



Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

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Be a key player in health care delivery

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies is a professional degree program that prepares students academically and professionally for responsibilities and services as a physician assistant.

PAs are medical professionals who often serve as a patient's principal health care provider. They diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, and prescribe medications. They practice in all 50 states and in every medical setting and specialty.

St. Bonaventure University's PA Studies program has been granted accreditation-provisional status by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).*

A demanding 28-month curriculum

PA Studies at St. Bonaventure University is a rigorous full-time master's degree program consisting of 122 credit hours divided into three phases that span 28 consecutive months:

- Didactic Phase: a preclinical year spanning 13 months
- Clinical Phase: 14 months of supervised clinical education and coursework
- Summative Phase: a five-week-long evaluation and Board exam preparation

Supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs) are distributed among nine clinical rotations, forming the basis of the clinical and socialization processes for adaptation to the roles/functions of a PA. Students complete the curriculum in a specified sequence, as each semester's coursework is a prerequisite to the next. Students are to successfully complete each semester on time as a cohort.

Academic & technical standards

Students are to meet certain acceptable cognitive and psychomotor performance standards, which are

communicated in the syllabus. A student's performance is assessed by written exams, oral presentations and research papers, and their attainment of targeted behavioral, psychomotor and clinical skill competencies.

A student must achieve and maintain the required 3.0 semester grade-point average to remain in good academic standing and graduate from the program.

In addition to meeting academic standards, students must meet certain technical standards: abilities and skills deemed essential to complete the education and training associated with physician assistant education, and to practice as a PA.

Minimal competency levels must be demonstrated in five categorical areas:

- Observation
- Communication
- Critical reasoning (intellectual)
- Motor and sensory
- Behavioral/social

Modern, state-of-the-art facilities

Physician Assistant Studies is one of seven undergraduate and graduate programs offered by St. Bonaventure University's School of Health Professions. The school occupies the university's historic Francis Hall, where a comprehensive \$17.5 million renovation project was completed in 2021. Facilities include three exam rooms; 20 clinic exam tables and inpatient hospital style beds; high-tech classrooms with computers, microphone and speaker systems, high-end web cameras, projectors and TV displays; group study spaces with TVs as well as laptop and wireless connections; student locker rooms and laundry facilities; a student breakout room; and enhanced Wi-Fi throughout the facility.



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Admission criteria

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program at St. Bonaventure University will admit 35 students in January of 2022 and 40 students every January thereafter. Admission requirements include:

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States or Canada
- An overall GPA and prerequisite GPA of 3.0
- Completion of academic course and lab work in certain areas including anatomy & physiology, chemistry, biology & microbiology, genetics, humanities/social sciences, statistics, and psychology
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Completion of 500 hours of documented and verifiable patient care experience at the time of matriculation
- Three letters of recommendation (one from a medical provider: MD/DO, PA, or NP)

The program does not accept transfer credit or advanced standing. Students are expected to complete all didactic and clinical courses at SBU.

Students are discouraged from working while in the PA program, due to its robust nature. If you choose to work, you are not permitted to miss or reschedule lectures, lab sessions, or any part of the didactic or clinical educational requirements.

Bona Advantage

Bona Advantage is an opportunity for SBU undergraduate students to be assured of receiving an interview used to determine the students admitted to the PA Studies program each year.

To be considered for Bona Advantage, students must maintain a 3.25 GPA throughout their undergraduate education and meet the PA program's other

requirements. Meeting the requirements ensures that a student is granted an interview, which is very advantageous to the applicant.

Applying to the PA Studies program

Applications to the physician assistant studies program are accepted through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA), a service of the Physician Assistant Education Association.

To apply or learn more about PA Studies at SBU, visit www.sbu.edu/PAstudies.

*ARC-PA accreditation-provisional status

Accreditation-provisional status is granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding accreditation-provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than 5 years from matriculation of the first class.