission Process

Apply one year before desired entry
• Usually the summer before college senior year

Application materials to CASPA by September 1st – recommend by August 1st

CASPA [https://caspa.liaisoncas.com](https://caspa.liaisoncas.com)
• Three letters of Recommendation
  Electronic only
• Official copies of transcripts
  Use the Transcript Request Form
  Electronic transcripts not accepted
CASPA Application

Instructions: Bottom Lower Left of this screen
CASPA Application Tips

Include all in-progress and planned courses

Experience – divide into different categories
• Healthcare Experience
• Patient Care Experience
• Employment
• Shadowing
• Research
• Volunteer

Achievements
• Awards
• Honors
• Scholarships
CASPA Application Tips

Official transcripts from all institutions (Dual Credit)
Copy for yourself for input of courses
Input all course work (withdraw, etc.)
Check Status of materials - CASPA Mobile app
Check with reference writers
Check for spelling/grammatical errors
Check for duplication of experiences
Admission Process

GRE: Institution Code: UNMC Physician Assistant Education Program 4917

- Submit only when application cycle is open
- CASPA application can be submitted beforehand

Verification: CASPA verifies complete application and course work. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Up to 4 weeks to verify.

Evaluation of application materials by UNMC and selection of applicants for the on-campus interview.
Interview Invitation Assessment

Overall GPA – from CASPA
Science (Biology/Chemistry) GPA
Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
Residency:
  Nebraska
  Bordering States
Academic Ability Question
Interview Assessment

Interpersonal Communication Skills

Understanding of PA profession

Health Care Experience

Ability to relate experiences and answer questions
Interview

120 to 130 applicants on 6-7 days
20 per day in 2 groups of 10
2 individual interviews with faculty small groups
1 group experience with 4-5 applicants
Alternates for Interview
Selection

Decisions of Admissions Committee based on:
  • Assessment of application materials
  • Interview

All decisions made by early January
Selection

Class of approximately 60 to 66 students

Admitted and Wait Listed
  • required to fill out PA CAHP Application
  • $70 Fee
  • Sent in January via email

Admitted
  - $500 tuition deposit required

Admission contingent on successful completion of all requirements