

# Master of Physician Assistant Studies, MPA

## Admission

Applicants must:

- be citizens or permanent residents of the United States;
- hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution in the United States (the degree does not have to be completed at the time of admission, but must be conferred prior to the start of the program)<sup>1</sup>;
- have a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale;
- have a minimum overall science GPA of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale or a science GPA of at least 3.20 on a 4.00 scale on the most recent 40 s.h. of college-level, science-based coursework (science courses are subject to department approval);
- have completed the prerequisite courses no more than 10 years before they apply and all courses must be taken for letter grades (see "Prerequisite Science Courses");
- have completed a minimum of 1,000 hours of direct patient health care experience by Dec. 31 of the application year (hours subject to departmental approval and applicants can be awarded between 0–100% of hours completed);
- submit three letters of recommendation—one must be from a collegiate academic reference and one must be from a health care supervisor (shadowing experience does not count, but may be used for the third recommendation letter);
- meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College (see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website);
- be able to meet the program's technical standards (see "Technical Standards" below).

<sup>1</sup> International applicants will have their credentials reviewed for degree completion and equivalency.

## Prerequisite Science Courses

Applicants must have completed preparatory science courses in biological, chemical, and statistical sciences. Prerequisite courses can be in progress at the time of admission unless stated otherwise. Science-based courses are subject to the approval by the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and Services.

### Biological Science

These courses are required.

- An introductory biology or zoology course sequence (minimum of a two-semester sequence unless otherwise approved).
- An animal, exercise, or human physiology course.
- A minimum of three additional upper-level biological science courses. To qualify as upper level, the biological science courses must require a prerequisite course

to enroll. Courses that have been used to satisfy this requirement include cell biology, cell physiology, endocrinology, genetics, histology, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology, neurobiology, pharmacology, and other related disciplines.

### Chemical Science

These courses are required.

- An introductory chemistry course sequence (a minimum of a two-semester sequence, unless otherwise approved).
- At least one semester of organic chemistry (must be at a higher level than a survey of organic chemistry course).
- At least one semester of biochemistry (must be at a higher level than a survey of biochemistry course and be completed at the time of application).

### Statistical Science

This course is required.

- Any course with a statistical focus, such as a general, introductory, psychological, or business statistics course; or biostatistics; or a qualitative research methods course.

Satisfaction of the basic admission requirements does not ensure acceptance to the program. The admission committee selects the applicants it considers best qualified. The admission committee requests interviews with the most qualified applicants.

## Technical Standards

Individuals admitted to the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and Services must possess the capability to complete the entire curriculum and earn the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree. The curriculum requires demonstrated proficiency in a variety of cognitive, problem-solving, manipulative, communicative, and interpersonal skills. For more information, view the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine Technical Standards for Admission and Retention on the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and Services website.

## Application Timeline and Process

Applications are accepted from the end of April to Oct. 1 for entry into the program the following August. Applicants must apply through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA).

The admission committee prefers that the majority of prerequisite course requirements be completed by the Oct. 1 application deadline.

All materials must be received and verified by CASPA, and all additional information requested by the Physician Assistant Studies and Services Program submitted by the Oct. 1 deadline.

All final decisions related to admission deadlines, processes, and decisions are up to the department administrator, in collaboration with the admission committee.