

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND ADMINISTRATION
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

www.sru.edu/pa

DELIVERY METHOD

On-site

START TERM

Summer term only

COMPLETION TIME

24 months

NUMBER OF CREDITS

105.9 credits

According to the www.BLS.gov website, employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 27 percent from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations.

About 12,200 openings for physician assistants are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.



SlipperyRock
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

www.sru.edu/graduate

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

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **Slippery Rock University Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **Slippery Rock University**. 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remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the *Standards*.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 **2030 March**. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the *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-slippery-rock-university/>.

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. 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.

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 U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 31% from 2019-29, much faster than the average for all occupations.
- **Faculty Expertise** – SRU's PA faculty have training in a wide variety of clinical specialties including orthopedics, family medicine, nephrology, pediatrics, general surgery and urgent care. Faculty have extensive training in health professions and Physician Assistant education. Additionally, they are regular participants in professional organizations and professional development opportunities.
- **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.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICANTS

International applicants, please visit www.sru.edu/graduate for requirements.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Information on current tuition can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at www.sru.edu/graduate. Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office www.sru.edu/FinAid or the Office of Graduate Admissions.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To apply, all applicants should complete the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) application found at <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>. Applications will be accepted from May 1 to December 1, 2025. Admissions requirements include the following:

- 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 (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)+
If you are a non-native English speaker, regardless of citizenship, the Medical Terminology course must have been taught in English.
- A grade of "C" or better is **required** for all prerequisite courses.
- Official transcripts from any college/university where credits have been earned.
- 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 interview.
- Completion of 50 hours or more of clinical shadowing within the last five years. Of these hours, at least 25 MUST be with two (2) or more PA-Cs and in at least two (2) different areas of medicine. The remaining clinical hours can be with a NP, MD, DO or PA-C.
- Completion of 450 hours or more of health care experience or patient care experience hours within the last five 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 interview.
- Letters of Recommendation: Submit **three letters** of recommendation; it is recommended that the letters include: one (1) from a former college/university instructor, one (1) from a supervisor of a required healthcare experience or patient care experience, and one (1) character reference that can directly attest to the applicant's character.
- An essay on why applicant wants to become a Physician Assistant (5000 character limit = approx. 625 words. Characters include spaces, carriage returns, numbers, letters, etc.)
- Resume/CV
- A minimum CASPA calculated GPA of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale at the time of application and (if admitted) a final program calculated GPA to matriculate into the program for the following areas:
 - Cumulative GPA- 3.25
 - Prerequisite GPA- 3.25
 - Science GPA- 3.25 (for a complete list of biology and chemistry courses included in the GPA, please visit www.sru.edu/graduate)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (CONT)

- Completion of successful interview.
- 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 applicants who possess a higher cumulative GPA, science GPA, and pre-requisite GPA. Preference is also given to SRU 3+2 students, SRU graduates, other PASSHE school graduates, and veterans.

The program **does not** offer advanced placement.
+ Taken within the past five years.

NOTE:

- All Anatomy and Physiology+ courses and Medical Terminology+ must be taken within the past 5 years. Courses are marked with a + to designate the 5-year requirement.*
- AP/IB courses are only accepted for English prerequisite. Only scores of 3 and above will be accepted. (GPA will be calculated based on the following scale: AP Score 3=2.0; AP Score 4=3.0; AP Score 5=4.0). AP Scores must be sent directly to the program.*
- Case-by-case consideration by the program of a P/F or S grade in a course will be based upon receipt of communication from the course instructor stating the students earned a letter grade of C or above.*
- The program does not make exceptions for any prerequisite course or admission requirement based upon experience.*
- Regardless of citizenship, if you are a non-native English speaker, you are required to submit scores that show proficiency in the English language. If applicable, the English Proficiency requirement must be completed, and score received by the application deadline.*

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.

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Summer Didactic-Year Requirements (16 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 651: Clinical Medicine with Lab I	5
PA 654: Special Populations I	1

Fall Didactic-Year Requirements (20.5 credits)

PA 603: Clinical Skills Lab I	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 646: Evidence-Based Practice	1.5
PA 661: Clinical Medicine with Lab II	5
PA 664: Special Populations II	1

Spring Didactic-Year Requirements (20 credits)

PA 604: Emergency Medicine	2
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	1

Summer Clinical-Year Requirements (13.6 credits)

PA 701: From Theory to Practice I	1
PA 771: Clinical Clerkships Experience I (three 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 (three 4.5-wk rotations)	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.