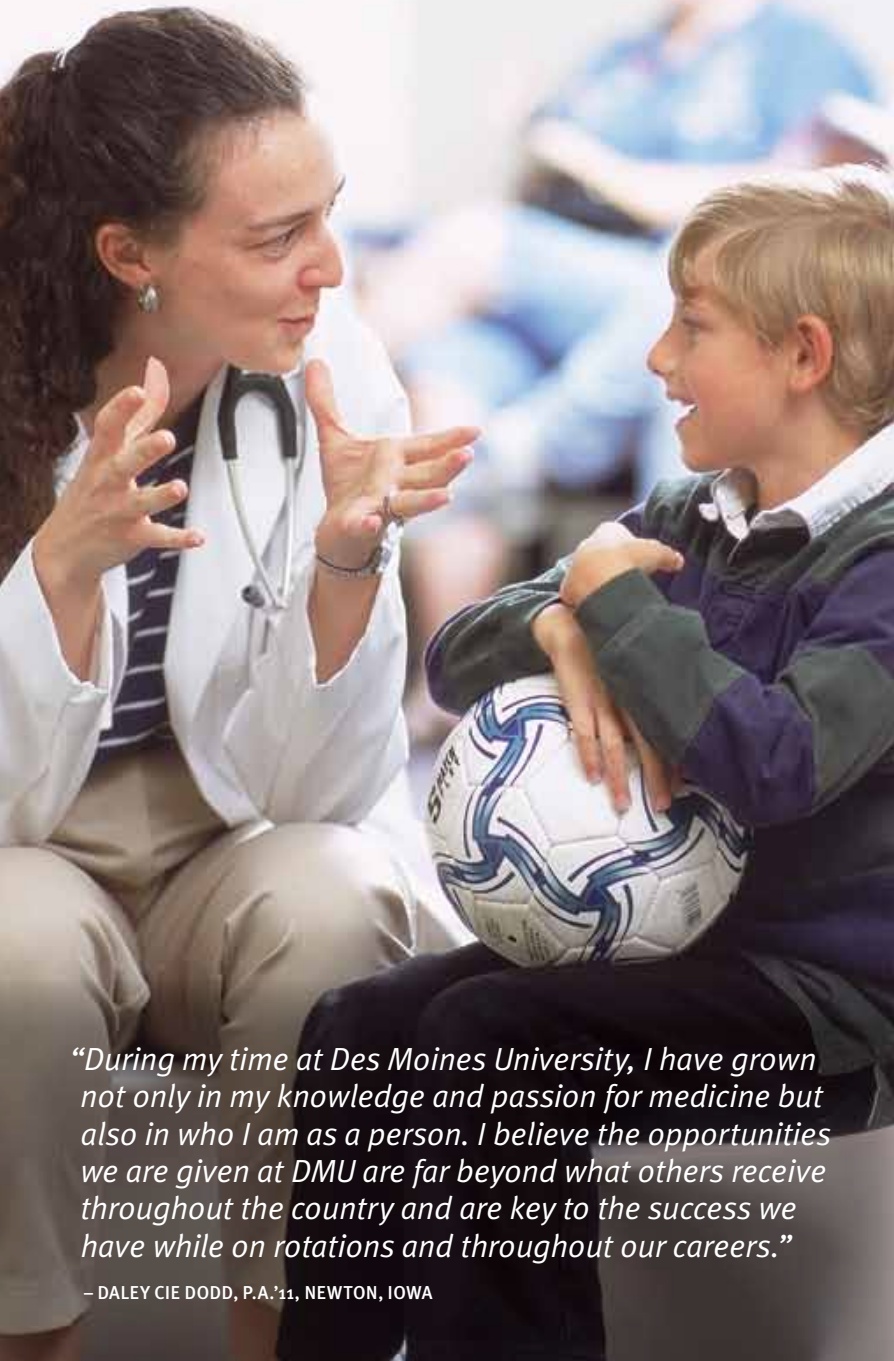


THE PROFESSION

What do PAs do?

Physician assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery and write prescriptions. With the physician-PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision-making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. A PA's practice also may include education, research and administrative services.

—from the American Academy of Physician Assistants website,
www.aapa.org/geninfo1.html



“During my time at Des Moines University, I have grown not only in my knowledge and passion for medicine but also in who I am as a person. I believe the opportunities we are given at DMU are far beyond what others receive throughout the country and are key to the success we have while on rotations and throughout our careers.”

— DALEY CIE DODD, P.A.'11, NEWTON, IOWA

Preparing you to do a

Des Moines University's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies will prepare you to work in and lead a growing profession focused on helping people live healthier lives.

Physician assistants, who practice medicine with the supervision of licensed physicians, are key members of health care teams in hospitals, multispecialty clinics, physician



Des Moines University combines the best in medical education: a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum; hands-on experiences; outstanding facilities; and personal attention from faculty active in the PA profession and in the community.



Qualifying for admission

To be admitted to DMU's Physician Assistant Program, you need:

- A bachelor's degree in any field
- Biology: 16 semester hours
- Chemistry: 16 semester hours
- Psychology: 9 semester hours
- English: 6 semester hours
- Additional coursework: semester each of biostatistics or statistics and medical terminology
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
- PLUS at least 750 clock hours of direct patient care experience

– See more detailed information on page 10

world of good

offices, long-term care residences and other settings in rural and urban areas.

You'll enjoy a career with diverse practitioners and a wide variety of opportunities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts employment of physician assistants will grow 39 percent through 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations, due to expansion of the health care industry

and an emphasis on cost containment.

PAs provide primary care, assist with medical and surgical procedures, and free physicians to focus on the most complex medical problems. Both caring and cost-effective, physician assistants improve health care and the lives of their patients. That's a profession in which you can do a world of good.

DES MOINES UNIVERSITY: ALL GRADUATE, ALL HEALTH CARE

Founded in 1898, Des Moines University offers all graduate programs in its three colleges: Osteopathic Medicine, Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, and Health Sciences. The Physician Assistant Program was established in 1981 within the College of Health Sciences, which also offers programs in physical therapy, health care administration and public health. Total DMU enrollment is nearly 1,800 full- and part-time students.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU: All DMU programs focus on medicine and the health sciences, so faculty and students share a common orientation toward patient care.



“Stan” is among the DMU simulation lab’s programmable medical mannequins that teach students how to recognize, understand and treat a wide range of conditions before they treat real patients. Students can draw “blood” from the simulators, check vital signs, start IVs, catheterize, defibrillate, intubate and perform chest compressions — experiences that allow them to learn from their mistakes and gain knowledge, skills and confidence.



Exceptional

Master of Science Physician Assistant Studies

Hands-on, relevant and real-world: Your experiences as a DMU PA student will prepare you to practice with expertise and confidence.

Standardized Performance Assessment Laboratory

DMU's Standardized Performance Assessment Laboratory (SPAL) gives you invaluable real-life experience prior to your clinical rotations. In SPAL, you will participate in medical scenarios, interacting with standardized patients (SPs) who are trained to play the role of actual patients. You will then review video of your patient encounters and learn from faculty evaluations.

SPAL lets you improve your clinical and communication skills as you put into practice what you have learned in your courses, read in textbooks and observed in shadowing experiences. This training enhances your interpersonal and physical exam skills prior to going on rotations your second year of the PA Program.

facilities offer real-world experience

The Iowa Simulation Center for Patient Safety and Clinical Skills

DMU's state-of-the-art Iowa Simulation Center – also known as the “sim lab” – offers you exceptional opportunities to practice and improve clinical evaluation and treatment skills on highly lifelike medical mannequins. They include a full-size adult, a child, a pregnant woman, an infant and a cardiac simulator that can be programmed to show normal or abnormal conditions. Students can draw “blood” from the simulators, start IVs, catheterize, defibrillate, intubate and perform chest compressions.

After sessions in the simulation lab, students review their performances with faculty and supervising health care professionals. These experiences let you encounter a wide variety of pathologies, learn from your mistakes and gain knowledge, clinical skills and confidence before you treat real patients.

Surgery Skills Center

An integral part of the Iowa Simulation Center, the Surgery Skills Center includes simulation model labs, a computer technology lab and a simulation operating room lab. Like the sim lab, the Surgery Skills Center provides an ideal controlled environment to help you integrate medical knowledge and critical thinking, learn and practice fundamental and advanced technical skills, and practice and explore advances in technology.

Special equipment in the 4,000 square-foot center includes a digital overhead camera, station monitors for viewing and recording procedures, and laparoscopic equipment. Two large didactic rooms adjacent to the operating room suites include a wide range of surgical models, a computer lab and a conference room.

Gross Anatomy Laboratory

This laboratory features computer-aided instruction with 32-inch flat screen monitors at 43 dissection stations. Each station offers dissection instructions linked to images from Netter's Atlas of Human Anatomy online. Video files of laboratory orientations and reviews are available to students, as are CT/MRI images, plain film radiographs and three-dimensional images converted from CT/MRI scans. Digital technology used in the lab provides greater insights and prepares you for the ways anatomy is viewed in medical practice.

QUICK FACTS

PROGRAM: accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

DEGREE: Master of Science (M.S.) in Physician Assistant Studies degree and Certificate of Completion

PROGRAM LENGTH: 25 months

CLASS SIZE: 50 students maximum in entering class



FACULTY/STUDENT RATIO:
One faculty member per seven first-year students

CLASS OF 2012 PROFILE:

- Students are from 12 states, 36 percent from Iowa
- 70 percent are female; 30 percent are male
- Average age: 25
- Cumulative GPA: 3.55
- Science GPA: 3.44
- Average GRE score: 1,080
- Average health care experience: 17 months of full-time equivalent work

LIFE AFTER DMU:

- DMU's more than 600 PA Program alumni practice in 43 states
- 37 percent remain in Iowa
- 55 percent practice in primary care



An education to do a world of good

At DMU, you are connected

Technology is incorporated throughout the program to support your education. This connected learning is **an on-going process of discovery and innovation** that blends the Internet, hardware and software in ways that benefit you on campus and during off-campus clinical training. Here are its components:

- You receive a laptop computer and PDA for use on campus, at home and during clinical internships.
- Wireless access connects you to the University's computer network and Internet anywhere on campus without cables or data ports.
- The student portal is your gateway to web-based services. You can view your grades, class schedule and e-mail, and you can access other services and information through customizable pages.
- A web-based learning management system gives you access to course material, quizzes, discussion lists and other services.
- Most lectures are recorded and made available online in MP3 format.

The Physician Assistant Program curriculum emphasizes the interrelationships of the body's organs and systems and heightens your awareness of the social, psychological and medical needs of patients. You will learn to work with physicians and other care providers in primary care and medical specialties. You will take several classes with DMU's medical students, and you will benefit from interacting with top faculty, including Ph.D.s in the hard sciences, physicians and practicing physician assistants.

The program has two major parts: 13 months of classroom study and 12 months of clinical experience. In your classes, you will study problem-oriented patient care. During the second year, you will complete required and elective clinical rotations. You then will return to campus to present your graduate project and prepare to enter clinical practice.

YEAR 1: Classes and laboratories

The didactic phase of DMU's PA Program includes these courses:

- Clinical Anatomy
- Physiology/Pathophysiology
- Communication
- Pharmacology
- Microbiology
- Clinical Preventive Medicine (includes heart sounds, women's health, ophthalmology, pediatrics, dermatology, gastrointestinal medicine, psychiatry, endocrine medicine and cardiology/hematology)
- Medical Genetics
- Ethics
- Physical Diagnosis
- Clinical Patient Assessment
- PA Professional Issues
- Health Care Delivery
- Clinical Skills
- Research and Epidemiological Principles

Early clinical exposure

DMU offers PA students a number of clinical experiences beginning early in the first year. Most are within a one-hour drive of Des Moines. These experiences provide a break from the rigors of the classroom and opportunities to apply classroom material to the clinical setting.

These experiences also serve as a bridge between the first and second years. Some sites are free clinics

that provide care to underserved patient populations. With many DMU PA graduates serving as second-year clinical preceptors, current students have the advantage of networking with practicing PAs and seeing firsthand the outcomes of the program.

Graduate project

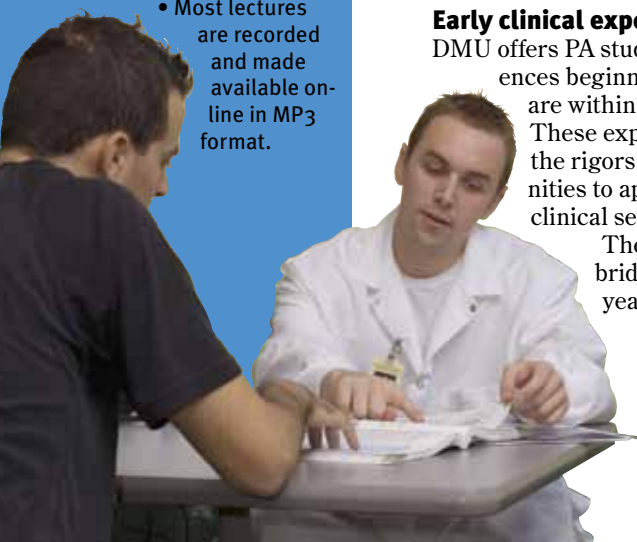
During Block 5 in the first year of the program, you will meet with your faculty adviser to discuss your graduate project. You will complete your written project during the second year and present it during the 25th month. Opportunities include research projects, community health assessments, literature reviews and development of patient education materials. The goal is to identify a project that matches your interests.

YEAR 2: Clinical training

During the second year of the program, you will receive clinical training off campus in various health care settings. These full-time clinical experiences include core rotations in adult primary care, family practice, surgery, psychiatry and emergency medicine. Clinical sites are available around the country, including those with DMU PA graduates as clinical site preceptors.

You also will complete up to 12 weeks of electives as part of your clinical training. Electives are offered in pediatrics, women's health, and other specialties such as dermatology, gastroenterology and orthopedics.

DMU PA graduates have averaged a 94 percent first-time passing rate on the national certifying exam the past five years. Nationwide, the first-time passing rate for other PA graduates is 92 percent. The DMU PA class of 2010 achieved a 96 percent first-time pass rate.



In DMU's Standardized Performance Assessment Laboratory, you will diagnose individuals trained to act like actual patients and then, with faculty, review and critique your skills. This real-world training enhances your clinical and communication skills prior to going on rotations.



	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN		
Year 1	ORIENTATION			Clinical Preventive Laboratory Med 1				Clinical Preventive Laboratory Medicine 3			Clinical Preventive Laboratory Medicine 4				
		Clinically-Oriented Anatomy				Clinical Preventive Laboratory Medicine 2			Intro to Ethics			PA Professional Issues			
					Physical Diagnosis				Research & Epidemiological Principles			Introduction to Health Care Delivery			
		Physiology/ Pathophysiology							Clinical Patient Assessment						
					General Pharmacology										
					Clinical Skills				Clinical Skills						
	FLEX Care		Immunology/ Microbiology			Medical Genetics						FLEX Care			
Year 2	ER 4 weeks	Adult Primary Care 12 weeks			Family Practice 12 weeks			Psychiatry 4 weeks	Surgery 4 weeks	Electives 12 weeks			Program to Practice		
													Master's Projects		

Block 1 Block 2 Block 3 Block 4 Block 5

Expand your opportunities with a dual degree

Students enrolling in DMU's clinical programs may be eligible to pursue a dual degree leading to a Master of Public Health (MPH) or a Master of Health Care Administration (MHA) degree. Certificate programs are also offered in public health and health care administration.

The dual degree option enables students to develop their leadership skills, understand health care needs and enhance their careers. Dual-degree students gain perspectives that help them assess health care services in terms of community or population needs, explore ways to provide access through health policy initiatives, and better understand administrative challenges facing medical directors and

physician leaders.

Classes are offered evenings, weekends and online. Dual-degree students receive a tuition benefit equivalent to a 50 percent reduction in the MHA or MPH program. Students must complete 45 semester hours to earn the Master of Public Health or Master of Health Care Administration degree. Both programs



recognize up to seven semester hours from the clinical program toward completion of a dual degree.

Gain global perspectives

DMU's Global Health Program offers students in all programs invaluable cultural, social, political and clinical experiences beyond the United States. Global health experiences enable students to hone their clinical skills and better understand the complexities of health care while serving under-privileged people. Opportunities for PA students range from short service trips to extended international rotations at sites including St. Lucia and Mali.

CAN WE TALK? Students and faculty members in the PA Program enjoy an informal yet professional atmosphere. Faculty members have an open-door policy.

*Life as you'll know it
at DMU...*

Have you ever attended a school where you had to run across campus to be on time for class? **You won't have that problem at DMU.** The farthest points on campus are minutes away.

You'll get to know new people from day one as you share classes and labs. You'll also discover that **cooperation prevails instead of competition**—a characteristic of students throughout DMU.

PA students are always quick to serve others. Among other activities, students serve at a local children's hospital, provide care for the uninsured, and give health and wellness presentations in the community.

The student commons is your home on campus. **So get comfortable.** Meet your friends there. Eat lunch. Or grab a latte, pull up a cushy chair and study by the fireplace.

Student government is a great way to develop or sharpen leadership skills. Many students become involved with student organizations or with PA associations at the state and national levels.

DMU is the **nation's first university or college to earn platinum status for its wellness program**, the highest recognition granted by the Wellness Councils of America.

Don't like ice and snow? Don't worry. **It's always 72 degrees on campus.** Underground tunnels connect all four main campus buildings so you can bypass Iowa's cold winter.

Go online for a variety of insights on DMU: www.dmu.edu/prospective_students/social_media.

Work hard/play hard



Students at DMU work hard, but they also know how to play. It's all about balance... getting an excellent education in a place that feels like home. Here are some of the distinctions that students say drew them to Des Moines University.



Get physical.

The wellness center has everything you need to stay (or get) in shape. Treadmills, elliptical machines, free weights, basketball court, exercise classes, healthful cooking—there's something going on all the time, and something for everyone.

Find your place.

Finding a club or interest group to join is easy at DMU. Students participate in more than 50 clubs and professional organizations that provide opportunities for community service, interaction with professional associations, social gatherings and lifelong friendship. For example, through the PA Club and other organizations, PA students have provided physicals and flu shots for kids, offered bone density scans during DMU's Senior Health Fair and volunteered at a local homeless shelter. They've also enjoyed a group bowling-and-birthday party, an afternoon of snow tubing and weekly play time with patients of a local children's hospital.

Play a game.

Join an intramural or interschool basketball team. Shoot baskets or play one-on-one over the noon hour. Grab a football and a friend or two, head out to the courtyard or the front lawn, and see whether you've still got the arm.

Stick around.

It's 5 p.m. Classes and labs are over. Time to head home? Not necessarily. The Student Education Center offers plenty of reasons to stay. Study with friends in the library. Take a break in the commons area. Catch up on the cable news. It's your home away from home.



DES MOINES, IOWA'S CAPITAL

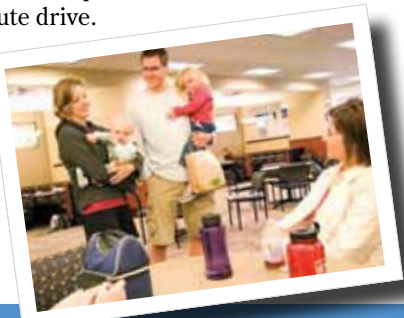


A place to call home ...

THE DMU NEIGHBORHOOD...

is known for its historic homes, shaded lawns, and stately surroundings. The governor's residence at Terrace Hill Mansion is just a few blocks east. If you're wondering where you'll live, finding suitable housing is rarely a problem. Many reasonably priced apartments are within walking distance of the campus. Many students, in fact, live right across the street. Grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, restaurants, shops and service stations are located nearby. And while many students live near campus, others choose to live elsewhere in Des Moines or in one of the suburbs. Wherever you live, the campus is within a 30-minute drive.

And that's during rush hour.



THE DOWNTOWN...

is a contemporary urban center with something for everyone. Revitalization during the past decade has paved the way for an emerging metropolitan lifestyle. The downtown features a new public library, the Science Center of Iowa and IMAX Theater, Wells Fargo Arena, Broadway shows, baseball and hockey games, and an abundance of loft-style housing. The historic Court Avenue District offers a variety of restaurants and music, and East Village offers distinctively different art, shopping and cuisine. During warm weather, the Downtown Farmers Market on Saturday mornings draws thousands who buy fresh produce and products from Iowa's agricultural bounty.

THE SURROUNDING AREA...

is large enough to have great places to go and things to do, but small enough that it doesn't take hours to get there and back. The Greater Des Moines area offers variety in dining, upscale and specialty shopping, movie venues and more. Go dancing at one of the clubs. Enjoy an evening of live blues. And be sure to take in the sights, sounds and aromas of the world-renowned Iowa State Fair. Just outside the city you can enjoy numerous lakes, parks and recreational areas, several of which are connected to the city through bike paths. As the city motto says, "Do More."



A CITY THAT'S EASY TO EMBRACE

- You know Iowa has pigs and corn. but *not* in Des Moines! Contrary to what you may have envisioned, **Des Moines is a real city with a relaxed metropolitan atmosphere supported by an area population of 534,230.**
- **Education and cultural diversity abound in Des Moines.** The metro area has 12 colleges and universities and nearly 300 houses of worship representing 79 denominations or faiths.
- Des Moines has **safe neighborhoods**, great public and private schools and many kid-focused events, attractions and programs.
- **With miles of bike paths, at least three lakes and more than 130 parks** in the Des Moines area, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

- **Third largest insurance center in the world.** Major employers include Principal Financial Group, AmerUs Group, EMCInsurance, Nationwide/Allied Insurance, Wells Fargo and Wellmark Blue CrossBlueShield of Iowa.

- **Explore Iowa.** Take a day trip to the German Amana Colonies or the historic Dutch town of Pella. Take in a national car race at the nearby Iowa Speedway. Spend a day knocking around the historic French town of Dubuque on the Mississippi River.

You can get there from here

Des Moines is located in the center of America's heartland, right at the junction of Interstates 80 and 35 ... making it easy to get to and from several other large metro areas.



THERE'S NO "S" IN DES MOINES. Amaze your friends! Pronounce Des Moines correctly: "di-moin." The "s" is silent.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT DES MOINES, CHECK OUT:
www.seedesmoines.com
www.desmoinesmetro.com

1

Have you taken what it takes?

✓ REQUIRED COURSES

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or foreign equivalent. Applicants must also have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale to be considered for admission. Candidates must meet the following requirements or have a plan to complete the requirements prior to anticipated matriculation.

Biology: 16 semester hours*

A semester each of human anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and genetics is required. Exercise science and PE courses do not count toward biology prerequisites.

Chemistry: 16 semester hours*

A semester each of inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and biochemistry is required.

Psychology: 9 semester hours

Must include a course in abnormal psychology.

English: 6 semester hours

A semester each of English composition and speech is required.

Additional course work

Other academic requirements include a semester each of biostatistics or statistics and medical terminology.

* *Labs are required, when available, for all biology and chemistry courses.*

Prerequisites

Early in the application process, check your course work against the list of prerequisites so you can plan your schedule and complete required courses on time. Check this list carefully since the requirements have changed from previous years.

You can apply before you have completed the prerequisites, but must indicate on your application when you will complete the courses.

All prerequisite courses must be completed at regionally accredited institutions in the United States or foreign equivalents. Grades below "C" are not accepted for prerequisite course work.

✓ OBSERVATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Students must have completed a minimum of 750 clock hours of direct patient-care experience as an employee or volunteer in a medical office, hospital or extended-care facility. Experiences may be combined, but must involve hands-on care of patients. Job shadowing of physician assistants is required for at least a portion of the health care experience.

IT'S IN THE AIR. You can feel it as you walk on campus—a professional atmosphere that encourages learning and personal development. It's a natural outgrowth of like-minded, graduate-level students preparing for careers in medicine and health sciences. We think you'll like it.

2

Apply yourself

✓ APPLICATION PROCESS

You apply to the PA Program online. We participate in the web-based Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA), which is offered through the Physician Assistant Education Association and manages all applications.

1. Download and submit an application through the Internet at www.caspaonline.org. Applications are available through CASPA starting in April for the following year.
2. Submit the application to CASPA **no later than December 1** prior to the year you anticipate entering the program. Because we have rolling admissions,* those who apply early are more likely to be interviewed than those who apply later in the cycle.

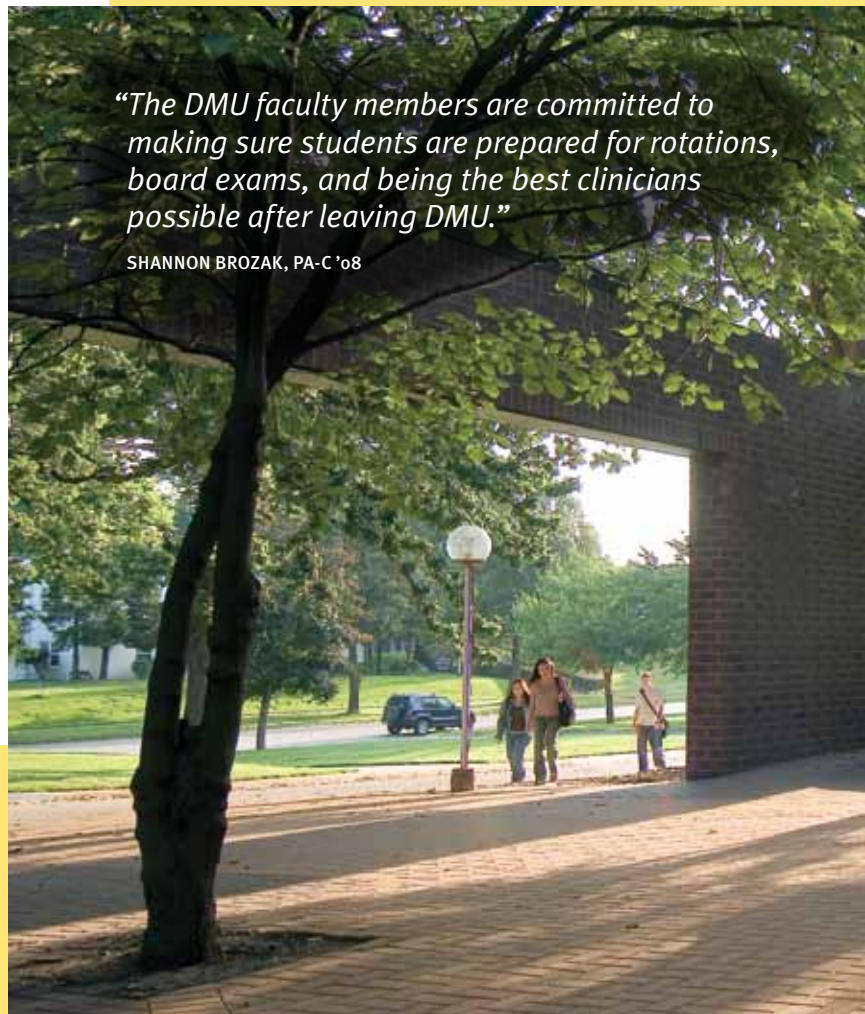
Note that students can apply to only one DMU clinical program at a time.

***WHAT IS ROLLING ADMISSIONS?**

Here's how it works: We evaluate applications throughout the year as they are completed. By the nature of this process, the entering class could be filled early during the admission cycle. By applying early, you have a greater likelihood of being interviewed and accepted into the program.

"The DMU faculty members are committed to making sure students are prepared for rotations, board exams, and being the best clinicians possible after leaving DMU."

SHANNON BROZAK, PA-C '08



3

Get it on paper

✓ SUBMIT GRE SCORES

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores must be submitted to complete your application. Note that the GRE institution code for Des Moines University is 2256.

4

The interview

✓ COME PREPARED

Once your application is complete, the admission committee will review your file and determine whether you will be invited for an interview. We conduct on-campus interviews August through March. An on-campus interview is required for admission.



A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF CAMPUS

5

Welcome to DMU!

Admission decisions are made within two weeks of your interview, so you'll know right away whether you are accepted. Then you can start packing your bags to begin the first steps in your PA education.

Want an up-close look at the program?

Attend a "Discover DMU" event. You'll receive an overview of the program and a tour of the campus. Our admissions staff will be available to review your transcripts and answer questions. For information call 800-240-2767, ext. 7854, or 515-271-7854. You can schedule a visit at www.dmu.edu/visit_campus/.

Check us out at www.dmu.edu

Don't Ignore... THE FINE PRINT

ACCREDITATION

The Physician Assistant Program is approved by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. Graduates of ARC-PA-approved programs are eligible to take the certifying examination given by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

Des Moines University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, Ill. 60602-2504. 312-263-0456; 800-621-7440; fax 312-263-7462; www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org.

FINANCIAL AID

Many students need help with tuition and living expenses, and financial aid is available for this program. For current tuition rates and more information on financial aid, please visit our web site or contact the Financial Aid office directly at 800-240-2767, ext. 1470 (outside 515 area code), or 515-271-1470. E-mail: financial.aid@dmu.edu.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Candidates for the PA Program must be able to quickly, consistently, and accurately integrate all information received, and must have the ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data. Candidates must be able to meet minimal technical standards in order to be admitted. A list of these standards is available at www.dmu.edu/chs/pa/technical_standards/.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Des Moines University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, creed, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability in employment, admission, or access to education programs, activities, or health care.

DEFINITION OF DIVERSITY

Diversity at Des Moines University is a campus environment shaped by individuals and groups that offer a broad spectrum of cultural differences, life experiences, and distinct characteristics they bring to our institution. These include, but are not limited to: educational background and performance, gender, ethnicity, age, socio-economic background, leadership qualities, employment experiences, talents, geographical background, and other attributes that affirm the University's commitment to creating an inclusive environment.

This brochure has been prepared for only general information purposes. Des Moines University reserves the right to make program changes without notice. 2.7K 9-10 11





CHOOSE DMU

**THE ACADEMIC RIGOR YOU NEED,
THE QUALITY OF LIVING YOU WANT**

Questions?

We've tried to cover everything, but may have overlooked something. So give us a call. If we can't answer your question when you call, we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

You can also reach us via e-mail at PAadmit@dmu.edu.

For more information about the PA Program, visit our website at www.dmu.edu/chs/pa.

How to Reach Us

PA Program Admissions

515-271-7854

Outside the 515 area code
call 1-800-240-2767,
extension 7854

e-mail: PAadmit@dmu.edu

For more info,
check us out at www.dmu.edu

DES MOINES  UNIVERSITY