Physician Assistant Studies
Master of Science
College of Health, Environment, and Science

Program Highlights

Slippery Rock University's Physician Assistant Studies program offers the following highlights:

- **Affordability** – SRU's PA program is the most affordable in western Pennsylvania. Graduates' starting salaries can be more than the cost of their educational investment.

- **Job Security** – According to the 2013 NCCPA report, 78.1% of recent graduates had multiple job offers and 52.3% had 3 or more job offers. In 2014, Forbes ranked a Master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies as the #1 degree for jobs. In 2015, Forbes ranked Physician Assistant as the most promising job.

- **Faculty Expertise** – SRU's PA faculty not only have years of experience in the clinical setting, but also have training and experience to be effective PA educators. In addition, faculty are engaged in research, presentations, and publications.

- **Unique Curriculum** – SRU's unique curriculum will expose students to clinical practice in the first year and train students to be competent in helping individuals with special needs.

- **Practical, Hands-on Experience** – Learn through innovative and active learning modalities in a facility modeled to offer a top-notch PA education. Students will participate in interactive lectures and hands-on labs including rounds at the hospital, equestrian therapeutics, simulation labs, and cadaver labs.

- **Clinical Rotations** – Students are trained as primary care providers with the ability to specialize in any area of medicine. All students will rotate through family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health, emergency medicine, surgery, and behavioral medicine. In addition, students will have the opportunity to pick an elective rotation in any area of medicine or Physician Assistant specialty field. During this elective rotation, students can learn to be PA educators or researchers, become involved in public or community health or healthcare policy, train in a medical specialty field, engage in opportunities to travel abroad on medical mission trips, create a new type of rotation, or repeat an enjoyable rotation. Finally, students will have unique rotations with opportunities to actively engage with special needs populations.

- **Faculty-Student Research** – PA faculty are actively involved in research. Students will have the opportunity to conduct and present faculty-student research at conferences or submit an article for publication; thus, helping to pave the way for future healthcare and PA education.

- **Travel** – Opportunities will arise for students to participate in medical mission trips abroad or within the U.S. Trips will be organized and lead by PA faculty and will focus on team building, leadership, and life experience while providing care to those in medically undeserved regions.

Program Description

Do you have the compassion to help others? Would you enjoy working with diverse populations as a medical care provider while being gainfully employed? Start a rewarding career in a high-demand area of health care, Physician Assistant Studies.

Earn your Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies at Slippery Rock University. SRU’s Physician Assistant Studies 24-month program is a combination of academic and clinical instruction, on-campus course delivery, team instruction, and collaborative outreach taught in unique learning environments. Academically and professionally qualified faculty, clinicians, and experts will provide a strong foundation in evidence-based practice, direct patient/client management, and prevention and wellness services that focus on the life cycle needs of the U.S. population.

The program provides an emphasis on special needs patients interwoven throughout academic and clinical years, which makes SRU’s Physician Assistant Program unique. Successful graduates will be nationally certified and become competent, compassionate professionals with sound ethical values. SRU graduates will learn to adapt to the ever-changing medical profession, while becoming gainfully employed as Advanced Practice Providers and filling the medical needs of the region.

Accreditation

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Slippery Rock University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Slippery Rock University.

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.
### Curriculum (116 credits)

#### Summer Academic-Year Requirements (18 credits)
- PA 600: Medical Research Literacy 1
- PA 601: The PA Profession 1
- PA 602: Medical Ethics 1
- PA 611: Health Maintenance and Wellness Across the Life Span I 1
- PA 612: Clinical Anatomy and Pathophysiology I 2
- PA 613: Cadaver Lab I 0.5
- PA 616: Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics I 2
- PA 617: Laboratory and Diagnostic Studies I 1
- PA 640: Clinical History and Physical Diagnosis I 1.5
- PA 641: Clinical History and Physical Diagnosis Lab I 2
- PA 651: Clinical Medicine I 2.5
- PA 652: Applied Clinical Medicine Lab I 1
- PA 654: Special Needs Populations I 1
- PA 655: Special Needs Populations Exposure Practicum I 0.5

#### Fall Academic-Year Requirements (21 credits)
- PA 660: Practice-Based Learning and Improvement Experience I 0.5
- PA 661: Clinical Medicine II 4.5
- PA 662: Applied Clinical Medicine Lab II 1
- PA 664: Special Needs Populations II 1
- PA 665: Special Needs Populations Exposure Practicum II 0.5
- PA 667: Clinical Exposure Practicum I 0.5

#### Spring Academic-Year Requirements (21 credits)
- PA 603: Clinical Skills Lab 1
- PA 604: Emergency Medicine and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support with Lab 1
- PA 630: Pediatrics 1
- PA 632: Clinical Anatomy and Pathophysiology III 2
- PA 633: Cadaver Lab III 0.5
- PA 636: Laboratory and Diagnostic Studies III 3
- PA 644: Clinical History and Physical Diagnosis III 1.5
- PA 645: Clinical History and Physical Diagnosis Lab III 2
- PA 660: Practice-Based Learning and Improvement Experience I 0.5
- PA 667: Clinical Exposure Practicum II 0.5
- PA 671: Clinical Medicine III 4.5
- PA 672: Applied Clinical Medicine Lab III 1
- PA 674: Special Needs Populations III 1
- PA 675: Special Needs Populations Exposure Practicum III 0.5

#### Summer Clinical-Year Requirements (16 credits)
- PA 605: Public Health 1
- PA 606: Healthcare Systems 1
- PA 673: From Theory to Practice I 2
- PA XX: Clerkship 1 4.5
- PA XX: Clerkship 2 4.5
- PA XX: Clerkship 3 - Special Needs Population(s) I 3

#### Fall Clinical-Year Requirements (15.5 credits)
- PA 683: From Theory to Practice II 2
- PA XX: Clerkship 4 4.5
- PA XX: Clerkship 5 4.5
- PA XX: Clerkship 6 4.5

### Curricular Requirments (cont.)

#### SpringClinical-Year Requirements (15.5 credits)
- PA 693: From Theory to Practice III 2
- PA 694: Summative and Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) Prep 1.5
- PA XX: Clerkship 8 4.5
- PA XX: Clerkship 9 4.5
- PA XX: Clerkship 10 – Special Needs Population(s) II 3

*NOTE: Clinical-year semester credits can vary from semester to semester dependent upon when student completes Special Needs Population(s) Clerkships.*

### Clinical Year Clerkships

#### Core Clerkships
- PA 711: Family Practice Clerkship 4.5
- PA 712: Internal Medicine Clerkship 4.5
- PA 713: Pediatrics Clerkship 4.5
- PA 714: Behavioral Medicine Clerkship 4.5
- PA 715: General Surgery Clerkship 4.5
- PA 716: Women’s Health (OB/GYN) Clerkship 4.5
- PA 717: Emergency Medicine Clerkship 4.5

#### Special Needs Population(s) Clerkships
- PA 710: Special Needs Population(s) Clerkship I 3
- PA 720: Special Needs Population(s) Clerkship II 3

#### Elective Clerkship (Pick one)
- PA 721: Family Practice Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 722: Internal Medicine Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 723: Pediatrics Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 724: Behavioral Medicine Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 725: General Surgery Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 726: Women’s Health (OB/GYN) Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 727: Emergency Medicine Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 730: Special Needs Population(s) Clerkship Elective 3
- PA 741: Cardiology Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 742: Otolaryngology Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 743: Orthopedics Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 744: Neurology Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 745: Nephrology Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 746: Oncology Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 747: Gastroenterology Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 748: Dermatology Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 749: Infectious Disease Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 750: Mission Work Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 751: Interventional Radiology Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 752: Physician Assistant Educator Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 753: Physician Assistant Researcher Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 754: Community Health Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 755: Public Health Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 756: Health Policy Fellowship Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 757: Medical Intensive Care (MICU) Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 758: Hospitalist Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 759: Pain Management Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 760: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMnR) Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 761: Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) Clerkship Elective 4.5
- PA 799: Clerkship Elective - Other 4.5
Admission Requirements

To apply, all applicants should complete the CASPA (Central Application Service for Physicians Assistants) application found at https://caspa.liaison.cas.com/applicant-ux/#/login. CASPA instructions can be found at https://portal.caspaonline.org/caspaHelpPages/about-caspaoverview/.

Admissions requirements include the following:

1. A minimum of a baccalaureate degree or completion of the first three years of the SRU 3+2 Pre-PA Major or the 4+2 Pre-PA major, including the following prerequisites:

   **Biology**
   - General Biology with lab (3-4 credits)
   - Anatomy & Physiology I with lab (3-4 credits)*
   - Anatomy & Physiology II with lab (3-4 credits)*
   - Medical Microbiology or Microbiology with lab (3 credits)
   - Genetics (3-4 credits, lab recommended but not required)

   Highly Recommended: one upper-level biology or biochemistry course with or without lab in addition to the required biology courses listed above.

   **Chemistry**
   - General Chemistry I with lab (3-4 credits)
   - General Chemistry II with lab (3-4 credits)
   - Organic Chemistry I (3-4 credits, lab recommended but not required)

   **Math**
   - Inferential statistics course (3 credits, any statistics course with inferential statistics embedded)

   **Psychology**
   - Psychology course (3 credits; introductory, developmental, or abnormal psychology)

   **English**
   - College writing or composition courses (3 credits)
   - College literature course (3 credits)

   **Medical Terminology (3 credits) or Applied Medical Terminology for PAs (1 credit)**

   PLEASE NOTE: SRU students are required to take specific SRU prerequisite courses to meet requirements for preferential consideration. Please view catalog or contact the PA program for more information.

2. A grade of "C" or better will be required for all prerequisite biology and chemistry courses.

   The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.

Admission Requirements (cont.)

3. Official transcripts from any college/university where credits have been earned.

4. Completion of 100 hours or more of community service and/or service learning satisfied through any type of purposeful volunteer activity or event that benefits the community. Hours must be completed prior to submission of application.

5. Completion of 40 hours or more of clinical experience, exposure, or shadowing. Of these hours, at least 16 must be with at least two different Physician Assistants in at least two different areas of medicine. Hours must be completed prior to submission of application.

6. At least two letters of recommendation (one from a health care provider, particularly a Physician Assistant, highly recommended).

7. An essay on why applicant wants to be a Physician Assistant (5000 character limit = approx. 625 words. Characters include spaces, carriage returns, numbers, letters, etc.)

8. A post-secondary education grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 on a 4.0 scale for the following areas:
   - Cumulative GPA - 3.00
   - Prerequisite GPA - 3.00
   - Science GPA - 3.00 (biology and chemistry courses only)

9. A successful interview (the most highly-qualified applicants will be invited for an interview).

10. Students enrolled in the PA 3+2 or 4+2 programs are allowed to take courses at other universities, according to University policy. However, the view is that it is best based on course content and preparation that the students take the courses at SRU.

   *Taken within the past 10 years

Slippery Rock University is approved to offer programs that may lead to licensure/certification in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. SRU cannot confirm that the PA program meets the requirements for licensure/certification in any other state or commonwealth. If you are considering enrolling in the PA programs' education program and being certified/licensed in a state other than Pennsylvania, please check the specific requirements for licensure in your state. If you are considering working as a PA in other states that may require certification/licensure, you should first seek guidance on your state's requirements. For more information, please consult the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) on the specific state information.

Applicants who are offered and accept a seat in the program will be required to submit a deposit within 2 weeks of acceptance to hold a seat in the upcoming class. The deposit is $500 for SRU students and graduates from other institutions. The deposit will be applied toward tuition.

For more information about the PA Program, visit www.sru.edu/pa and click on the “Applicant Information Handbook” found at the bottom of the webpage.