

University of
La Verne



CATALOG

2017 – 2018

ADDENDUM



Physician Assistant Program-M.S.

Program Director: Michael Estrada

Accreditation: University of La Verne's Physician Assistant Program has applied for Accreditation - Provisional from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The University of La Verne's Physician Assistant Program anticipates matriculating its first class in August 2018, pending achieving Accreditation - Provisional status at the March 2018 ARC-PA meeting. 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 appears 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. The program will not commence in the event that provisional accreditation is not received and students will not enroll.

A physician assistant (PA) is a medical professional who is a collaborative member of a health care team. All PAs practice medicine with delegated physician autonomy and supervision.

The Physician Assistant Program requires 27 consecutive months of full time academic and clinical coursework. The program trains and educates students to become health care providers who perform physical examinations, diagnose and treat illness, order and interpret laboratory and radiological tests, perform clinical procedures, assist in surgical cases, provide patient education and counseling and "round" in hospital and nursing home settings. All states and the District of Columbia allow PAs to practice, prescribe, transmit and administer prescription medications. Graduates from the program will be eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant Certification Examination (PANCE) and apply for state licensure to practice medicine upon passing the board examination as physician assistant. Students must apply to the program and be admitted prior to registering for all courses. No audits and observation of program courses in any portion of the curriculum will be permitted without written consent of the program director or designee.

Admission requirements:

Admission to the PA Program is competitive and multifaceted. The screening of applicants consists of pre-requisite coursework, minimal overall and science GPA, a graduate application, references, a personal statement, shadowing hours, and an in- person panel interview. There is a minimum TOEFL (if English is your second language) criteria.

The Physician Assistant Program will begin accepting applications October 1. All applicants must have their applications completed and submitted by March 31 to be considered for the 2018 cohort that will begin August 2018, contingent that the program receives accreditation-provisional at the March 2018 Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) meeting.

Accreditation standards require that admission criteria into a PA program are established by the PA Program faculty; they also include the Technical Standards for Admission developed by the PA accrediting agency, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. Listed below are the admission criteria required for entry into the program.

- Completion of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university or college will be completed prior to entry into the program.
- Cumulative science pre-requisite GPA minimum 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Overall Cumulative GPA minimum 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Pre-Requisite Course Work (credit hours are semester units)

Sciences	Credit hours
Human Anatomy and Physiology with lab I*	(4)
Human Anatomy and Physiology with lab II*	(4)
General Biology with lab	(4)
General Chemistry with lab I	(4)
General Chemistry with lab II	(4)
Microbiology with lab*	(4)
General Education	Credit hours
History of Fine Arts	(3)
Creative and Artistic Expression (music, photography, theater, cinema, drawing, dance)	(3)
English Composition I	(4)
English Composition II	(4)
Speech Communication	(2)
Philosophy or Religion or Critical Thinking	(3)
General Psychology	(3)
Sociology or Anthropology	(3)
Statistics or Bio-Statistics	(3)
Medical Terminology	(2)

- Completion of all prerequisite coursework at time of application with a "C" or better
- Prerequisite Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry and Microbiology may not be taken by an online or correspondence format and cannot be older than 7 years at the time of application. They must all have a lab.
- Any pre-requisite coursework repeated at a college or university other than where the original coursework was first completed will be averaged when calculating the GPA.
- Proof of English language proficiency in speaking, reading and writing, regardless of citizenship whose primary language is not English is required via the Test of English as

a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimal score of 570 (paper-based version), or 88 (internet version).

- Meet the Technical standards which are the abilities and skill that a student must possess in order to complete the program and are essential for clinical practice as a licensed PA.

Technical Standards

The candidate for the PA program must possess ability, aptitude and skills in the following areas as established by the PA profession: observation, communication, motor, intellectual, behavioral and social.

1. **Observation:** The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, visual presentations in lectures and laboratories, laboratory evidence and microbiologic cultures, microscopic studies of microorganisms, and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate should be able to observe a patient accurately and completely at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use the sense of vision and somatic sensation and is enhanced by the sense of smell.
2. **Communication:** A candidate should be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, perceive non-verbal communication, describe changes in mood, activity and posture. A candidate should be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. Communication in oral and written form with the health care team must be effective and efficient.
3. **Motor:** Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients through palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to carry out basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, wet mount, gram stain, etc.) carry out diagnostic and therapeutic procedures (phlebotomy, venipuncture, placement of catheters and tubes), and read ECG's and X-rays. A candidate should have motor function sufficient to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment for patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of a physician assistant are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medications, the application of pressure to arrest bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such skills require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
4. **Intellectual:** Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of PA's requires all these abilities. The candidate must also be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.
5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** A candidate should possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients. Candidates

should be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, and to function effectively under stress. They should be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainty inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the Admission and education processes.

- Three letters of recommendation assessing the applicant's ability to be a physician assistant. One **must be** from a practicing PA or physician (MD or DO). Letter must not be older than 1 year prior to the application year.
- Minimum 20 observational/shadowing experience hours completed and documented on the program shadowing verification form by a licensed and practicing physician assistant. Observational experiences must be arranged by the student. The PA program will not arrange nor recommend clinical sites or facilities for observation.
- Personal statement: 5000 characters or less, with a minimum 10 font describing your personal goals on becoming a physician assistant.
- Interview: A portion of qualified selected applicants will be invited to a panel interview on main campus.
- Successful completion of Background Check.

Academic Progress

Standards of acceptable performance (cognitive and psychomotor) for courses are communicated to students in writing via the syllabus and orally reviewed at the introduction of the course. A student must achieve and maintain the required 3.00 semester Grade Point Average (GPA) to remain in good academic standing and graduate from the Physician Assistant Program. The required GPA is intended to promote academic excellence and clinical competence. Performance in didactic (pre-clinical) courses is commonly assessed by written exams, oral presentations and/or research papers, direct observation, and final written exams. In designated courses, psychomotor performance may be assessed by skill competency exams and small group exercises. Grades "A or B" represent passing and satisfactory. Any grade of "C" or below is not meeting program academic standards.

Student Conduct

The PA student is required to abide by academic, clinical and professional behavior policies as described in the PA Student Handbook and the University of La Verne academic policies found in the catalogue. In some instances the PA Student Handbook delineates and defines policy used in the PA program. Should a student (pre-clinical or clinical year) be arrested or convicted of a crime prior to the time he/she is prepared to enter the profession, that criminal record may have further implications for the student's eligibility to practice. Students should immediately notify the program director if arrested or convicted of a crime. Students should be aware of state and federal or professional restrictions barring the practice of individuals with criminal records.

Advance Standing

The University of La Verne PA Program does not give advanced standing to any applicant admitted to the PA program. No advanced placement or transfer credit may be applied toward fulfilling the physician assistant program curriculum regardless of previous foreign, domestic, graduate or undergraduate coursework. No pre-clinical or clinical phase courses will be waived

and no transfer credit for any previous coursework will be permitted even though it may be similar or identical to coursework in the PA Program. All courses in the curriculum are designated as required and must be completed by every student enrolled in the program.

Leave of Absence Policy

A Leave of Absence (LOA) is a student-initiated withdrawal from all Program activities for a specific and defined period of time. Students must be in satisfactory academic standing to request a leave of absence. Students may find it necessary to interrupt their studies due to multiple variables. It is expected that all students participate in coursework as sequenced in the program. Under extraordinary circumstance, the Program may mandate that a student suspend all student activities for a specific period of time such as an infectious disease or illness, or allegations of academic or professional misconduct. Should a student require taking a temporary leave of absence, the request must be presented in writing to the Program Director or designee. Only one leave of absence will be granted during the student's tenure in the program. Leave may not be more than 2 trimesters. Students missing any coursework during a leave of absence will be required to fulfill all course work requirements with a minimum grade of "B" and with an overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or better before advancing in the program.

Graduates of the University of La Verne

Recent graduates with a degree from the University of La Verne who meet the admission criteria and graduated no more than 2 years prior to the application year will be guaranteed an interview.

Total Program: 118 semester hours

Didactic Instruction Year I (15 months)

Fall- Total: 14 semester hours

PA 501 Human Anatomy	(4)
PA 502 Genetics of Health and Disease	(2)
PA 503 Human Physiology	(4)
PA 504 Research and Evidence Based Medicine	(2)
PA 505 Health, Medicine and Society I	(2)

Spring-Total: 18 semester hours

PA 511 General Medicine I	(4)
PA 512 General Medicine II	(4)
PA 513 Pathophysiology I	(2)
PA 514 Physical Assessment I	(4)
PA 515 Applied Pharmacology	(2)
PA 516 Health, Medicine and Society II	(2)

Summer-Total: 18 semester hours

PA 521 General Medicine III	(4)
PA 522 General Medicine	(4)
PA 523 Pathophysiology II	(2)
PA 524 Physical Assessment II	(4)
PA 525 Applied Pharmacology	(2)
PA 526 Health, Medicine and Society III	(2)

Fall-Total: 18 semester hours

PA 531 General Medicine V	(4)
PA 532 Clinical Procedures	(4)
PA 533 Pathophysiology III	(2)
PA 534 Physical Assessment III	(4)
PA 535 Applied Pharmacology III	(2)
PA 536 Introduction to Clinical Practice	(2)

Clinical Instruction- Year II (12 months)

Spring- Total: 16 semester hours

PA 601 Supervised Clinical Rotation I- Family Medicine	(4)
PA 602 Supervised Clinical Rotation II- General Surgery	(4)
PA 603 Supervised Clinical Rotation III- Mental and Behavioral Health	(4)
PA 604 Master's Project	(2)
PA 605 Introduction to Medical Practice	(2)

Summer- Total: 16 semester hours

PA 611 Supervised Clinical Rotation IV- Internal Medicine Outpatient	(4)
PA 612 Supervised Clinical Rotation V- Internal Medicine Inpatient	(4)
PA 613 Supervised Clinical Rotation VI- Emergency Medicine	(4)
PA 614 Master's Project	(4)

Fall-Total: 18 semester hours

PA 621 Supervised Clinical Rotation VII- Women's Health	(4)
PA 622 Supervised Clinical Rotation VIII- Pediatrics	(4)
PA 623 Supervised Clinical Rotation IX- Elective	(4)
PA 624 Master's Project	(2)
PA 625 Comprehensive Review and Examination	(4)