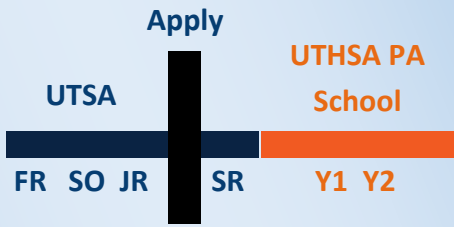


Applying to Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) Degree Programs

Application Information

UTSA **does not** offer advanced degrees in physician assistant studies. However, students are able to take pre-requisite coursework while completing any major at UTSA. Students are encouraged to take coursework in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities to prepare for their physician assistant program. Students should choose a major of their interest and purposefully take coursework in preparation for their application to an MPAS program.

A common timeline for students attending PA school is shown below:



This timeline is subject to change based on student competitiveness and readiness to apply.

Applicants use the **Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)** to apply to the program of their choice.

UTHSA Application Information

For students seeking the UT Health San Antonio's (UTHSA) program. **Application period: April 27-October 1, 2018.**

Admission to MPAS programs is increasingly competitive and is often determined on a holistic basis, including the following:

- Successful completion of pre-requisite coursework (with at least a 'C' or better.)
- Minimum grade point average:
 - Overall: 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
 - Science GPA: 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Completion and conferment of a bachelor's degree by May.
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. *GRE Code: 7552* (More information on the reverse of this page).
- Community service hours.
- Direct, hands-on patient care experience
- Physician Assistant shadowing

Application information (continued)...

- Two reference letters
- Supplemental Applications for CASPA.
- Official Transcripts for each school attended.
- Highly qualified candidates are invited for interviews.

More information related to UTHSA admissions can be found on their website at: <http://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/health-professions/master-physician-assistant-admissions>

PA Pre-requisites

Requirements vary, please refer to the admission website for your school of interest for specific prerequisite information. You may also contact the University Health Professions Office to discuss which UTSA courses fulfill physician assistant prerequisites.

Health Professions Advising

Newly-admitted UTSA students are assigned an advisor (called a primary advisor) based on their major. For students pursuing Physician Assistant pre-requisites, this advisor will be assigned in one of UTSA's Advising Centers but students will also meet with Health Professions Advisors to determine pre-requisites and requirements related to their PA studies.

Students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor throughout their tenure at UTSA.

When to meet with a Health Professions Advisor:

- Orientation
- At least once per academic year to discuss coursework, holistic admissions, GRE preparation, academic standing
- In the semester prior to application

What to expect from a Health Professions meeting:

- Discussion of GPA competitiveness
- Testing and Application timeline
- Health Professions Pathways
- Holistic applicant assessment

Multidisciplinary Studies Building (M.S.) 3.03.14
(210) 458-5185

utsa.edu/healthprofessions
hpoffice@utsa.edu

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Test

The GRE is one of the measures required by many MPAS programs to determine a student's academic ability in relation to graduate education.

Some general information about the GRE:

- Three sections:
 - Verbal Reasoning (Two 30 minute sections with 20 questions per section)
 - Quantitative Reasoning (Two 35 minute sections with 20 questions per section)
 - Analytical Writing (30 minutes)
- Scoring:
 - Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning: Scores range from 130-170
 - Analytical Writing: Scores range from 0-6 in half point increments

More information about the GRE can be found on the American Educational Testing Services website (<http://www.ets.org/gre/>).

Shadowing/Volunteering/On-Campus Involvement

Admission to physician assistant programs is becoming increasingly holistic. As such, students are strongly encouraged to participate in health care-related activities, community service and on-campus leadership experiences. Experience in these areas contributes to a student's understanding of and commitment to physician assistant careers and facilitates personal development prior to the application process.

Ways to get involved:

- UHPO keeps a list of volunteer opportunities in the San Antonio area in our office and on our website, located here: <http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html>.
- UTSA student organizations participate in service and medical-related activities. Information about getting involved on-campus can be found on RowdyLink: <https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/>.
- Students are encouraged to volunteer or shadow physician assistants in various settings to gain an understanding of the profession.
- Pre-PA students are encouraged to apply for leadership roles in their community and/or on-campus to develop necessary communication and teamwork skills.
- Attend UTSA's Health Professions Day, to meet with representatives from various PA schools.

PA Fast Facts and Helpful Websites

- There are 8 PA programs in the state of Texas. To learn more about these programs, you can visit their online site at www.texashotjobs.org.
- Additional information about Texas PA programs can be found on the **Texas Academy of Physician Assistants (TAPA) website**, www.tapa.org.
- Most PA programs accept no more than 45 students per year. However, some select even fewer students.
- **The Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)** provides resources about the physician assistant profession and out-of-state PA programs via their website at www.paeonline.org.
- **The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)** is the professional organization for working physician assistants. Information about PA careers, licensing and health care practice can be found on their website at www.aapa.org.
- More information about the career of physician assistant can be found on www.explorehealthcareers.org.