

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE
COLLEGE OF HEALTH, ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

www.sru.edu/pa



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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 populations interwoven throughout academic and clinical years, which makes SRU's Physician Assistant Program unique. Graduates will be prepared to become competent, compassionate professionals with sound ethical values. SRU graduates will learn to adapt to the ever-changing medical profession, while having the opportunity to become employed as Advanced Practice Providers and filling the medical needs of the region.

ACCREDITATION

At its **March 2020** meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) placed the **Slippery Rock University Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by Slippery Rock University on **Accreditation-Probation** status until its next review in **March 2022**.

Probation is a temporary status of accreditation conferred when a program does not meet the *Standards* and when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Once placed on probation, programs that still fail to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and/or risk having their accreditation withdrawn.

Specific questions regarding the Program and its plans should be directed to the Program Director and/or the appropriate institutional official(s):

Megan M. Borger MSPAS PA-C
Program Director
Slippery Rock University
Megan.borger@sru.edu

Samantha Kelly
Director of Institutional Assessment and Accreditation
Samantha.Kelly@sru.edu

Additional Information Regarding Accreditation Status

Based on the March 2020 review, the ARC-PA placed the Slippery Rock University PA Program on accreditation probation status. The Program and University administration have created and initiated a plan of action for addressing the concerns raised by the ARC-PA. The PA Program and the University are implementing these measures.

The PA program will continue to provide high quality education as evidenced in the 94% first time test taker average since the inception of the program. We would like to reassure our prospective and current students the program maintains accreditation, which allows students to:

- apply for admission to the program
- progress to program completion
- sit for board examination (PANCE) upon successful program completion
- apply for state licensing

Enrolling and graduating from a program on Accreditation-Probation means that you are still graduating from an ARC-PA accredited program.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE CERTIFICATION

All candidates completing the PA program are eligible to be registered in Pennsylvania after achieving a passing score on a national examination. If you are interested in practicing in another state, please contact the licensing board in that state.

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. Faculty are engaged in professional development.
- **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 populations.
- **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. Students will have the opportunity to explore other specialties during an elective rotation.



SlipperyRock
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System
of Higher Education

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www.sru.edu/graduate

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To apply, all applicants should complete the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) application found at <https://caspa.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>. 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 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 with lab (3-4 credits)
 - 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 course (3 credits)
 - College literature course (3 credits)
 - Medical Terminology** (at least 1 credit)+
2. A grade of "C" or better will be required for all prerequisite biology and chemistry courses
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 (within the last five years). It is strongly recommended that hours are completed prior to the on-campus interview.
5. Completion of 50 hours or more of clinical shadowing, of those, 25 MUST be with more than one PA in more than one area of medicine. The remaining clinical hours can be with NP, MD, DO, or PA. It is strongly recommended that hours are completed prior to your on-campus interview.
6. Completion of 100 hours or more of health care experience or patient care experience hours within the last 5 years. Please refer to CASPA website for complete definition of what is included in these experiences. It is strongly recommended that hours are completed prior to your on-campus interview.
7. At least two letters of recommendation (one from a health care provider, particularly a Physician Assistant, highly recommended).
8. 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.)
9. A minimum CASPA calculated GPA of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale at the time of application and to start the program if offered admission for the the following areas:
 - a. Cumulative GPA- 3.25
 - b. Prerequisite GPA- 3.25
 - c. Science GPA- 3.25 (biology and chemistry courses only)
10. Completion of successful interview.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (CONT)

11. 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.

* Preference is given to SRU 3+2 students, SRU graduates, other State System school graduates, and veterans.

+Taken within the past 10 years

NOTE: Online courses are not accepted (except Medical Terminology)

AP/IB course only for English prerequisite is acceptable

Applicants whose first language is not English may be required to submit scores that show proficiency in the English language

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 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 and will be applied toward tuition.

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

CURRICULUM (105.9 CREDITS)

Summer Didactic-Year Requirements (18 credits)

PA 601: The PA Profession	1
PA 612: Clinical Anatomy and Physiology with Lab I	3
PA 616: Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics I	2
PA 640: Clinical History and Physical Diagnosis with Lab I	4
PA 646: Evidence Based Public Health	3
PA 651: Clinical Medicine with Lab I	4
PA 654: Special Populations I	1

Fall Didactic-Year Requirements (19 credits)

PA 603: Clinical Skills Lab	1
PA 621: Geriatrics	1
PA 622: Clinical Anatomy and Physiology with Lab II	3
PA 626: Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics II	3
PA 630: Pediatrics	1
PA 642: Clinical History and Physical Diagnosis with Lab II	4
PA 661: Clinical Medicine with Lab II	5
PA 664: Special Populations II	1

Spring Didactic-Year Requirements (18.5 credits)

PA 604: Emergency Medicine	1
PA 607: Clinical Skills Lab II	1
PA 632: Clinical Anatomy and Physiology with Lab III	3
PA 636: Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics III	3
PA 644: Clinical History and Physical Diagnosis with Lab III	4
PA 671: Clinical Medicine with Lab III	5
PA 674: Special Populations III	1
PA 677: Clinical Exposure Practicum	0.5

Summer Clinical-Year Requirements (14.6 credits)

PA 701: From Theory to Practice I	2
PA 771: Clinical Clerkships Experience I (two 4.5-week rotations, and one 3-week rotation)	12.6

Fall Clinical-Year Requirements (19.4 credits)

PA 702: From Theory to Practice II	2
PA 772: Clinical Clerkships Experience II (three 4.5-week rotations)	14.4
PA 773: Clinical Clerkships Experience III (one 3-week rotation)	3

Spring Clinical-Year Requirements (16.4 credits)

PA 703: From Theory to Practice III	2
PA 774: Clinical Clerkships Experience IV	14.4

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:

PA Program
220 W. Prairie Street
Harrisville, PA 16038
724.738.2425
pa.program@sru.edu

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:

Office of Graduate Admissions
104 North Hall, Welcome Center
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
www.sru.edu/graduate
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD
graduate.admissions@sru.edu

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.