DMU’s 25-month physician assistant program emphasizes the interrelationships of functions and organs and heightens students’ awareness of the unique social, psychological and medical needs of each patient.

The curriculum offers 12 months of didactic study, followed by 12 months of clinical course work and supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs). The program concludes with a 25th month of summative assessments.

In addition to basic science and clinical medicine courses, the program features education in medical ethics, health care delivery systems, health policy, public health, research, diversity and inclusion, and PA professional topics. Additionally, the program offers interprofessional education (IPE) experiences with both internal and external health professions education programs.

The clinical curriculum allows students the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in the didactic phase to the clinical setting. Clinical sites are located throughout Iowa, the Midwest, and the United States. Students may also be able to complete one of their clinical experiences internationally through the global health department.

We are proud of the breadth and depth of our curriculum and have developed a philosophy of early and regular reinforcement of the knowledge, skills, abilities and fundamentals of the profession that are essential to the success of our graduates.

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**RIGOROUS, REAL-WORLD PREPARATION**

for improving patients’ lives

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**LEARN FROM THE BEST**

The DMU PA Faculty have clinical experience and share a deep commitment to student success. They are great role models in the care and education of patients, community service and professional leadership. You will enjoy close interaction with faculty and classmates in a supportive and collaborative environment.

**GRADUATE AMONG THE BEST**

The DMU PA Program develops highly competent and compassionate physician assistants who are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills to care for diverse patient populations, as evidenced by outcomes such as certifying exam pass rates that are higher than the national average and career satisfaction.

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**93.3%**

Graduation rate (latest three-year average)

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**98.4%**

First-time pass rate for national certifying exam (latest five-year average)

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**13:1**

Student : faculty ratio
### DIG IN AND DISCOVER

Throughout the clinical year, PA students complete Capstone Projects, which encourage a mind of inquiry and creativity as each student designs and executes a meaningful project. This longitudinal assignment aggregates acquired knowledge and skills, clinical experiences and peer-reviewed literature. Project examples include such topics as the delivery of efficient patient care, patient or community health education, and an assessment of health care needs and/or resources in a community.

### INNOVATIVE TEACHING

- Students develop clinical, communication and teamwork skills by performing hands-on procedures and assessments in DMU’s **Simulation Center**. State-of-the-art high-fidelity mannequins and equipment bring clinical scenarios to life, enabling high-quality clinical training in a didactic setting.
- The **Standardized Patient Lab** enables students to interact with and examine standardized patients trained to portray a variety of medical conditions. Students self-reflect through review of their recorded patient encounters and learn from evaluations by instructors and standardized patients.
- The **Surgery Skills Center** includes task trainers, simulated operating rooms, and laparoscopic and other specialized equipment. Students train in suturing, surgical instrumentation, dissection, intravenous placements and other clinical and surgical skills. The anatomy lab enables cadaveric dissection at stations equipped with large flat-screen monitors connected to devices with software to augment learning.

### JOIN A GREAT PROFESSION

Physician assistant students at DMU are members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and the Iowa Physician Assistant Society (IPAS). Being part of these professional organizations allows you to interact and network with practicing health professionals.

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#### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

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<td>ORIENTATION</td>
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| **YEAR 2**              |                               |                             |
| Clinical Curriculum     | Family Medicine (12 weeks), Internal Medicine (12 weeks), Surgery (4 weeks), Emergency Medicine (4 weeks), Pediatrics (2 weeks), Psychiatry (4 weeks), and Women’s Health (2 weeks) |                             |
|                         | Elective (8 weeks)            |                             |
|                         | Program to Practice II        |                             |

| **YEAR 3**              |                               |                             |
|                         | 25th Month Summative Assessments & Capstone Project Presentations |                             |

Curriculum is subject to change.

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**HANDS-ON, RELEVANT AND REAL-WORLD:**
DMU’S PA PROGRAM WILL PREPARE YOU TO PRACTICE WITH EXPERTISE.
BECAUSE OF WHERE YOU WANT TO GO AFTERWARD

Your ultimate goal is to become an exceptionally well-prepared health care professional. At DMU, you will learn with faculty and students who all share a common focus on medicine and the health sciences. You will become ready for collaborative and interprofessional practice in providing the highest quality of care.

As a student, you will enjoy the amenities and affordability of Iowa’s capital, Des Moines. Learn more at catchdesmoines.com.

HOW TO APPLY:
Apply through the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications become available in April for the class that begins in the summer term of the following calendar year. Due to rolling admissions, it is recommended to apply early.

PA PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
✓ Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university
✓ Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale
✓ Completion of the following courses prior to matriculation:
  - Biology – 16 semester hours with labs when available, including a semester each of human anatomy, physiology, microbiology and genetics
  - Chemistry – 15 semester hours with labs when available, including a semester each of inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry and biochemistry
  - Psychology – 9 semester hours, including one course in abnormal psychology
  - Statistics or biostatistics – one course
  - Medical terminology – one course
✓ At least 750 hours of direct patient care experience as an employee or volunteer in health care settings
✓ Shadowing experiences with a physician assistant
✓ GRE score submitted through CASPA
✓ Two letters of recommendation
✓ U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION: DMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, creed, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or marital status in employment, admission or access to education programs, activities or health care. Educational programs within the University also have professional accreditation within their respective fields. Information about professional accreditation is available from the colleges and degree programs.