

# CATALOG

2021-22

Physician Assistant Accreditation Statement  
(Effective October 7, 2021)

University *of*  
La Verne

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Physician Assistant Program – M.S.

Program Director: Ann Schultz Medical Director: James Lally Associate Director: J. Dante Awkward

Regular Faculty: Wayne Dewri, Mario Esquivel, Aaron Kan

**Total Program: 118 semester hours**

### Accreditation Statement

At its **March 2021** meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) placed the **University of La Verne Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **University of La Verne** on **Accreditation-Probation** status until its next review in **June 2022**.

Probation accreditation is a temporary accreditation status initially of not less than two years. However, that period may be extended by the ARC-PA for up to an additional two years if the ARC-PA finds that the program is making substantial progress toward meeting all applicable standards but requires additional time to come into full compliance. Probation accreditation status is granted, at the sole discretion of the ARC-PA, when a program holding an accreditation status of Accreditation – Provisional or Accreditation – Continued does not, in the judgment of the ARC-PA, meet the Standards or when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Once placed on probation, a program that fails to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and is subject to having its accreditation withdrawn.

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

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-university-of-la-verne/>.

A physician assistant or physician associate (PA) is a type of advanced health care provider. PA's can diagnose illnesses, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and may serve as a principal healthcare provider. PA's are required in nearly all States to have a direct agreement with a physician for supervision and collaboration.

The ULV 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 National Certifying Exam (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 prerequisite coursework, minimal overall and science GPA, and a graduate application, references, a personal statement, shadowing hours, and an in-person panel interview. All in-person activities may be changed to remote when public health policy requirements are updated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **COVID -19 POLICY**

The University of La Verne PA Program follows the CDC recommendations and requirements for healthcare providers with regard to all immunizations. The current recommendations for COVID-19 immunization can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/hcp.html>

Not having recommended vaccines may affect your ability to participate in clinical rotations that require vaccines for placement. Graduation and successful completion of the Program is dependent on completion of all required rotations.

There is a minimum TOEFL (if English is your second language) criteria. The Physician Assistant Program will begin accepting applications every April. All applicants must submit their applications through Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) and must have their applications completed and verified by October 1 to be considered for the Fall cohort.

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 must be completed at time of application.
- Cumulative science pre-requisite GPA minimum 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Overall Cumulative GPA minimum 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Prerequisite Course Work (credit hours are semester units)

Sciences Credit hours:

Human Anatomy with lab (4)

Human Physiology with lab (4)

General Biology with lab (4)

General Chemistry with lab I (4)

General Chemistry with lab II (4)  
Microbiology with lab (3)  
General Education Credit hours  
History of Fine Arts (3) (Recommended)  
Creative and Artistic Expression (i.e., music, photography, theater, cinema, drawing, dance) (2)  
(Recommended)  
English Composition I (3)  
English Composition II (3)  
Speech Communication (2)  
Philosophy/ Religion/ Ethics/ critical thinking (3)  
Psychology (3)  
Sociology or Anthropology (3)  
Statistics or Bio-statistics (3) (recommended)  
Medical Terminology (2)

You may have one science prerequisite course (excluding anatomy and physiology) in progress after December 31 of the year prior to when you plan to matriculate. The course must be completed by the end of the spring term or June 15th (whichever is later) of the year you plan to matriculate with a B or higher. Anatomy, Physiology, and all non-science prerequisites must be completed by December 31 of the year prior to when you plan to enter University of La Verne's PA Program. No exceptions will be made.

- Human Anatomy and Physiology with lab and Microbiology with lab is recommended to have been completed within 7 years and must not be completed > 10 years of the cohort start date to ensure recent knowledge in the subject area. Human Anatomy and Physiology (I and II) can be a combined course for a total of 8 semester hours.

- Human Anatomy and Physiology with lab, Chemistry with lab and Biology with lab and Microbiology with lab must not be taken online or correspondence format.

\*Prerequisite coursework with labs that were complete online from spring 2020 through fall 2021 will be accepted for admission consideration. As of January 2022, all core science course labs must be an in-person experience. The program wants to ensure that all students have tactile experiences in using laboratory equipment. Any updates to this policy due to COVID-19 will be published online.

- Repeated courses will have the lesser grade removed from consideration. Applicants must list all repeated courses, including those repeated more than once, to have the courses excluded.

- 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). Equivalent scores on the Duolingo will also be accepted for admission consideration.

- 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 of the sense of vision and somatic sensation and is enhanced by a 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 the motor functions 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 responsibility's 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. We recommend that one be from a practicing MD/DO/PA and one be from a college professor or supervisor.

Shadowing is recommended but not required. Shadowing for 20 or more hours should be documented on the Shadowing Verification Form (hyperlink: <https://artsci.laverne.edu/physician-assistant/shadowing-verification-form/>).

- 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 the 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 catalog. 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.

**Advanced 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 The PA Program will guarantee an interview to graduates with a degree from the University of La Verne who meet the admission criteria and have applied to the program. An interview does not imply nor guarantee admission to the program.