

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Santa Maria, California | atsu.edu/ccpa-admissions



2024 ENTERING CLASS

3.27

Average GPA

3.16

Average science GPA

27

Average age



CENTRAL COAST PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

A.T. Still University's (ATSU) Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program based in Santa Maria, California, is a 24-month, entry-level program.



PROGRAM MISSION

ATSU's Central Coast Physician Assistant (CCPA) program educates culturally competent physician assistants from diverse backgrounds to serve the primary care needs of medically underserved communities. The program prefers applications from:

- » First-generation college students.
- » Hometown Scholars.
- » Central Coast residents (*or those who have ties to the area*).



COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER PARTNERS

ATSU has collaborated with the National Association of Community Health Centers to integrate student clinical experiences in community health centers. Students in the CCPA program will be embedded at community health center partner locations and/or clinics that care for the underserved for a significant portion of their clinical experiences.

CURRICULUM

DIDACTIC YEAR (12 MONTHS)

- » Students spend first year at the Santa Maria location.
- » Facilitated learning with case studies, interactive learning, and assignments.

CLINICAL YEAR (12 MONTHS)

- » Supervised clinical practice experiences occur at partner community health centers located in various parts of the U.S.
- » Clinical practice experience areas include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, women's health, surgery, and behavioral health.

PREREQUISITES

Must have a grade of C or higher for all prerequisite courses

- » Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II with labs (*min. 6-8 semester credits*) *Note: 4 credit hours of anatomy with lab and 4 credit hours of physiology with lab may also be used to fulfill this requirement.*
- » Microbiology with lab (*min. 4 semester credits*)
- » General Chemistry I and II with labs (*min. 8 semester credits*)
- » Biochemistry or Organic Chemistry I (with or without lab) (*min. 3 semester credits*) *Note: advanced chemistry courses (200 level or higher) can substitute (provided it is not used already to satisfy the organic chemistry/biochemistry requirement).*
- » Statistics (biology or psychology stats accepted) (*3 semester/4 quarter credits*)
- » Medical Terminology (*min. 1 semester credit*)
- » No GRE required
- » Applicants must have earned a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a university/college in the U.S. accredited by a U.S. Department of Education institutional accreditor by Sept. 1 of the year of matriculation. (*min. 3.0 cumulative and science GPA*)

*All prerequisite courses have been taken within the past seven years.
All prerequisite courses completed at the time of application.*

To view complete, detailed admissions requirements and prerequisites, please visit: atsu.edu/ccpa-reqs

RECOMMENDED EXPERIENCE

Patient care experience: Experience in healthcare delivery sufficient to be able to recognize the physical and psychological demands of dealing with patients and to appreciate the challenges and rewards of being a healthcare professional.

Volunteering and/or community service: Providing social services to underserved or disadvantaged communities and/or persons.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

For requirements and application information, please visit: atsu.edu/ccpa-apply

ACCREDITATION

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Central Coast Physician Assistant Program sponsored by A.T. Still University of Health Sciences. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status 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 five years from matriculation of the first class. The program's accreditation history may be viewed on the ARC-PA website: www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-at-still-university-central-coast/

CONTACT ATSU ADMISSIONS

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[@ATSU_news](https://twitter.com/ATSU_news)

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ATSU offers programs in athletic training, audiology, biomedical sciences, dental medicine, health administration, health education, health sciences, kinesiology, medical science, nursing, occupational therapy, orthodontics, osteopathic medicine, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, public health, and speech-language pathology.

ATSU MISSION

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences serves as a learning-centered university dedicated to preparing highly competent professionals through innovative academic programs. The University is committed to continuing its osteopathic heritage and focus on whole person healthcare, scholarship, community health, interprofessional education, diversity, and underserved populations.

ATSU NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

A.T. Still University (ATSU) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable law. Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and retaliation are forms of discrimination prohibited by ATSU. Any person with questions concerning ATSU's nondiscrimination policies is directed to contact:

- » Arizona campus – Michael Zajac, MA, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, deputy Title IX coordinator
5845 E. Still Circle, Mesa, AZ 85206, 480.219.6026, michaelzajac@atsu.edu
- » Missouri campus – John Gardner, PhD, MEd, Title IX coordinator
800 W. Jefferson St., Kirksville, MO 63501, 660.626.2113, johngardner@atsu.edu
- » California campus – Dianne Korth, MA, director of student affairs, deputy Title IX coordinator
1075 E. Betteravia Rd., Ste. 201, Santa Maria, CA 93454, 805.621.7681, diannekorth@atsu.edu

Any person with questions concerning ATSU's Title IX compliance is directed to contact:

- » John Gardner, PhD, MEd, Title IX coordinator
800 W. Jefferson St., Kirksville, MO 63501, 660.626.2113, johngardner@atsu.edu

More information, including ATSU Policy No. 90-210: Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation, may be found at atsu.edu/titleix.

In compliance with the Clery Act and Section 86 of Department of Education regulations, the University makes available to all prospective students, admitted students, and current students: ATSU's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASR) and Drug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Program (DAMPP). The ASR may be found online at atsu.edu/security. The DAMPP may be found online at atsu.edu/dampp. Printed copies of each report may be requested from studentaffairs@atsu.edu.