



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

College of Health and Human Services

Physician Assistant

Policy Name: Admission Policy and Procedure

Policy Statement:

Western Michigan University's Physician Assistant program is committed to ensuring that all candidates admitted into the program are experienced, compassionate, and academically strong students who will have the potential to successfully complete the program and become competent, caring Physician Assistants.

The admissions committee is comprised of faculty and staff from the Physician Assistant program. Faculty and staff from other programs in the College of Health and Human Services as well as alumni and other Physician Assistants practicing in the community are often called upon to help with the interview process. The admissions committee receives additional support from the Graduate College and Office of Admissions.

In addition to the University Graduate College requirements for admission (see Graduate Catalog for requirements) the prerequisites for admission to the Physician Assistant Graduate program are:

- A minimum of 1,000 hours of health care experience (Direct patient care is required)
- Successful completion of, and graduation from, an academic Bachelor's degree program
- One semester of human anatomy
- One semester of upper-level biochemistry
- One semester of microbiology with lab
- One semester of upper-level physiology
- One semester of life-span developmental psychology
- One semester of introductory statistics.

The last 60 credit hours of course work must have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better. Prerequisite courses must have a grade of "C" or better.

The program participates in the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). All documents must be into CASPA by December 1 (application deadline). All prerequisites must be finished at the end of that semester. The only exception is the bachelor's degree, which must be completed prior to the program start date.

The program faculty and staff will assist in the selection process. Each completed admission file is evaluated and scored for established criteria that include: 1) academic performance, 2) health care related experience, 3) personal attributes as evidenced by letters of recommendation, personal statements, volunteer experience, awards, etc.

Any applicant not meeting the minimum standards is notified in writing at the completion of the initial review. Select, highly ranked applicants are invited to campus for a formal interview process. The purpose of this interview is to further assess personal attributes such as communication skills, emotional and intellectual maturity, general knowledge of the PA profession, and an understanding of its

responsibilities and limitations. The interviewee completes an essay at the time of the interview to assess writing skills. Scores, generated from the initial application review and the interview, are then tabulated and each interviewee is ranked accordingly. After final review by the program director and the admissions committee, offers of admission are extended. Each applicant receives one of three letters explaining the results:

- 1) Program acceptance letter
- 2) Program alternate letter
- 3) Program non-acceptance letter

The Physician Assistant Department will consider applicants who have completed advanced medical training but who are not already licensed to practice as a medical or osteopathic physician in the United States. Such applicants must demonstrate, by documentation or examination, successful completion of prerequisite course work or equivalents. Such applicants must meet all other admission requirements and will also be required to demonstrate language proficiency by achieving a TOEFEL score of at least 600.

Date Reviewed: 5/1/2025
To Be Reviewed: 5/1/2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Zep" followed by a stylized monogram or initials.

Program Director