

Applicant Information Sheet

Slippery Rock University Physician Assistant MSPAS

The MSPAS program reserves the right to update the PA Program Applicant Information Sheet without prior notice. The most recent PA Program Applicant Information Sheet will supersede all previously distributed versions.

ARC-PA Accreditation Standard– A3.14a

Institutional Accreditation

The University is accredited by the [Middle States Commission on Higher Education](#)
3624 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104. (267)-284-5000

Program Accreditation

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the PA 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.

Licensure/Certification

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 education program and becoming 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.

Fair Practices and Admissions – A3.14b

To apply, complete the [CASPA \(Central Application Service for Physicians Assistants\)](#) application. Applications will be accepted from May 1 to December 1.

Admission Requirements Regarding Prior Education or Work Experience – A3.15b, Required Academic Standards for Enrollment – A3.15d

1. A minimum of a baccalaureate degree or completion of the first three years of the SRU 3+2 Pre-PA Concentration AND the following prerequisites:
 - Biology
 - General Biology with lab (3-4 credits)
 - A&P I with lab (3-4 credits)+
 - A&P II with lab (3-4 credits)+
 - Medical Microbiology or Microbiology with lab (3-4 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 course (3 credits)
 - College literature course (3 credits)
 - Medical Terminology (at least 1 credit)+

+ taken within the past 10 years

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.
Hours **MUST** be completed prior to on campus interview.
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 on campus interview.
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 minimum CASPA calculated GPA of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale for the following areas:
Cumulative GPA - 3.25; Pre-requisite GPA - 3.25; Science GPA - 3.25 (Bio & Chem courses only)
9. Completion of a successful interview
10. Students enrolled in the PA 3+2 or 4+2 programs may 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.

Admission and enrollment practices that favor specified individuals or groups – A3.15a

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

Applicants who are offered and accept admission will be required to submit a \$500 deposit within 2 weeks of notification to hold a seat in the upcoming class.

*** Please note, if you are an international applicant that requires an F-1 Student Visa it is recommended that you do not apply. Slippery Rock University does not have approval to create I-20 Visa's for the Physician Assistant Studies Program.**

Policies and Procedures Concerning Awarding or Granting Advanced Placement – A3.15c

The program does not offer advanced placement.

Technical Standards and Essential Functions

Any Required Technical Standards for Enrollment – A3.15e

The technical standards for the SRU PA Program have been established to ensure that students have the ability to demonstrate academic mastery, competency when performing clinical skills, and ability to communicate clinical information in sound physical and mental capacities. These technical standards are intended to ensure that each student has the academic, physical and behavioral ability to acquire competencies, as defined by the National Commission on Accreditation of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), the Accreditation Review Commission for Education of the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). The

Slippery Rock University's PA Program technical standards are consistent with and modeled after the technical standards set forth by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). These technical standards are required for admission and must be maintained throughout a student's progress through the MSPAS program. In the event that a matriculated student is unable to fulfill the technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, the student may be counseled to pursue alternate careers.

All students must be able to independently meet the following technical standards:

- General Abilities
 - A functional sense of vision, touch, hearing, taste and smell in order to integrate, analyze and synthesize data in a consistent and accurate manner
 - Perceives pain, pressure, temperature, position, vibration, equilibrium and movement

- Observational Abilities
 - Observe dissected cadavers and specimens
 - Observe microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states through microscopic study
 - Observe demonstrations, exercises and patients accurately at a distance and close-up
 - Observe non-verbal as well as verbal signals
 - Use of observation to obtain a medical history and perform a complete physical examination, integrate findings and develop an appropriate diagnosis(es) and treatment plan

- Communication Abilities
 - Speak intelligently
 - Hear sufficiently
 - Interpret non-verbal and verbal aspects of communication
 - Effectively and efficiently elicit and transmit patient information in oral and written English to members of a healthcare team
 - Describe changes in mood, activity and posture
 - Communicate effectively, efficiently and sensitively with patients and their families
 - Read at a level sufficient to accomplish curricular requirements and provide clinical care for patients
 - Write or type appropriate medical documents according to protocol in a thorough and timely manner, accurately and clearly

- Sensory and Motor Abilities
 - Possess gross and fine motor skills sufficient to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation and other basic diagnostic procedures, maneuvers and examinations
 - Execute motor movements reasonably required to provide basic medical care, such as airway management, placement of catheters, suturing, phlebotomy, application of sufficient pressure to control bleeding, simple obstetrical maneuvers and extended standing and retraction in surgery
 - Respond to emergency situations in a timely manner
 - Provide general and emergency care
 - Adhere to universal precaution measures
 - Meet safety standards applicable to inpatient and outpatient settings and other clinical activities

- Critical Thinking Abilities
 - Assimilate detailed and complex information presented in the curriculum
 - Learn through a variety of modalities, such as classroom instruction, small group, team and collaborative activities, individual study, report preparation and presentation, computer technology, active learning, clinical experiences and interprofessional activities
 - Independently access and interpret medical histories and files
 - Identify significant findings from history, physical examination and laboratory data
 - Provide a reasoned explanation for likely diagnoses, prescribed medications and therapy
 - Recall and retain information in an efficient and timely manner and see the relationship between this retained information and its application in clinical practice
 - Memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize
 - Incorporate new information from peers, teachers and medical literature in formulating diagnoses and plans

- Behavioral and Social Attributes
 - Possess maturity and emotional stability
 - Accept responsibility for learning
 - Understand the legal and ethical aspects of medical practice
 - Function within the law and ethical standards of the medical profession
 - Possess ability to use intellectual capacity, exercise good judgment and promptly complete responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, sometimes under potentially stressful circumstances, emergency situations and extended hours
 - Develop empathic, sensitive, professional and effective relationships with patients
 - Work effectively, respectfully and professionally as part of a healthcare team
 - Exhibit flexibility and adaptability to changing environments and learn in the face of uncertainties inherent to the practice of medicine
 - Contribute to collaborative and constructive learning environments, making appropriate positive changes
 - Accept constructive feedback and respond to supervision appropriately
 - Act within the appropriate scope of practice

Applicants should possess, at minimum, with or without the help of compensatory techniques and/or assistive devices, the following abilities, demonstrating proficiency of and attesting to these abilities prior to matriculation into the Program if asked.

- Manual Dexterity of wrists, hands, fingers and arms
 - Ability to grasp, palpate, pinch, hold and percuss
 - Ability to lift, pull, push, rotate and twist
 - Ability to cut
 - Ability to measure
 - Ability to use sterile technique
 - Ability to use universal precaution methods
 - Ability to operate and maintain equipment (ventilators, monitors, defibrillators, etc.)

- Sensation to allow for palpation, auscultation, percussion, vision and smell

- Physical Strength
 - Ability to support another person
 - Ability to position another person
 - Ability to transition from/to walker, cane, crutches, bed, chair and gurney
 - Ability to provide motion exercises
 - Ability to stand for long periods of time
 - Ability to perform CPR/resuscitation

- Other Abilities
 - Ability to be poised and self-confident
 - Ability to read, write, understand and communicate proficiently and effectively in the English language
 - Ability to remain calm during emergency situations
 - Ability to meet and deal with people of differing backgrounds and behavioral patterns
 - Ability to display and maintain mental and emotional stability
 - Be free from any active diseases that are infectious and may be spread by routine means, such as handshakes, skin contact or breathing

Working as a medical professional is often physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding.

The Slippery Rock University MSPAS program is committed to the education of all qualified individuals, including persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodation, are capable of performing the essential functions of the educational program in which they are enrolled and the profession that they pursue.

It is the policy of the program to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state and local requirements regarding students and applicants with disabilities. Under these laws, no otherwise qualified and competent individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs, and activities solely on the basis of the disability. In accord with federal regulations established by the Americans With Disabilities Act, the following standards are described to assist each candidate in evaluating his/her prospect for academic and clinical success.

Slippery Rock University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform the Office of Disability Services (ODS) immediately to discuss your specific needs. In order to coordinate reasonable accommodations for a documented disability, please contact ODS at 724-738-4877 or room 105 University Union.

<http://www.sru.edu/academics/academic-services/services-for-students-with-disabilities>

General standards for the MSPAS program are followed by standards that apply to the professional discipline to which you have applied (see standards above). When a student's ability to perform is compromised, the student must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to perform the essential functions described. It is important that you read each standard carefully. Each student is given the opportunity to read and acknowledge their understanding of the standards prior to beginning of the program.

Success of the Program in Achieving Goals – A3.14c

Founded in 2016, to meet the educational and healthcare needs of the region, the Physician Assistant Studies Program's inaugural cohort will graduate on May 11, 2018. Beyond first time PANCE pass rates the program will demonstrate success and its commitment to continuous improvement through various measures including: graduation rates, graduate employment, and others to demonstrate achievement of program competencies and student learning outcomes. The data will be used to inform curricular and other program changes to ensure sustained program quality.

First Time PANCE Pass Rates d) all required curricular components – A3.14d

The SRU Physician Assistant Studies Program's inaugural cohort graduated on May 11, 2018. This cohort had a 96% pass rate for first time test takers.

Academic Credit Offered by the Program – A3.14e

The SRU MSPAS is an accelerated 24-month program. The graduating class of 2020 credit requirement is 105.9 credits. Complete program offerings are listed at http://catalog.sru.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=29&poiid=5207&returnto=564 and in the PA Program Fact Sheet on the [PA Graduate Program webpage](#).

Estimates of Program Costs (tuition, fees, etc.) – A3.14f

Tuition and fee information for the program (in-state and out-of-state) are available on the [SRU Tuition and Fees webpage](#). The tuition and fees at Slippery Rock University are set by the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education. Certain fees are subject to change without notice

Policies and Procedures for Refunds of Tuition and Fees – A3.14g

Information on refunds of tuition and fees is available on the webpages for the [Office of Student Accounts](#) and the [Financial Aid Return of Title IV Funds](#).

Policies about Student Employment while Enrolled in the Program – A3.14h

While it is the intention of the PA program to utilize graduate assistants (GAs), GAs cannot be current PA students. Current PA Students are not permitted to perform clerical or administrative work for the program. During clinical rotations, PA students will not be used to substitute for regular clinical and/or administrative staff. Current students may not substitute for or function as instructional faculty. In addition, it is recommended that students do not work or work only minimal hours while enrolled in the PA Program. If a student chooses to work while enrolled, the work schedule/load must not interfere with class performance, attendance, or clinical rotation schedules.

The program must make student admission decisions in accordance with clearly defined and published practices of the institution and program – A3.16

The program makes all student admission decisions in accordance with clearly define and published practices of the institution and program.

