MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES
Physician assistants are key members of health care teams in hospitals, multispecialty clinics, physician offices, long-term care residences and other settings. Des Moines University’s Physician Assistant Program prepares students to thrive in a growing profession focused on helping people live healthier lives.

Accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, the 25-month program emphasizes the interrelationships of functions and organs and heightens students’ awareness of each patient’s medical, psychological and social needs.

The didactic curriculum equips students to work in primary care and medical specialties with well-honed clinical skills, professionalism and the ability to develop and maintain positive patient relationships.

Students then take what they’ve learned in supervised clinical practice experience (SCPE) sites and apply it in core medical specialties and electives.

THE BEST PREPARATION FOR A GREAT CAREER

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 patient care and education, clinical expertise, community service and professional leadership. You will enjoy close interaction with faculty and classmates in a collaborative environment.

GRADUATE AMONG THE BEST
High student outcomes in job placement, certifying exam pass rates and career satisfaction are advantages of the DMU PA program. Students master the knowledge and skills to expertly and compassionately treat patients of all ages with diverse needs. All DMU programs are in medicine and the health sciences, creating opportunities for interprofessional experiences and learning.

DIG IN AND DISCOVER
In addition to supervised clinical practice experiences during the second year, PA students complete Capstone Projects using skills and information gained from the didactic
Each student selects a topic and research method, culminating in an in-depth paper and presentation. Capstones reflect a wide range of student interests.

**INNOVATIVE TEACHING**

- You will develop clinical, communication and interprofessional teamwork skills in DMU’s Simulation Center. It combines real-world clinical scenarios with lifelike, high-fidelity mannequins and equipment, allowing students to perform hands-on assessments and procedures.

- The Standardized Performance Assessment Lab (SPAL) enables students to interact with and examine people trained to portray a variety of medical conditions. Students review videos of their patient encounters and learn from evaluations by faculty and “patients.”

- The Surgery Skills Center includes simulation model labs, a computer lab, an operating room lab, laparoscopic and other special equipment. Students train in suturing, surgical instrumentation, dissection, intravenous insertions and other clinical and surgical procedures.

- In the anatomy lab, students dissect and analyze cadavers at 43 stations, each equipped with a 40-inch flat screen monitor, connected to an iPad that offers instructions linked to anatomical images online.

**JOIN A GREAT PROFESSION**

The physician assistant students at DMU are members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the Iowa Physician Assistant Society. Being part of these professional organizations allows you to interact with practicing health professionals and build your network.

---

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-2019 – FOR CLASS OF 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>ORIENTATION</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
<th>JUL</th>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>SEPT</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ORIENTATION</td>
<td>Clinically Oriented Anatomy</td>
<td>Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM) I</td>
<td>Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM) II</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis</td>
<td>Medical Genetics</td>
<td>Clinical Skills - A</td>
<td>Clinical Skills - B</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM) III</td>
<td>Intro to Clinical Medicine (ICM) IV</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td>Clinical Patient Assessment</td>
<td>Research and Epidemiology</td>
<td>Program to Practice I</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Care Delivery</td>
<td>PA Professional Issues - B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immunology/Microbiology</td>
<td>PA Professional Issues - A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Program to Practice II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physiology/Pathophysiology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YEAR 2**

Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences

- Required SCPEs in 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)
- Electives (up to 8 weeks)

**YEAR 3**

25th Month Assessments & Capstone Project Presentations

---

**HANDBS-ON, RELEVANT AND REAL-WORLD: DMU’S PA PROGRAM WILL PREPARE YOU TO PRACTICE WITH EXPERTISE.**
How to apply:
Apply through the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications become available each year in April for the class that begins the following summer term. The application deadline is December 1; however, due to rolling admission, 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 – 16 semester hours with labs when available, including a semester each of inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry and biochemistry
  • English – 6 semester hours, including one course of English composition and one course of speech
  • Psychology – 9 semester hours, including one course of 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, including shadowing experiences with a physician assistant
✓ GRE score submitted through CASPA
✓ Two letters of recommendation
✓ U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status

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 both autonomous 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 www.catchdesmoines.com.