

Physician Assistant Masters Degree Program



Program Highlights

- Early clinical experiences
- Two years with BU Medical School—Principles in Science, Clinical Medicine and Equity (PISCE) course
- Integrated anatomy, physiology, and medicine course
- Active learning
- Social Concentration and Outreach Research Experience (SCORE)
- 12 months of clinical rotations
- Thesis

Program Mission

The mission of the Boston University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program is to provide a thorough and **innovative education** to future physician assistants so that they may go on to provide exceptional care to a **diverse population of patients**. We are committed to designing a successful model for patient-centered, **interprofessional education** and practice. We promote the qualities of professionalism, leadership, and service in our students.

Innovative Education

- Two years of didactic education with medical students (PISCE)
- Active classroom learning

Diverse Patient Care

- Health equity curriculum (SCORE)
- Early clinical experiences
- Clinical sites at wide variety of medical sites including Boston Medical Center

Interprofessional Education

- Team-based didactic education with medical students
- Interprofessional activities with other professions

Program Highlights

- Provide the didactic and clinical experiences that cultivate the development of competent entry level physician assistants.
- Support an environment of professionalism within the Program and the broader medical community.
- Prepare students to care for patients in vulnerable and underserved communities.
- Prepare students to practice medicine as an ethical member of a patient-centered interdisciplinary healthcare team.

Curriculum Overview

The 114.5-credit full-time masters degree program is designed to be completed in sequential order over 34 consecutive months, and is divided into two academic phases. The didactic phase, which begins in August is 22 months in length and is delivered over five semesters. The clinical phase is 12 months in length, comprised of 12 one-month clinical clerkships and two months dedicated thesis preparation. Advanced placement is not given for similar academic work or previous health care experience.

Year 1

	Fall Semester					Spring Semester					Summer Semester	
Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
	PISCE 1: Foundations 1 & 2		PISCE 2: Foundation 3, Genomics, Cardiovascular			PISCE 3: Pulmonary, Renal			PISCE 4: Endocrinology, Reproduction, Hematology		PA: Intro to Research, Preventive Medicine, Advanced Clinical Practicum 1	
	PA: Intro to Clinical Medicine, SCORE 1					PA: Clinical Practicum 1, SCORE 2						

Year 2

	Fall Semester					Spring Semester					Summer Semester	
Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
PISCE 5: Neurology, Psychiatry, Behavioral Medicine		PISCE 6: Gastroenterology, Nutrition, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Musculoskeletal			PISCE 7: Integrated Cases					Clinical Rotations: Internal Med, Family Med, Emergency Med, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Ob/Gyn, Neurology, General Surgery		
PA: Clinical Practicum 2, Advanced Clinical Medicine 2, SCORE 3					PA: Advanced Clinical Medicine 3, Thesis, SCORE 4							

Year 3

	Fall Semester					Spring Semester					Summer Semester	
Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Clinical Rotations												

Graduate Outcomes

Upon completion of the BU PA Program curriculum, graduates are eligible to sit for the board exam (PANCE). The official PANCE score report, issued by the NCCPA will published at:

<https://www.bu.edu/paprogram/pance-performance/>

Student Attrition

Please go to <https://www.bu.edu/paprogram/about-us/> to see details on the program's attrition rate and learn more about student outcomes.

State Licensure

Students who complete the Boston University Physician Assistant Program are eligible for licensure in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and most US territories. The complete list can be found at:

<https://www.bu.edu/state-authorization/master-of-science-physician-assistant-licensing-disclosure/>

Academic Prerequisites

In addition to earning a bachelor degree from an accredited college or university, the following prerequisite coursework must be completed in traditional classroom and laboratory settings prior to students beginning the application process:

Prerequisite	Requirement
General Biology or Zoology with lab	One semester
Human or Animal Physiology (preferably at 300 or 400 level)	One semester
General Chemistry with lab*	One semester
Organic Chemistry with lab	One semester
Biochemistry (preferably at 300 or 400 level)	One semester
Upper level biology courses** (at 300 or 400 level)	Three, one semester courses

*Chemistry courses cannot be survey or non-degree chemistry courses.

** Physiology and Biochemistry at the 300 and 400 level do NOT fulfill the upper level biology courses requirement if they are being used to fulfill the Physiology or Biochemistry requirements.

Application Requirements

- Bachelor degree conferred by the September 1 deadline
- Verified CASPA application submitted by the September 1 deadline
- CASPA calculated science grade point average 3.2 or above
- CASPer Test taken during the current cycle (<https://takecasper.com/>), minimum score of 40th percentile
- Three letters of recommendation: one from a professor, an employer, and a PA or MD
- Supplemental application will be provided once a verified CASPA application is received
- Applicants must also meet the program's Technical Requirements which are listed in detail at <http://www.bu.edu/paprogram/admissions/prerequisites/technical-standards>

Matriculating students will be subject to criminal background checks and drug testing as required by clinical education.

Healthcare Experience

While there is no minimum hour requirement for healthcare experience, successful applicants must demonstrate an understanding of the PA profession and its contribution to the delivery of healthcare in the United States. The Admissions Committee expects that candidates display their commitment to helping others and their suitability for a profession that cares for sick and injured patients.

Program Accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Boston University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Boston University School of Medicine. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2028. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy. The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at: <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-boston-university/>

Contact

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