OUR PROFESSION
Physician Assistants (PAs) are licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs conduct history and physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventative health care, assist in surgery, and write prescriptions. For additional information on becoming a PA visit The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) on the web.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

ALL APPLICANTS MUST:

• Apply through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA): www.caspaonline.org.
• Have already earned a Bachelor’s degree from a US institution.
• Have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of \( \geq 2.75 \) which is documented on the official undergraduate degree transcript.
• Applicants with a Bachelor’s degree earned outside of the US must send their transcripts to the World Education Services for translation. Then submit the results to CASPA, and have completed all the Medical Core Courses in the United States.
• Submit a GRE score – no more than 10 years old by the November 1st deadline.
• Complete a Criminal Background Check.
• All non-US citizens and applicants whose first language is not English must take the examination Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

MEDICAL CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Medical Core Courses must be no more than 10 years old by the application deadline. A grade of “C” or higher is required. Requirements are subject to change.

REQUIRED COURSES

• Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab (4 sem. hrs.)
• Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab (4 sem. hrs.)
• Biology/Zoology I & Lab (4 sem. hrs.)
• Chemistry I & Lab (4 sem. hrs.)
• Chemistry II & Lab (4 sem. hrs.)
• Microbiology & Lab (4 sem. hrs.)
• Organic Chemistry I & Lab (4 sem. hrs.)
• Organic Chemistry II or Biochemistry (3 sem. hrs.)

RECOMMENDED COURSES

• Genetics (3 sem. hrs.)
• Medical Terminology (1 sem. hrs.)
• Nutrition (3 sem. hrs.)
• Statistics (3 sem. hrs.)

A complete CASPA application includes:

• A personal statement that discusses the applicant’s motivation for seeking to become a PA and demonstrates an understanding of the profession.
• Three (3) letters of recommendation addressing the applicant’s potential as a physician assistant.
• One of the letters of recommendation should be from a practicing PA with whom the applicant has had a minimum of 40 hours of first-hand observation or “shadowing” experience.
• Documentation of a minimum of 300 hours of patient contact.
• Examples include: nurse, physical therapist, dental hygienist, respiratory therapist, clinical nutritionist, EMT, paramedic, patient care assistant, athletic trainer, scribe, and other experiences that require evaluating and/or triaging patients, providing care, or performing clinical services.
• TIP: It is to the advantage to any applicant to demonstrate a variety of patient care experiences among diverse populations, in different clinical and community settings.

APPLICANTS MUST:

• Have no history of drug abuse or conviction of a felony.
• Have no history of dismissal from another Physician Assistant program for academic or disciplinary reasons.
• Be able to meet the program’s Technical Standards.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All requirements must be completed and submitted to CASPA by the November 1st deadline for consideration for the PA class starting in the Fall semester the following year.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

UMES “RISING SENIOR” CONSIDERATION

UMES rising seniors who anticipate receiving their undergraduate degree at a Fall or Spring commencement are eligible to apply for consideration for acceptance into the Fall semester PA class following their graduation.

In order to be eligible for consideration the UMES student MUST:

• Be eligible for graduation (Fall or Spring).
• Complete a “Rising Senior” registration form.
• Initiate a CASPA application before the November 1st deadline.
• Have an cumulative undergraduate GPA of \( \geq 2.75 \).

• Be able to complete any outstanding application requirements by June 30th prior to their anticipated admission into the program in the following Fall semester if accepted.

NOTE: Admission is very competitive. Completion of program requirements or interview does not guarantee admission into the PA program.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS and INTERVIEW

Applicants submitting a complete CASPA application prior to the November 1st deadline may be invited for early interview. Interviews of selected candidates will be conducted December through March. The competitive applicant should:

• Be aware of the uniqueness of a PA program at an HBCU.
• Be able to discuss solutions to health disparities.
• Be able to articulate an understanding of diversity, professionalism, cultural competency, and have an interest in or experience in serving in a medically underserved area.

Criteria used in selection by the admissions committee include:

• Academic performance, grades, grade point averages in the required Medical Core courses.
• Participation and leadership in community service activities.
• Length, quality and variety of health care experience.
• An understanding of the history of the PA profession, the role and scope of PA practice.
• The candidate’s emotional and intellectual maturity as demonstrated during the interview including: interpersonal skills, the ability to clearly communicate and establish rapport with others.

ADMISSIONS

Admission decisions will be based on information contained in the CASPA application and the result of candidate interviews.

• Admission decisions will be made no later than April 15th.
• A non-refundable deposit of $600.00 is required. Upon enrollment the deposit is credited toward PA program activity fees.
to replace previously selected candidates who decline or who “no
show”.

Cognitive and behavioral abilities in order to assimilate knowledge, alternate candidates for admission to the program will be maintained.

Standards at: https://www.umes.edu/PA/Content.aspx?id=2480

develop professional judgment, and the physical capability to perform

the life span. The program utilizes standardized and simulated patient
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collaborative learning experiences.

The program will offer seats to 35 candidates. A wait-list of qualified
alternate candidates for admission to the program will be maintained
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The clinical year provides students with the opportunity to apply their
knowledge and skills to clinical situations. During the 12-month
clinical phase students complete ten 5-week clinical clerkships
throughout the Delmarva Peninsula and selected sites on the Western
Shore. Under the supervision of board certified physicians, certified
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including:

- Emergency Department
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- Ob-Gyn/Women’s Health
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Internal Medicine

The UMES PA program is accredited by the Accreditation Review
Commission on Education the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).
Graduates are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National
Certification Examination (PANCE).

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore
DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
2015 – 2017

“CLINIC READY”

The UMES Department of Physician Assistant offers a 28-month
program of study leading to a Masters of Medical Science Degree
(MMS) in Physician Assistant Studies.

ARC-PA ACCREDITED

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Graduates are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National
Certification Examination (PANCE).

OUR HISTORY

Established in 1999, the UMES Physician Assistant Program is the only
graduate level PA program sponsored by an Historically Black College
or University (HBCU).

OUR MISSION

As a component of an 1890 Land Grant University, the UMES
Department of Physician Assistant is committed to provide training to
qualified students who aspire to become PAs, particularly those from
medically underserved communities and groups under-represented in
the PA workforce.

OUR GOAL

We offer a dynamic curriculum adaptive to changes in the health care
environment which prepares well educated, culturally sensitive, and
clinically competent Physician Assistants to provide quality health care
in rural and urban communities.

Available Seats and Wait List
The program will offer seats to 35 candidates. A wait-list of qualified
alternate candidates for admission to the program will be maintained
to replace previously selected candidates who decline or who “no show”.

Graduate School Application
All candidates selected for interview must apply and be eligible for
admission into the Graduate School. Final acceptance is conditional
upon meeting the requirements of the UMES Graduate School.

Financial Aid
Financial aid is available. For more information visit:

Didactic Curriculum (August – December)
During the 16-month didactic phase students will be challenged by
foundational courses which include instruction in applied medical
sciences, clinical medicine covering all organ systems, public health,
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Tuition and Fees (2015-2017)

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