



Physician Assistant (PA)

A Full-time, two-and-a-half-year Professional Degree Program (89 credit hours)

DIVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM

Shenandoah University's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (SUPA) program relies on the extensive experiences of a future-focused faculty and hands-on experiences in clinical rotations. This is a graduate, entry-level professional course of study enabling individuals who hold baccalaureate degrees to become physician assistants. The program is designed to prepare graduates for practice in general medicine and to prepare them for a team approach to healthcare. Shenandoah partners with community practices and health systems including Valley Health System and Inova Health System. The program integrates graduate-level critical thinking and analysis, problem solving, scientific inquiry, self-directed learning, and the effective use of modern technology for professional practice.

APPLICATION & ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution is required to be completed prior to matriculation to the program. Applicants from all academic disciplines are welcome to apply, provided they meet the prerequisite course requirements.
- Submit all application materials to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com> including official transcripts for all institutions of higher education attended.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

The courses below are required to be successfully completed prior to matriculation. No more than TWO prerequisites can be outstanding at the time of application:

Course Name	Number of Courses	Minimum credit (Semester)	Minimum credit (Quarterly)
Human A&P I and II with Labs	2	8	10-12
General or Introduction to Chemistry	1	3	4
General Biology or Biochemistry	1	3	4
Microbiology with Lab	1	4	5
Introduction to Psychology* or General Psychology	1	3	4
Statistics or Biostatistics	1	3	4
Total	7	24	31-33

* For students who have received advanced placement (AP) credits for AP Psychology, a course in one of the following is required: Developmental Psychology, Child Psychology, Abnormal Psychology.

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

The courses below are *recommended* to better prepare for the Shenandoah University Physician Assistant curriculum; they are not evaluated to determine competitiveness of an application:

Course Name	Number of Courses	Credits (Semester)	Credits (Quarterly)
Medical Terminology	1	3	4
Biochemistry or Organic Chemistry	1	3	4
Developmental, Child, or Abnormal Psychology	1	3	4

Start Term

Summer II 2025
Courses begin July 2025
Mandatory June orientation date communicated upon seat offer

Admission Deadlines

Completed Application Submission: **August 1, 2024**

Verification Deadline: September 1, 2024
Minimum GPAs: 3.0 cumulative undergraduate, overall science, and SUPA prerequisite GPAs. GPA requirements are assessed at the time of application. [See Admission Guidelines](#) for more details.

Bachelor's Degree: Required
Interview: Required (in-person and virtual options)

Required Tests

Language Proficiency Requirement must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, Duolingo, or Cambridge English Test may be required. See our full policy: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/>

Foreign Transcripts

Must be evaluated by [an approved evaluation company](#) before being sent to CASPA.

Contact Us

Primary contact: PA Program Office of Admissions
Email: pa@su.edu
Call: 540-542-6211
<https://www.su.edu/physician-assistant/>

Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
Call: 540-665-4581 | Text: 540-401-5709

Office of Financial Aid
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/>
finaid@su.edu | Call: 540-665-4538

For more information use our QR code below:





Anne Schempp EdD, PA-C

Program Director
Associate Professor

PROGRAM LOCATIONS



Winchester

1775 North Sector Ct, Winchester, VA 22691
(540) 542-6208



Loudoun

44160 Scholar Plaza Leesburg, VA 20176
(540) 545-7396

PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENT DETAILS:

- A grade of “C” or above is required for all prerequisite courses, however, it is strongly recommended that prerequisites be completed with a grade of A or B. Grades of “C-” or below are not accepted for prerequisite courses.
- No more than TWO prerequisites can be outstanding at the time of application.
- It is *recommended* that all prerequisite coursework be completed within 5 years of matriculation; the program will not accept any prerequisite coursework taken 10 years before the time of matriculation (July 2025).
- The program requires that Human Anatomy & Physiology courses are taken at the same institution. If they are not, an additional audit and internal review will be required after application submission to ensure comprehensive coverage of topics. Human Anatomy and Human Physiology may be completed as two individual courses or by taking a combined Human Anatomy & Physiology I and Human Anatomy & Physiology II course sequence over two terms.
 - Comparative anatomy, mammalian anatomy, vertebrate anatomy, functional anatomy, animal physiology, anatomy and physiology designed for specific disciplines, or fundamentals of anatomy and physiology courses are not counted toward the A&P requirement.
- Prerequisites must be completed at a college or university in the United States. Courses completed at Canadian institutions will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- It is recommended that prerequisite coursework be taken in-person, however online coursework is accepted.
- Neither Advanced Placement credit (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits are accepted to fulfill the prerequisite course requirements. For students who have received advanced placement (AP) credits for AP Psychology, a course in one of the following is required: Developmental Psychology, Child Psychology, Abnormal Psychology as these subjects will have the most relevance to the program curriculum.
- The program will accept “P” or related grades as satisfying any of the program’s academic prerequisites for courses taken during the following COVID-impacted timeframe: Spring Semester 2020 - Spring Semester 2021. Grades reported as Failing (F) or as Incomplete (I) will not be considered as fulfilling prerequisites.
- A medical terminology proficiency exam will be administered during summer orientation. Failure to meet the minimum benchmark will require a formal remediation plan to be completed during the first summer semester.

Note: Healthcare experience, patient care experience, or PA shadowing is strongly recommended to develop a robust understanding of the PA profession and current healthcare landscape however they are not required for admission.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Winchester

The Health Professions Building in Winchester, Virginia is located on the Winchester Medical Center Valley Health campus. The building is home to the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy and the School of Health Professions’ Physician Assistant Studies, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy programs.

Loudoun

Loudoun, Virginia is home to graduate programs in Business, Education, Accelerated Second Degree Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Physician Assistant Studies. This location is situated in the historic growing community of Loudoun County, Virginia only 35 miles from Washington, D.C.

Students in each cohort progress through the curriculum synchronously together. Faculty are located in both locations and students are considered to be part of one cohort regardless of location.

ADDITIONAL PA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Articulation Agreement Pathway

Shenandoah University’s undergraduate College of Arts and Science has an articulation agreement with its School of Health Professions as a partnership in providing a pathway to graduate admission. Only full-time, enrolled undergraduate Shenandoah University (SU) students who are currently earning a baccalaureate degree from SU are eligible to be considered for a set number of reserved seats.

Early Assurance Pathway

The Early Assurance Pathway is available to incoming undergraduate first-year applicants who meet rigorous high school GPA requirements, and is highly competitive. The PA Early Assurance Pathway offers 5 seats each year.

PA/Master of Public Health Dual Degree

The dual program focuses on primary care in medically underserved populations through coursework that emphasizes broad knowledge and basic skills in public health (MPH) and medical practice (MSPAS).

Performing Arts Medicine Certificate

Students in the Physician Assistant program also have the opportunity to earn a Performing Arts Medicine Certificate. This 15-credit certificate prepares health care professionals to assess and manage injuries and disorders specific to those in performing arts.