

<i>When and how do I submit my application?</i>	Our current admission cycle is April 30, 2026 and closes April 1, 2027. Cohort 2029 will start the 25-month program in July 2027. Carefully check the Admission Requirements, Process, Technical Standards, and Frequently Asked Questions to ensure you meet the program's admission requirements. You do not need to complete a GRE, GMAT, or MCAT examination to qualify for entry. No secondary application is needed. The program adheres to a rolling-admission process. All applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible and to stay actively involved in each step of the admissions process to help ensure a smooth application experience. The CASPA verification process can take up to four weeks. Once verified, the program will begin evaluating applications. Throughout the entire admission cycle, CASPA verified applications will be reviewed, 25 seats will be filled, and a waitlist of alternative applicants maintained. Applications not meeting these admission requirements will be denied. All applications must be submitted through CASPA. Refer to the CASPA application help center for any question concerning your PA School application: https://help.liaisonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center CASPA Applicant Help Center: • Starting Your CASPA Application • Filling Out Your CASPA Application • Sending Your Official Transcripts and Test Scores to CASPA • Submitting and Monitoring Your CASPA Application
<i>Is there checklist I can use to help me determine if I am eligible for an interview?</i>	Checklist for Applicants to be Eligible for an Interview: ☐ Completed degree prior to matriculation ☐ If English is not your native language, or if English is not the primary language spoken in your home you must submit a TOFEL with your application. Reference the CASPA help center: "Submitting Your Official TOEFL Scores to CASPA" for detailed directions. ☐ Undergraduate or graduate overall CASPA-calculated GPA of 3.2, or greater ☐ Undergraduate science courses CASPA-calculated GPA of 3.2, or greater ☐ Successful completion (final grade must be any grade of "B" or higher) of all prerequisite courses with no more than two prerequisite courses in progress or planned. ☐ Prerequisite courses must have been completed from a regionally accredited college or university within the last 10 years from entry into the program. ☐ Outstanding prerequisite courses: Upload in Program Materials section (in the other tab) a document labeled "outstanding prerequisite courses" with course information including college/university, course description, credits, start date and end date. Courses must be completed by June 1, 2027. ☐ Completion of at least 500 hours of direct patient care experience Report in the CASPA Supporting Information section, Experiences tab, label "Direct Patient Care Experience" ☐ Physician Assistant shadowing hours (minimum 10 hours to receive advantage) Report in the CASPA Supporting Information section, Experiences tab, label "PA Shadowing Experience" ☐ Two letters of recommendation (highest score goes to PAs, MDs, DOs, NPs) Follow instructions in the Supporting Information section, Evaluation tab of your CASPA application.
<i>How is my GPA calculated?</i>	CASPA GPA calculations are used by the program to determine the GPA requirements: Overall GPA = 3.2 or higher (on a 4.0 scale), Science GPA = 3.2 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). CASPA's grade standardization process can be found in the 2025-26 CASPA applicant guide on page 32.
<i>My school operates on trimesters. How are the credit hours converted?</i>	CASPA calculates all GPAs in semester hours. Courses that were completed in quarter hours are converted to semester hours. The conversion ratio is 1.0 quarter hour = 0.667 semester hours. For example, a 4-quarter credit course becomes 2.67 semester credits, and a 5-quarter credit course converts to 3.33 semester credits. Reference the CASPA Applicant Help Center <Submitting and Monitoring Your CASPA Application < Verification and GPA Calculations for CASPA< Calculating Your CASPA GPAs.
<i>Is a "B-" an acceptable grade for a prerequisite course?</i>	Yes. Any grade of "B" includes a "B-".

<i>I have completed organic chemistry I and II. Am I still required to complete a biochemistry prerequisite?</i>	Yes, you must complete the biochemistry requirement. We do not accept substitutions for any of our prerequisites. Prerequisites listed in our admission requirements must be completed. Please note that 4 credits of Human anatomy with a lab and 4 credits of physiology with a lab is the equivalent of 4 credits of A&P I with a lab and 4 credits of A&P II with a lab.
<i>Do you accept prerequisite courses and labs from community colleges and Portage Learning? Can they be taken online?</i>	Prerequisite courses must be taken from a regionally accredited college or university. A&P I, A&P II, and Microbiology prerequisite courses must be taken with Lab. Labs cannot be taken online. However, all lecture courses may be taken online.
<i>Will experiences shadowing a PA strengthen my application?</i>	Below lists the ways shadowing a PA will strengthen your application: <u>Advantage:</u> Applicants who have shadowed a Physician Assistant for a minimum of 10 hours will have a scoring advantage. PA Shadowing hours are to be reported in the CASPA application. <u>Letters of recommendation:</u> Shadowing experiences are a great way to learn about health care with PAs, MDs, DOs, NPs and request letters of recommendation. Letters of Recommendation from a PA or healthcare provider are highest scored in the admission process. Two to three letters of recommendation are required. Medical Professional (PAs, MDs, DOs, and NPs) recommendations will be scored at a higher value. <u>Interview:</u> If invited to interview, you will be evaluated and scored on your Self-Awareness of the Role of Physician Assistants in the Healthcare Setting. <u>Self-Awareness of the Role of Physician Assistants in the Healthcare Setting</u> Shadowing a PA is one of the best ways to understand the role of a Physician Assistant in the healthcare setting and an important part of writing a personal statement for your application. The PA Professional Resource link on our webpage directs you to several resources that give information about the PA profession.
<i>When do interviews start? If I meet the minimum admission requirements, will I be invited for an interview?</i>	Interview Days will start in the summer and go on throughout the admission cycle. Interviews will be face-to-face and take place on the MU upper campus in the Baloga Hall. Applicants who meet the minimum Admission Requirements will be reviewed for interview consideration. Each application will be reviewed in an equitable and unbiased manner. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee an invitation for an interview. Only the most qualified candidates will be invited. Successful Applicants will have the following characteristics: Applicants who are invited to and participate in the PA Program interview are considered for program admission and will be evaluated and scored on the following criteria: ☐ Understanding of the Misericordia University PA Program ☐ Self-Awareness of the Role of Physician Assistants in the Healthcare Setting ☐ Patient Care Experience ☐ Commitment and Preparation to the PA Profession ☐ Experience in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ☐ Good Communication Skills ☐ Maturity, Professionalism, and Integrity
<i>English is not my native language and is not the primary language spoken in my home. Why do I need to complete the TOEFL exam prior to submitting my CASPA application?</i>	If English is not your native language, or if English is not the primary language spoken in your home, you must submit with your application the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Reading, listening, speaking, and writing English are required skills to support your success in the program. The TOEFL exam cost \$270 in the United States. Official TOEFL iBT and TOEFL iBT Home Edition scores are both accepted. Submit your scores electronically to CASPA directly from Educational Testing Services (ETS) using TOEFL code #3709. Paper copies are not accepted. Students should also indicate on the registration form that they wish the test results to be sent directly to Misericordia University. The TOEFL code for Misericordia University is 2087. The department code is 44. https://www.ets.org/toefl
<i>Is there housing available on campus?</i>	Yes. Graduate housing information can be found: https://www.misericordia.edu/life-at-mu/campus-life/housing-information/graduate-housing

<i>What are Technical Standards?</i>	Technical standards are required of all individuals who seek entry into and for successful progression through the Misericordia University Physician Assistant Program. Technical standards include: General Abilities, Perform Motor Tasks, Communicate, Maintain Safety, Observation, Cognitively Process, Demonstrate Professional and Social Behavior.
<i>Do I need to have health insurance coverage throughout the program?</i>	Yes. Students must maintain current health insurance throughout the program. A copy of the card will be required to be uploaded each year. If your card does not list coverage dates you will need to provide a proof of coverage letter outlining the dates of coverage or letter effective date each year. Pennie is the official online marketplace made possible by the State of Pennsylvania. https://pennie.com/ COMPASS is an online tool for Pennsylvanians to apply for many health and human service programs and manage benefit information. https://www.compass.dhs.pa.gov/home/#/
<i>Can I defer my acceptance into the PA Program?</i>	Misericordia University Physician Assistant Program does not offer deferred admission to any accepted students who wish to enter into the program in a future admission cycle. Once a deposit has been received, if a student elects to withdraw from the class they have been accepted into, they will lose their seat as well as the non-refundable deposit. Should they wish to be considered for admission at a later date they will need to reapply to the program through CASPA and be considered with that year's applicants.
<i>Are there any health care experience resources?</i>	Geisinger accepting applications for spring 2026 Hospital Elder Life Program https://www.timesleader.com/news/1715257/geisinger-accepting-applications-for-spring-2026-hospital-elder-life-program How to Apply: http://go.geisinger.org/elderlifego.geisinger.org/elderlife St. Luke's Advance Practice -Observer Program: St. Luke's offers college students, who are at least rising juniors, an opportunity to apply for the Physician Assistant Observer Program. https://www.slhn.org/advanced-practice/education/observer-program Scribe America: Medical scribes work alongside healthcare providers to enhance the delivery of care, reduce administrative burden, and improve care team workflow. https://www.scribeamerica.com/apply AAPA Healthcare Experience article: https://www.aapa.org/career-central/become-a-pa/accrue-healthcare-experience-patient-care-experience-before-pa-school/ PSPA PA shadowing experiences: https://pashadowonline.com/
<i>Do you offer the PA Program at any location other than main campus?</i>	The PA Program is offered at our main campus located in Dallas, PA. The PA Program is not offered at a geographically distant campus location.
<i>Why are Communications skills important to be a successful Physician Assistant Student?</i>	A PA-S must exhibit interpersonal skills to enable effective caregiving of patients, including the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively, with all members of a multidisciplinary health care team, patients, and those supporting patients, in person and in writing. Students must be able to clearly and accurately record information and accurately interpret verbal and nonverbal communications. A candidate/enrolled student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing in English. The candidate/enrolled student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms with the various disciplines in health care.
<i>Why are behavioral and social attributes important to be a successful Physician Assistant Student?</i>	Candidate/enrolled student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the realm of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, collegiality, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admission and education processes.

<i>What are some other skills important to be a successful Physician Assistant Student?</i>	Important skills include the ability to effectively handle and manage heavy workloads, function-effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of the uncertainties. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, collegiality, interest and motivation is also needed. Students with experiences and knowledge with diversity, equity and inclusion contribute to a rich learning environment where students learn from each other's shared experiences, skills, and cultural backgrounds.
<i>If I completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree (or higher-level degree) outside of the United States, what must I do to be eligible for admission?</i>	You must have your higher education record, including all course work and completed degree(s), evaluated by an organization accredited and licensed to do so. This evaluation must result in the determination of level of degree equivalency, as compared degrees completed and recognized within the United States. You must also be assigned a letter grade to each course and an overall GPA by the evaluating organization.
<i>I am a foreign medical graduate. Will I automatically be granted an interview or acceptance into the Misericordia University PA program?</i>	No, the Misericordia University PA Program does not grant advanced placement for anyone. Advanced standing or special consideration for previous coursework or degrees are not provided to anyone. All applicants will be evaluated and assessed through the same application and interview processes.