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 twenty-four 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 underserved 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 objectives
1. To provide a curriculum whose required academic content and clinical experience will equip graduates to provide competent medical care that will enhance the services of the medical profession.
2. To graduate PAs who enhance the services of supervising physicians as part of the physician-PA team and collaborate with other members of an interdisciplinary health care team to provide quality patient care.
3. To graduate PAs who will utilize their education and training to make significant contributions to the health of the community.
4. To graduate PAs who improve access to medical services by providing whole person care to those living in underserved communities.
5. To graduate PAs who are culturally competent and able to care for diverse populations with compassion and excellence.
6. To graduate PAs who provide care with the highest ethical standards.
7. To graduate PAs who are lifelong learners and actively engaged in the PA profession.

Program outcomes
In addition to the stated institutional learning outcomes (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/about-university/institutional-learning-outcomes), the M.P.A. degree student is expected to meet the following program learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate basic science knowledge in physician assistant sciences.
2. Demonstrate clinical skills in physician assistant sciences 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 (Daniels' 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
At its March 2017 meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) placed the Loma Linda University Physician Assistant program sponsored by Loma Linda University on Accreditation-Probation status until its next review in March 2019.

Probation is a temporary status of accreditation conferred when a program does not meet the Standards and when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Once placed on probation, programs that still fail to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and/or risk having their accreditation withdrawn.

Specific questions regarding the program and its plans should be directed to the program director at <gglavaz@llu.edu> (gglavaz@llu.edu) and/or the appropriate institutional official(s).

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 (CASPA). 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) who has worked with you in your 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 for credit.
- 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:
  - Only two prerequisite courses can be outstanding at the time of submission of the CASPA 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

One year of general chemistry sequence with laboratory or a sequence in inorganic, organic, and biochemistry with laboratory (3 quarters or 2 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

One year of English (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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAST 504</td>
<td>Primary Care Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 505</td>
<td>Women's Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 518</td>
<td>Anatomy for Physician Assistants I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 519</td>
<td>Anatomy for Physician Assistants II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 520</td>
<td>Anatomy for Physician Assistants III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 540</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAST 541</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 542</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAST 543</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants III</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAST 544</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Physician Assistants I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 545</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Physician Assistants II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 546</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Physician Assistants III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 547</td>
<td>Basic Medical Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 551</td>
<td>Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 552</td>
<td>Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 553</td>
<td>Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 554</td>
<td>Clinical Skills for Physician Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 556</td>
<td>Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 558</td>
<td>Psychiatry for Physician Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 571</td>
<td>Multicultural Competencies for Physician Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 572</td>
<td>Cultural Immersion for Physician Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 580</td>
<td>Clinical Correlation for Physician Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 581</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis for Physician Assistants I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 582</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis for Physician Assistants II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 583</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis for Physician Assistants III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 584</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis for Physician Assistants IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST 601</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Medicine for Physician Assistants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Courses

**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, 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 516. Physician Assistant Professional Issues. 2 Units.**
A historical perspective of the physician assistant (PA) profession, as well as current trends and issues; the PA's role in health-care delivery; political and legal factors that affect PA practice; intraprofessional factors and the PA's role in relation to physicians and other providers. Importance of professional responsibility and of biomedical ethics in relation to the PA's role as health-care provider. Content relating to PA professional organizations, program accreditation, and graduate certification and recertification; employment considerations; and professional liability.

**PAST 518. Anatomy for Physician Assistants I. 2 Units.**
The first of a three-course sequence. Studies the anatomical structure of the human body by organ systems, maintaining a balance between gross anatomical study and histology. Emphasizes form-function relationships. Laboratory study includes working with human skeletal collections and dissection of cadavers and preserved specimens.

**PAST 519. Anatomy for Physician Assistants II. 2 Units.**
Gross and microscopic anatomy of the human body. Lecture, laboratory with cadaver dissection, demonstration, and slides. Orientation to structure of various systems of the body. Continues PAST 518. Prerequisite: PAST 518.

**PAST 540. Introduction to Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants. 2 Units.**
Introduces study of common medical and/or surgical disorders encountered in general adult medicine. Sets the foundation for clinical medicine courses—evaluating typical clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, EKG interpretation, and management of disorders.

**PAST 541. Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants I. 5 Units.**
Study of common medical and/or surgical disorders encountered in general adult medicine. Typical clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, EKG interpretation, and management of disorders.

**PAST 542. Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants II. 5 Units.**
Part II of the three-quarter sequence introducing the student to a study of common medical and/or surgical disorders encountered in general adult medicine. Includes typical clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, and management of disorders. Prerequisite: PAST 541.

**PAST 543. Clinical Medicine for Physician Assistants III. 3 Units.**
Part III of the three-quarter sequence introducing the student to the study of common medical and/or surgical disorders encountered in general adult and pediatric medicine. Includes typical clinical presentation, etiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic work-up, and management of disorders. Prerequisite: PAST 541, PAST 542.

**PAST 544. Pharmacology for Physician Assistants I. 2 Units.**
Part I of a three-part course that covers basic concepts of pharmaceuticals used in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease. Systematic presentation of the pharmacology and therapeutic value of drugs used in medicine. Related topics—with special consideration of pediatric and geriatric pharmacology—include drug legislation, PDR, routes of administration, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, adverse effects, drug interactions, and drug toxicity.

**PAST 545. Pharmacology for Physician Assistants II. 2 Units.**
A continuation of 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. Emphasizes safety, routes of administration, adverse effects, drug interactions, and drug toxicity, with special consideration given to pediatric and geriatric pharmacology. Prerequisite: PAST 544.

**PAST 546. Pharmacology for Physician Assistants III. 2 Units.**
An overview of 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 given to pediatric and geriatric pharmacology. Prerequisite: PAST 545.

**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.
Provides a foundation for clinical medicine through the evaluation of normal human physiology, followed by the pathology of diseases important to each major organ system. Addresses fundamental mechanisms of health and disease.

PAST 552. Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants II. 2 Units.
Provides a foundation for clinical medicine through the evaluation of normal human physiology, followed by the pathology of diseases important to each major organ system. Addresses fundamental mechanisms of health and disease. Continues PAST 551. Prerequisite: PAST 551.

PAST 553. Normal and Pathologic Physiology for Physician Assistants III. 2 Units.
Provides a foundation for clinical medicine through the evaluation of normal human physiology, followed by the pathology of diseases important to each major organ system. Addresses fundamental mechanisms of health and disease. Prerequisite: PAST 552.

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 555. Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion. 2 Units.
Selected topics dealing with aspects of disease prevention. Relevance of statistics, epidemiology, research designs, and clinical trials; as well as selected disease trends and lifestyle modification. Includes the role of physical activity, nutrition, immunization, and public health approaches to communicable diseases. Provides practical information about how to perform clinical preventive services and allows the physician assistant student to gain skills in designing a tailored health maintenance plan for the individual patient.

PAST 556. 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. Prerequisite: PAST 571.

PAST 580. Clinical Correlation for Physician Assistants. 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. Taught from the Fall Quarter through Summer Quarter of the didactic year.

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 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.
Continuation of PAST 601, with discussions and application of evidence-based medicine. Student develops a topic; completes a full review of the literature; and in consultation with a faculty mentor, produces an analytic paper related to evidence-based medicine in physician assistant practice. Begins in Winter Quarter with completion in the Summer Quarter. Prepares student for the capstone project. Prerequisite: PAST 601.

PAST 603. Capstone. 2 Units.
Course commences during Fall Quarter of the clinical year and culminates in the Summer Quarter with completion of the capstone project. Project requires investigation of a topic related to an area of interest within primary care or the PA profession using an evidence-based, investigational approach; as well as completion of a personal portfolio reflective of the values of Loma Linda University. Requires satisfactory completion of the clinical year objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). Prerequisite: PAST 602.

PAST 701. Rotation I. 6 Units.
A required four-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.