

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (M.S.)

A.T. Still University

Home of the world's first osteopathic medical school, founded in 1892, A.T. Still University is a renowned healthcare education and training university and a leading educator in multidisciplinary healthcare founded on whole person care. ATSU comprises the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM), the Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS), the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH), the School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (SOMA), and the online School of Health Management (SHM).

Arizona School of Health Sciences

The Arizona School of Health Sciences located in Mesa, Arizona, offers doctoral and Master of Science degrees in a wide range of healthcare disciplines and strives to advance healthcare by educating compassionate, competent healthcare professionals. The school's interdisciplinary and technology emphasis, with incorporation of a philosophy of wholeness and treatment of body, mind, and spirit, creates an excellent professional educational environment.

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Physician Assistants (PAs) are healthcare professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive healthcare, write prescriptions and assist in surgery. Within the physician-PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. PA practice may include education, research, and administrative services. PAs are trained in intensive education programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), and are educated in the medical model designed to complement physician training. Upon graduation, PAs are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) developed by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

The Curriculum

The Master of Science Physician Assistant Degree Program is an entry-level, 26-month program. The program requires full-time attendance and includes supervised clinical rotations. Courses are designed with an emphasis on a strong academic foundation and clinical practice. Faculty and staff work closely with students, developing the professional attitudes and clinical problem-solving skills necessary for optimum patient care. Graduation from the ASHS Physician Assistant Program requires successful completion of 14 month didactic and 12 month clinical coursework, passing a summative exam, and a master's level capstone paper/project.

Application Information

ASHS participates in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). This service offers applicants an online service for applying to a number of participating PA programs with a single application. Educational consulting service letters are not accepted. Please visit <https://portal.caspaonline.org/> to apply for admission. ***Due to the competitive nature of the application process, it is highly suggested that applicants apply early in the application cycle. It is also suggested that applicants have all courses (including prerequisites) complete before applying.***

Requirements for Admission

- Candidates accepted for admission to the PA Program will have earned a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution (no equivalency will be accepted).
- Applicants must have a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average overall (3.00 or higher strongly recommended) and a minimum 2.75 cumulative science grade point average (3.00 or higher strongly recommended) on a 4.00 scale.
- Applicants are expected to be computer literate. Accepted applicants are required to have a laptop computer prior to matriculation.
- Applicants are encouraged to obtain patient care experience, sufficient to recognize the physical & psychological demands of dealing with patients and to appreciate the challenges of being a healthcare professional.
- Applicants must successfully complete all prerequisite courses with a grade of C or higher. All prerequisite courses must be completed from a regionally accredited institution or higher (no equivalency will be accepted).
- Applicants who are considered potential candidates must visit ASHS to participate in an applicant interview.
- 3 Letters of Recommendation: (1) Employer or supervisor (2) Health Care Practitioner (Physician, Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner), and (3) Science Faculty Member.

Prerequisite Courses (one course each)

- Human Anatomy with lab, minimum 4 semester credits (*recommended that course be completed within 5 years of application date*)
- Human Physiology with lab, minimum 4 semester credits (*recommended that course be completed within 5 years of application date*)
If you've taken a combined Anatomy & Physiology course, you must have two or more semesters (each with lab)
- Microbiology, minimum 3 credits (*recommended that course be completed within 5 years of application date*)
- Biochemistry, minimum 3 credits
- College algebra or statistics, minimum 3 credits
- Medical Terminology (1-3 credits)

Application Tips/Suggestions

- Apply early. CASPA opens mid-April (the year prior to matriculation). Contact CASPA for specific opening date.
- PA Applications are reviewed in order as they are received (Rolling Admissions). A file will not be reviewed until all required materials are received and the Secondary Fee has been paid.
- Applications completed and received close to the deadline may or may not be reviewed due to the amount of applications received prior to your application.
- It is suggested that all of your prerequisite courses are completed before applying. You may apply with outstanding prerequisites; however, they must be completed before the matriculation date. Keep in mind that an application with any outstanding prerequisite grades may not be as competitive as an application that has completed prerequisites.
- Please refer to the FAQ page (http://www.atsu.edu/ashs/programs/physician_assistant/faqs.htm) for more information regarding ATSU's PA Program.

Requirements for Matriculation

- Once admitted into the ASHS PA program, a matriculant must submit all official transcripts and documentation of:
 1. Required immunizations as determined by ATSU
 2. Proof of health insurance as required by ATSU
 3. Current CPR Certification
 4. Successful ATSU approved background check

Class of 2016

Number of Applicants:	2,222	Number interviewed:	289	Average age:	27
Average Cum GPA:	3.61	Class Size	70	States represented:	11
Average Science GPA:	3.58				

*Beginning with the class of 2017, class size will increase to 70 students.

Tuition and Expenses

2015-2016 tuition and fees:

Didactic component tuition and fees: \$44,840 + \$3,169 medical equipment, lab and education supply fees

Clinical component tuition and fees: \$38,110 + \$1,050 education supply fee

Additional expenses include a laptop computer (minimum specifications prescribed by ASHS), books, room and board, transportation, health insurance and personal items. **All tuition and fees are subject to change.**

Financial Assistance

Financial support, including private and federal loans, is available. The Student Financial Assistance Office assists in developing assistance packages based on need. Information regarding financial assistance can be obtained at: financialaid@atsu.edu

Accreditation

A.T. Still University is a member of The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1413, Phone: 800.621.7440/312.263.0456. Approved by: The Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education, 1400 West Washington Road, Room 260, Phoenix, AZ 85007. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Physician Assistant Program sponsored by A.T. Still University Arizona School of Health Sciences. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be March 2021. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

For additional information, contact ATSU Admissions
660.626.2237; 866.626.2828, ext. 2237
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