PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT – M.P.A.

Loma Linda University offers a professional course of study leading to the Master of Physician Assistant (M.P.A.) degree. This degree prepares students for medical work as midlevel health-care professionals.

The program consists of didactic and clinical phases that run concurrently for eight quarters over a 24-month period. A new class is accepted annually. Students are selected from a variety of clinical backgrounds. Each applicant is evaluated based on the following: experience in patient care, duration of experience, level of patient contact, and degree of responsibility.

Mission statement
Loma Linda University Department of Physician Assistant (PA) Sciences educates primary care physician assistants who will provide health care in collaboration with physicians as active members of a professional health-care team. We are committed to excellence and compassion for the whole person and quality health care for under-served communities locally and globally, in accordance with the mission of Loma Linda University and the School of Allied Health Professions.

Vision
Graduates of the Loma Linda University Master of Physician Assistant Program will be recognized for professional excellence, integrity, empathy, teamwork, and advocating lifestyle changes to promote wholeness.

Program learning outcomes
In addition to the stated institutional learning outcomes (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/about-university/institutional-learning-outcomes), at the end of this program, the graduate should be able to:

1. Apply the basic sciences to physician assistant sciences.
2. Demonstrate clinical skills in patient care settings
3. Demonstrate critical-thinking skills in physician assistant sciences and practice.
4. Exhibit professionalism appropriate for physician assistants.
5. Provide culturally proficient, whole person care to individuals and communities
6. Demonstrate a commitment to the promotion of the physician assistant profession

Housing
On-campus housing is available for men and women. For information on the men's dormitory (Daniells' Residence), call 909/558-4561. For information on the women's dormitory (Lindsay Hall), call 909/558-4561.

Financial aid
Applications for financial aid should be submitted early, even before the student is admitted into the program. Processing of financial aid should be done by January 1. The Student Financial Aid Office will help applicants obtain the necessary applications and guide them in the process of applying for aid. Applicants for aid must contact the Office of Financial Aid, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350 at 909/558-4509.

Accreditation
The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Loma Linda University Physician Assistant program sponsored by Loma Linda 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 March 2027. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

Admissions
Applications are accepted between May 1 and October 1, 11:59 pm EST. Applications must be made through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants. This service is available at <caspaonline.org (https://portal.caspaonline.org)>. In addition, completion of a secondary application from Loma Linda University is required. Completed applications and all supporting documents must be received by the Department of Physician Assistant Sciences no later than December 15, 11:59 pm PST. Required interviews are granted to qualified applicants upon invitation by the admissions committee. The applicant must also complete the following requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution, completed by December 31 of the year of application.
- An overall G.P.A. of at least 3.0 or higher and a science G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Three letters of recommendation—one from a practicing M.D., D.O., or P.A. (not from shadowing, friend, or relative) with whom the applicant has worked in a paid patient care role.
- Documented paid patient-care experience of 2,000 hours minimum by matriculation—it is preferred that this requirement be completed by the time the application is submitted but must be completed by matriculation in the program. Student clinical hours, shadowing, and volunteer experience are not acceptable. An example or definition of preferred direct patient-care experience are those accredited, credentialed professions that provide: patient assessment, treatment, patient-care plans, and diagnostic testing. Preferred applicants will have direct patient-care experience working in clinical settings that involve a range of patient responsibility and involve a high level of critical thinking.
- Complete all prerequisite course work at a regionally accredited college before being admitted to a program in the School of Allied Health Professions. Note: Grades below C are not accepted as prerequisites.
- A minimum score of 550 (paper based), 213 (computer based), or 80 (Internet based) from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) must be submitted for any applicant whose native language is not English or whose secondary education has been given outside the United States. Any student with a score on the TOEFL writing test (TWE) of less than 4 will be required to do remedial work during the program and retake the TOEFL. TOEFL scores are valid for two years.
- Prerequisites:

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- Prerequisites:
• Only two prerequisite courses can be outstanding at the time of submission of the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants application (one science, one non-science), even if the course will be completed prior to the applicant submitting his or her supplemental application.
• Science prerequisites must include an on-campus laboratory component.
• All prerequisite course work must be taken at a regionally accredited institution in the United States.

Prerequisite courses
College-level prerequisite courses include the following:

Human anatomy and physiology with laboratory, complete sequence OR separate courses in human anatomy with laboratory and human physiology with laboratory. Must cover all organ systems
General chemistry, one-year sequence with laboratory or a sequence in inorganic, organic, and biochemistry with laboratory (three quarters or two semesters)
General microbiology with laboratory. Must cover medically important bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa.
General psychology or equivalent
General sociology or equivalent or Cultural anthropology or equivalent
College-level algebra or equivalent

English, one year (language courses not accepted)

Recommended
Statistics
Medical terminology
Conversational Spanish

Preference given to
Seventh-day Adventists
Graduates of Loma Linda University
Applicants from underrepresented populations
Applicants with a history of meaningful, continuous involvement in community service consistent with the mission and values of Loma Linda University
Applicants with documented military service

Program requirements

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<th>First Year</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>PAST 501</td>
<td>Anatomy for Physician Assistants I</td>
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<td>PAST 502</td>
<td>Anatomy for Physician Assistants II</td>
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<td>PAST 504</td>
<td>Primary Care Pediatrics</td>
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<td>PAST 505</td>
<td>Women's Health Care</td>
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<td>PAST 511</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Physician Assistants I</td>
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<td>PAST 512</td>
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<td>PAST 547</td>
<td>Basic Medical Science</td>
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<td>PAST 551</td>
<td>Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants I</td>
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<td>Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants II</td>
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<td>PAST 553</td>
<td>Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants III</td>
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<td>PAST 554</td>
<td>Clinical Skills for Physician Assistants</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAST 556</td>
<td>Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion</td>
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<td>PAST 558</td>
<td>Psychiatry for Physician Assistants</td>
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<td>PAST 571</td>
<td>Multicultural Competencies for Physician Assistants</td>
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<td>PAST 572</td>
<td>Cultural Immersion for Physician Assistants</td>
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<th>Second Year</th>
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<td>PAST 516</td>
<td>Physician Assistant Professional Issues</td>
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<td>PAST 603</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
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<td>PAST 701</td>
<td>Rotation I</td>
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<td>PAST 702</td>
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<td>Rotation VII</td>
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<td>PAST 708</td>
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Total Units: 128

Eight six-week clinical rotations, including: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, behavioral medicine, and one elective are required.

Normal time to complete the program
2.33 years (eight [8] academic quarters) — full-time enrollment required
Courses

PAST 501. Anatomy for Physician Assistants I. 2 Units.
First of three courses in anatomy for physician assistants. Study of the anatomical structure of the human body by organ system. Includes dissection of cadavers and preserved specimens; and, histology, anatomic relations, and the anatomical basis for disease, injury and dysfunction.

PAST 502. Anatomy for Physician Assistants II. 2 Units.
Second of three courses in anatomy for physician assistants. Study of the anatomical structure of the human body by organ system. Includes dissection of cadavers and preserved specimens; and, histology, anatomic relations, and the anatomical basis for disease, injury and dysfunction. Prerequisite: PAST 501.

PAST 503. Anatomy for Physician Assistants III. 2 Units.
Third of three courses in anatomy for physician assistants. Study of the anatomical structure of the human body by organ system. Includes dissection of cadavers and preserved specimens; and, histology, anatomic relations, and the anatomical basis for disease, injury and dysfunction. Prerequisite: PAST 501.

PAST 504. Primary Care Pediatrics. 2 Units.
Introduces common medical and surgical disorders encountered in pediatric medicine. Emphasizes primary care concepts in the care of children. Introduces rare disorders that the physician assistant may encounter in primary care. Presentation of disease processes mirrors adult medicine by discussing etiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnostic work-up, and management.

PAST 505. Women's Health Care. 2 Units.
Common problems encountered in caring for women; management of these problems. Etiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and diagnostic work-up.

PAST 506. Pharmacology for Physician Assistants I. 2 Units.
The first of three parts of a continuum of courses that study the basic concepts of pharmaceuticals used in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases—including a systematic presentation of pharmacology and the therapeutic value of the drugs used in medicine. Related topics include drug legislation, routes of administration, adverse effects, drug interactions, and drug toxicity, with special consideration to pediatric and geriatric pharmacology.

PAST 507. Pharmacology for Physician Assistants II. 2 Units.
The second of three parts of a continuum of courses that studies the basic concepts of pharmaceuticals used in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases—including a systematic presentation of pharmacology and the therapeutic value of the drugs used in medicine. Related topics include drug legislation, routes of administration, adverse effects, drug interactions, and drug toxicity, with special consideration to pediatric and geriatric pharmacology. Prerequisite: PAST 501.

PAST 508. Pharmacology for Physician Assistants III. 2 Units.
The third of three parts of a continuum of courses that studies the basic concepts of pharmaceuticals used in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases—including a systematic presentation of pharmacology and the therapeutic value of the drugs used in medicine. Related topics include drug legislation, routes of administration, adverse effects, drug interactions, and drug toxicity, with special consideration of pediatric and geriatric pharmacology. Prerequisite: PAST 501, PAST 502.

PAST 510. Medical Microbiology. 2 Units.
Provides an overview of scientific principles as they pertain to the practice of clinical medicine. Emphasizes microorganisms commonly encountered by physician assistants in clinical practice. Provides a foundation for principles of clinical medicine and pharmacology.

PAST 511. Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants I. 2 Units.
Exploration of normal physiological function from a systems-based medical perspective which serves as a foundation for understanding the process of disease. Includes etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of medical disorders.

PAST 512. Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants II. 2 Units.
Exploration of normal physiological function from a systems-based medical perspective which serves as a foundation for understanding the process of disease. Includes etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of medical disorders. Prerequisite: PAST 511.

PAST 513. Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants III. 2 Units.
Exploration of normal physiological function from a systems-based medical perspective which serves as a foundation for understanding the process of disease. Includes etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of medical disorders. Prerequisite: PAST 511.

PAST 516. Physician Assistant Professional Issues. 2 Units.
A history of the physician assistant (PA) profession and current trends and issues. Includes the PA’s role in health-care delivery, political, legal, and intraprofessional factors that affect PA practice, and the PA’s role in relation to physicians and other health-care providers. Addresses professional responsibility and biomedical ethics, professional organizations, program accreditation, graduate certification and recertification, employment considerations, and professional liability.

PAST 547. Basic Medical Science. 3 Units.
Provides an overview of scientific principles as they pertain to the practice of clinical medicine. Emphasizes microorganisms commonly encountered by physician assistants in clinical practice. Provides a foundation for principles of clinical medicine and pharmacology.

PAST 551. Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants I. 2 Units.
Exploration of normal physiological function from a systems-based medical perspective which serves as a foundation for understanding the process of disease. Includes etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of medical disorders.

PAST 552. Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants II. 2 Units.
Exploration of normal physiological function from a systems-based medical perspective which serves as a foundation for understanding the process of disease. Includes etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of medical disorders. Prerequisite: PAST 551.

PAST 553. Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants III. 2 Units.
Exploration of normal physiological function from a systems-based medical perspective which serves as a foundation for understanding the process of disease. Includes etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of medical disorders. Prerequisite: PAST 551.

PAST 554. Clinical Skills for Physician Assistants. 5 Units.
Introduces the basic skills and knowledge needed to evaluate and treat common illnesses and injuries. Safety, aseptic technique, BLS, ACLS, wound care, local anesthesia, suturing, casting, splinting, use of various tubes and drains, and emergency medicine; and surgery for physician assistants. Includes participation in clinical simulations for enhanced skill development.

PAST 556. Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion. 2 Units.
Selected topics dealing with disease prevention. Includes relevance of statistics, epidemiology, research designs, and clinical trials; and, disease trends and lifestyle modification. Examines the roles of physical activity, nutrition, immunization, and public health as approaches in communicable disease prevention. Addresses clinical preventive services leading to tailored health maintenance plans for individual patients.

PAST 558. Psychiatry for Physician Assistants. 3 Units.
Focuses on diagnosis and treatment of major psychiatric and mental disorders. Topics include depression, anxiety, phobias, substance and eating disorders, somatoform, psychoses, neuroses, and personality disorders.

PAST 571. Multicultural Competencies for Physician Assistants. 3 Units.
PAST 572. Cultural Immersion for Physician Assistants. 3 Units.
Emphasizes health and medicine as PA students obtain a cross-cultural experience while interacting with non-English-speaking patients and gaining a greater understanding of their patients' culture. Requires completion of a community-based service project and immersion within the local community. Begins in Winter Quarter with culmination in the Summer Quarter.

PAST 575. Clinical Correlation for Physician Assistants I. 1 Unit.
Addresses critical thought process needed for diagnosis and management of clinical problems.

PAST 576. Clinical Correlation for Physician Assistants II. 1 Unit.
Teaches students to apply knowledge gained throughout the didactic curriculum via an interactive learning experience. Emphasizes the critical thought process needed for diagnosis and management of clinical problems. Prerequisite: PAST 575.

PAST 577. Clinical Correlation for Physician Assistants III. 1 Unit.
Emphasizes critical thought process needed for diagnosis and management of clinical problems. Prerequisite: PAST 575, PAST 576.

PAST 578. Clinical Correlation for Physician Assistants IV. 1 Unit.
Emphasizes the critical thought process needed for diagnosis and management of clinical problems. Prerequisite: PAST 575, PAST 576, PAST 577.

PAST 581. Physical Diagnosis for Physician Assistants I. 2 Units.
Part one of a four-part sequence of lecture, demonstration, and practice in the art and science of obtaining a complete medical history and performing the physical examination.

PAST 582. Physical Diagnosis for Physician Assistants II. 3 Units.
Part two of a four-part sequence of lecture, demonstration, and practice in the art and science of obtaining a complete medical history and performing the physical examination. Prerequisite: PAST 581.

PAST 583. Physical Diagnosis for Physician Assistants III. 2 Units.
Part three of a four-part sequence of lecture, demonstration, and practice in the art and science of obtaining a complete medical history and performing the physical examination. Prerequisite: PAST 582.

PAST 584. Physical Diagnosis for Physician Assistants IV. 2 Units.
Part four of a four-part sequence of lecture, demonstration, and practice in the art and science of obtaining a complete medical history and performing the physical examination. Requires satisfactory completion of the comprehensive physical examination and the didactic year objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). Prerequisite: PAST 583.

PAST 591. Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants I. 4 Units.
Introduction to common medical disorders encountered in primary care and management of these disorders. Includes clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, and management of the conditions studied. Based upon NCCPA blueprint standards. Prerequisite: PAST 575, PAST 576.

PAST 592. Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants II. 5 Units.
Second of four courses that study common medical disorders encountered in primary care, as well as the management of these disorders. Includes the clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, and management of the conditions studied. Course objectives and specific learning objectives based on NCCPA blueprint. Prerequisite: PAST 591.

PAST 593. Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants III. 4 Units.
Third of four courses that study common medical disorders encountered in primary care, as well as the management of these disorders. Includes the clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, and management of the conditions studied. Course objectives and specific learning objectives based upon NCCPA blueprint. Prerequisite: PAST 591, PAST 592.

PAST 594. Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants IV. 2 Units.
Fourth of four courses that study common medical disorders encountered in primary care, as well as the management of these disorders. Includes the clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, and management of the conditions studied. Course objectives and specific learning objectives based upon NCCPA blueprint. Prerequisite: PAST 591, PAST 592, PAST 593.

PAST 601. Evidence-Based Medicine for Physician Assistants I. 2 Units.
Introduces student to evidence-based practice, emphasizing the use of medical literature to evaluate and improve the practice of clinical medicine. Teaches student to assess medically oriented information online, as well as evidence-based medicine databases.

PAST 602. Evidence-Based Medicine for Physician Assistants II. 2 Units.
Application of evidence-based medicine to the development of a literature review on a selected topic in physician assistant practice. Begins in Winter Quarter with completion in the Summer Quarter. Preparation for the Capstone project. Prerequisite: PAST 601.

PAST 603. Capstone. 2 Units.
Investigation of a topic related to an area of interest within primary care or the PA profession using an evidence-based, investigational approach. Includes completion of a capstone project and personal portfolio reflective of University values. Taught Fall through Summer quarters during the clinical year. Prerequisite: PAST 602.

PAST 701. Rotation I. 6 Units.
A required six-week rotation in outpatient and/or inpatient settings in any of the following areas of concentration: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry/behavioral medicine; and elective rotations through a medical or surgical service of choice.

PAST 702. Rotation II. 6 Units.
A required six-week rotation in outpatient and/or inpatient settings in any of the following areas of concentration: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry/behavioral medicine; and elective rotation through a medical or surgical service of choice.

PAST 703. Rotation III. 6 Units.
A required six-week rotation in outpatient and/or inpatient settings in any of the following areas of concentration: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry/behavioral medicine; and elective rotation through a medical or surgical service of choice.

PAST 704. Rotation IV. 6 Units.
A required six-week rotation in outpatient and/or inpatient settings in any of the following areas of concentration: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry/behavioral medicine; and elective rotation through a medical or surgical service of choice.
PAST 705. Rotation V. 6 Units.
A required six-week rotation in outpatient and/or inpatient settings in any of the following areas of concentration: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry/behavioral medicine; and elective rotation through a medical or surgical service of choice.

PAST 706. Rotation VI. 6 Units.
A required six-week rotation in outpatient and/or inpatient settings in any of the following areas of concentration: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry/behavioral medicine; and elective rotation through a medical or surgical service of choice.

PAST 707. Rotation VII. 6 Units.
A required six-week rotation in outpatient and/or inpatient settings in any of the following areas of concentration: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry/behavioral medicine; and elective rotation through a medical or surgical service of choice.

PAST 708. Rotation VIII. 6 Units.
A required six-week rotation in outpatient and/or inpatient settings in any of the following areas of concentration: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry/behavioral medicine; and elective rotation through a medical or surgical service of choice.