Slippery Rock University
Physician Assistant Studies
Frequently Asked Questions

Application FAQs

When can I apply?
Applications will be accepted from May 1 to December 1 for the cohort that begins in June the following year. We admit students on a rolling admission basis for the upcoming class. Once all of the seats in the cohort are filled, successful applicants will only have the waitlist option. We encourage students to apply as soon as the cycle opens. To apply, complete the CASPA (Central Application Service for Physicians Assistants) application.

I am not earning my degree until spring. Can I apply to the PA program before I graduate?
Yes, you can apply to SRU’s PA Program before you graduate. The PA program can offer you a contingent seat pending successful completion of your undergraduate degree. If you do not successfully complete all prerequisite and admission requirements prior to the start of the program, you will automatically forfeit your contingency seat in the program.

Will you review my application before it is complete?
We are happy to answer specific questions, but unfortunately, we are not able to review incomplete applications due to the high volume of applicants. Only applications that are complete and verified by CASPA will be reviewed for prospective admission. It is the applicant’s responsibility to verify receipt of all application materials or to inquire about the status of their application.

Does the program require any standardized test?
No, GRE scores or other standardized test scores are not required.

Is there a supplemental application for SRU in addition to the CASPA application?
No, there is not a supplemental application.

Admission Requirement FAQs

Do I have to complete all prerequisite courses before I can apply?
No, not all prerequisite courses need to be complete before you apply. You can apply to SRU’s PA Program with outstanding prerequisite courses. The PA program can offer contingency seats in the program even if you have not completed all pre-requisite courses. There is a place on the application to indicate your plan to complete prerequisite courses. If you do not successfully complete all prerequisite requirements prior to the start of the PA program, you will automatically forfeit your contingency seat in the PA program.
Do I have to complete all shadowing and volunteer hours before I can apply?
It is strongly recommend that the following hours are complete prior to the on-campus interview:

- 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 5 years.
- Completion of 50 hours or more of clinical shadowing within the last 5 years. Of these hours, at least 25 must be with at least two different Physician Assistants in at least two different areas of medicine. The remaining clinical hours can be with a NP, MD, DO or PA.

Does Slippery Rock University’s PA Program accept transfer students from other PA Programs?
No, the PA program will not accept transfer students from other PA programs.

I took prerequisite courses at a community college. Will you accept these credits?
Yes, you may take your prerequisite courses at any university or college, including a community college. We do not accept on-line courses except for Medical Terminology. AP or IB courses are only accepted for English pre-requisites.

Are my prerequisite courses too old to be accepted?
Anatomy & Physiology I and II along with Medical Terminology must have been taken no more than 10 years prior to the anticipated start date of the program.

If I repeated a course, which grade will be considered for GPA calculations?
If a student takes a course more than once, all of the grades for that course will be averaged together.

Interview FAQs

What is PA interview day?
Selected students are invited to campus to interview for a seat in the PA program. The interview will include both a group and individual interview, tour of the facility and a chance for students to learn more about the program from faculty and staff.

If I am offered an interview, does it guarantee me a seat in the PA program?
No, you are not guaranteed a seat in the cohort if you are offered an interview.

How long after the interview, do I have to wait to know if I am admitted?
You will receive an acceptance, waitlist or denial letter from the university approximately two weeks after your interview.

What is the waitlist and how does it work?
The PA program operates a waitlist of students each year. This list is activated once a deposited student relinquishes their spot in the program prior to the June start date. Students who are offed a spot on the waitlist and accept the waitlist offer in writing are ranked. Available seats in the program will be offered to the highest ranked candidate on the waitlist until all seats have been filled, up to and including the first day of class.
Program FAQs
How many seats are available in the Physician Assistant Program at Slippery Rock University?
There are 52 seats in the cohort each year.

If admitted, can I defer my admission?
No, a student cannot defer their admission to the following year if admitted. Due to the nature of
the program and the applicant pool, we cannot hold seats.

What is the program’s first-time pass rate on the national boards?
The inaugural cohort in SRU’s PA program graduated on May 11, 2018. This cohort had a 96%
pass rate for first time test takers.

Can I work while attending the PA program?
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.

Do I have to find my own rotation sites?
No, students are not permitted to set up their own clinical rotations. Rotations will be scheduled
by the Clinical Coordinator at sites where we hold Affiliation Agreements.

What is the PA program accreditation status?
The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Slippery Rock University
Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Slippery Rock University. A site visit is scheduled for
Fall 2019.

SRU FAQs
Where are classes in the PA program taught?
Classes for the PA program are taught at the PA/OT facility in Harrisville, PA. The cadaver lab
takes place on the main campus in the PT building. A virtual tour of the PA facility can be
viewed here and you are welcome to visit during an upcoming Open House.

Is housing available on campus?
Yes, there are options for on-campus and off-campus housing. On-campus housing information
is available here. The Student Government Association provides resources to students seeking
off-campus housing here.