



UAB Physician Associate Studies

Applicant Program Information

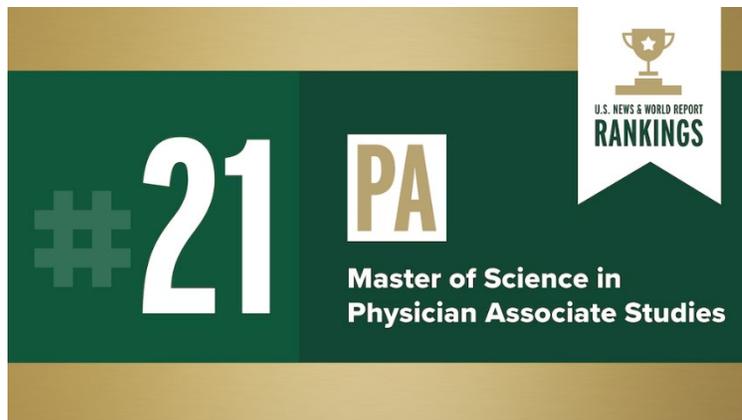
2026



UAB SCHOOL OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONS
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences

Thank you for your interest in the University of Alabama at Birmingham Physician Associate Studies Program. The program was founded in 1967. It is the second oldest PA program in the nation and was established only two years after the birth of the PA profession. The UAB PA program provides intense didactic and clinical experiences in primary care, medicine, and surgery. It is one of few programs that offers both a cadaveric dissection experience to supplement anatomy, and a live pig lab to provide a practical, hands-on experience to strengthen the surgical component of the curriculum. The program is **ranked No. 21 in the 2025 U.S. News & World Report "Best Physician Assistant Programs" rankings**, placing it in the top five percent of PA programs across the nation.



The profession was established to help physicians provide healthcare services to underserved and rural populations. While the profession remains committed to its historical mission, Physician Associates (PAs) are now employed in all healthcare settings and are valuable members of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

PAs are licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of a licensed physician. Individual state laws define the scope of practice and prescribing authority of Physician Associates. In general, most states authorize PAs to prescribe non-controlled and controlled substances and perform any task delegated to them by their supervising physician.

To be eligible for licensure, PAs must graduate from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc., (ARC-PA) and pass the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).

Although Physician Associates will always remain under the guidance and counsel of a licensed physician, PAs are expected to perform appropriately delegated tasks autonomously.

Program Mission: To attract and train culturally diverse individuals with the knowledge, skills, and judgement needed to provide competent and compassionate healthcare to all. We are committed to cultivating a community where all students are valued and supported, to ensure we are building a medical workforce that reflects and respects the communities we serve.

Accreditation: The University of Alabama at Birmingham is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The program is also accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA).

Degree Conferred: Master of Science in Physician Associate Studies (MSPAS) degree.

Professional Certification: Upon successful completion of the PA program, graduates are eligible to apply for the certification examination sponsored by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

Length of Study: 27 months

Semester of Enrollment: Fall

HISTORY OF THE UAB PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES PROGRAM

1967-1974: THE FORMATIVE YEARS

Program Directors: Alan Dimick, MD (1967-1969); Margaret K. Kirklin, MD (1969-1974)

The UAB Surgeon Assistant (SA) Program was established in 1967 by the nationally recognized Cardiac Surgeon, John W. Kirklin, MD. His motivation developed while he was at the Mayo Clinic working with resident physicians while operating a newly developed pump oxygenator. Dr. Kirklin reasoned that with the appropriate aptitude and training, non-physicians could be utilized instead of resident physicians to operate the complicated device. Additionally, Dr. Kirklin believed that the presence of a trained assistant (i.e., SA) would improve patient care by allowing attending physicians to delegate appropriate tasks and help with the education of resident physicians. These factors led to the creation of what is now the UAB Physician Assistant Studies Program.

The UAB PA program was initially established as a Surgeon Assistant (SA) program under the Department of Surgery, and graduates were awarded a Certificate of Proficiency upon completion of the two-year program.

In 1971, legislation passed allowing Surgeon Assistants and Physician Assistants to practice in Alabama, under the regulation of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (ABME).

In 1972, a formal relationship between the Department of Surgery and the School of Community and Allied Health was established to allow qualified students to earn a Bachelor of Science degree, upon completion of the program.

In 1974, the program received its initial accreditation by the Joint Review Committee of the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education (CAMACME) in collaboration with the American College of Surgeons. Since that time, the program has maintained continuous accreditation.

1974-1992: BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Program Directors: Henry L. Laws, MD (1974-1982); J. Garber Galbraith, MD (1982-1984); Joaquin S. Aldrete, MD (1984-1996)

Associate Director: Jacqueline Hall, SA (1974-1992)

Dr. Jacqueline Hall, a 1969 UAB PA program graduate, was instrumental in helping the program to establish a national reputation of excellence in the training of Surgeon Assistants. Employers were plentiful and UAB graduates were taking positions throughout the country. Competition for admissions to the program was intense, with over 300 applicants for only 15 slots. Beginning in 1982, program graduates were allowed to sit for the PANCE.

In 1991, administrative control of the PA program was transferred from the Department of Surgery to the School of Health Professions, formerly known as the School of Community and Allied Health. This period marked an explosion within the PA profession, and for the subspecialty practice of Surgeon Assistants in particular.

1992-1997: MODERNIZATION

Program Directors: Joaquin S. Aldrete, MD (1984-1996); Craig Cilimberg, PA-C (1996-1997)

Associate Director: Craig Cilimberg, PA-C (1992-1996)

Medical Director: Joaquin S. Aldrete, MD (1996-1999)

Following Dr. Hall's retirement in 1992, Craig Cilimberg was named Associate Director. Cilimberg was a 1982 graduate of the UAB PA program who worked for Dr. Kirklin as his Surgeon Assistant.

Cilimberg strengthened the program's didactic curriculum and diversified the clinical curriculum. These modifications provided graduates with greater knowledge of primary care medicine, without sacrificing the superior technical skills expected of UAB graduates. This ultimately impacted the quality of the program and student success on the PANCE. In less than 5 years, the program's first-time pass rate improved from less than 50% in 1992, to over 90% in 1996.

In 1996, the Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Physician Assistant was revised, merging the accreditation standards for both Physician Assistant and Surgeon Assistant programs. At about the same time, the program changed its name to the Surgical Physician Assistant Program, to clearly distinguish UAB graduates as formally trained Physician Assistants, not surgical technicians.

1998-2003: GROWTH

Program Director: Joe K. Gerald, MD (1997-2003)

Associate Director: Joe K. Gerald, MD (1996-1997)

Medical Directors: Joaquin S. Aldrete, MD (1996-1999); John Gleysteen, MD (1999-2008)

In 1997, Dr. Joe K. Gerald was named Program Director following Craig Cilimberg's return to full-time clinical practice. Dr. Gerald continued to diversify the clinical curriculum and strengthened the didactic curriculum by adding 3.75 FTE faculty to the program. Between 1996 and 2001, the program maintained a first-time PANCE pass rate greater than 90%.

2003-2013: EVOLVING

Program Directors: Doris Rapp, PharmD, PA-C (2003-2006); Herbert Ridings, MA, PA-C (2006-2010);

Patricia Jennings, DrPH, PA-C (2010-2013)

Medical Director: Donald Reiff, MD (2008-Current)

Associate Medical Director: John Baddley, MD, MSPH (2006-Current)

Under the leadership of Dr. Doris Rapp, the Surgical Physician Assistant Program became a Master's-level program in June 2005, and the first cohort of graduate students entered in the fall of 2005.

In January 2006, Herbert Ridings replaced Dr. Rapp as Program Director and the program added Dr. John Baddley as the Associate Medical Director. In 2008, Dr. Gleysteen retired and Dr. Donald Reiff, Chief of the UAB Trauma Department, became the new Medical Director. Dr. Reiff was instrumental in developing a trauma concentration of studies for the program.

In May 2010, Dr. Patricia Jennings replaced Dr. Ridings as Program Director. Improved scores on the national PANCE were observed during this time, with a 100% first-time pass rate for students in the classes of 2006-2008 and 2010-2012.

Together, Drs. Baddley, Rapp, Ridings, and Jennings strengthened the primary care and internal medicine components of an already excellent surgical program.

2013-2017: EXPANSION

Program Director: James R. Kilgore, PhD, PA-C (2013-2017)

Medical Director: Donald Reiff, MD (2008-Current)

Associate Medical Director: John Baddley, MD, MSPH (2006-2019)

Following Dr. Jennings retirement in October 2013, Dr. Kilgore was named Program Director. Under Dr. Kilgore's leadership, the program added a coordinated dual MSPAS/MPH degree. In 2016, the program welcomed its first cohort of dual degree students.

2017-CURRENT: REVITALIZATION AND STABILITY

Program Director: M. Tosi Gilford, MD, PA-C (2017-Current)

Associate Program Director: W. Cody Black, MHS, PA-C (2022-Current)

Medical Director: Donald Reiff, MD (2008-Current)

Associate Medical Directors: John Baddley, MD, MSPH (2006-2019); Rowell S. Ashford, II, MD (2021-Current)

In September 2017, Dr. Tosi Gilford was named Interim Program Director following Dr. Kilgore's retirement. In September 2018, Dr. Gilford was made full Program Director. Dr. Gilford has continued to focus on strengthening the program's didactic and clinical curriculum, securing and maintaining instructional resources for students, faculty, and the program, increasing diversity of admitted students, creating a learning environment that promotes a culture of inclusion for all students, and increasing the visibility of the program nationally. The program has a diverse pool of principal faculty who work collaboratively to provide an exceptional educational experience that focuses on developing the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed for success in the program, for PANCE preparedness, and transition to clinical practice. In 2023, the U.S. News and World Report ranked the PA program #8, noted to be the highest ranking achieved in the history of the program.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

The UAB Physician Assistant Studies Program is located within the School of Health Professions (SHP), in the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences (CDS).

School of Health Professions

Interim Dean: David Morris, PT, PhD

Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences

Interim Chair: Floyd Josephat, EdD, MLS

Physician Associate Studies Program

Program Director: M. Tosi Gilford, MD, PA-C

Associate Program Director: W. Cody Black, MHS, PA-C

Medical Director: Donald Reiff, MD

Associate Medical Director: Rowell S. Ashford, II, MD

PROGRAM FACULTY

Program Director: M. Tosi Gilford, MD, PA-C

Dr. Gilford joined the faculty in March 2015. She is a native of Los Angeles, CA. She is a graduate of Windsor University School of Medicine in Saint Kitts and Nevis, and she completed her Family Medicine residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham - Selma Family Medicine Program in 2010. Prior to going to medical school, Dr. Gilford completed her undergraduate studies at California State University Dominguez Hills in Carson, CA; receiving a BS in Public Administration with a Health Services concentration. She received a second BS in Health Science, as well as a Physician Assistant Certificate from Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science Physician Assistant Program in Los Angeles, CA, in 2000.

Medical Director: Donald Reiff, MD

Dr. Reiff is a graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC. He completed his surgery fellowship at UAB. Dr. Reiff is a Professor in the Department of Surgery and currently serves as the Assistant Chief Medical Officer for the UAB Health System.

Associate Medical Director: Rowell S. Ashford II, MD

Dr. Ashford II is a Board-Certified OB/GYN who has been in practice for 21 years providing care for medically underserved communities in the Birmingham area. He graduated from the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine and completed his OB/GYN residency training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After completing his medical education, he worked at Cooper Green Hospital for 13 years providing care for low-income residents of Jefferson County. He joined the Baptist Health Centers physician group in 2013 when Cooper Green Hospital closed. In 2018, Dr. Ashford joined Cahaba Medical Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center charged with providing medical care for uninsured and underinsured individuals.

Associate Program Director, Director of Academic Education: W. Cody Black, MHS, PA-C

Mr. Black joined the faculty in December of 2019. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 2008 and earned a Master of Health Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of South Alabama in 2010. Mr. Black has been in PA education since 2013. He is committed to providing a foundation of knowledge that will help to develop the necessary skills needed for our students to advance in the PA profession. Mr. Black has practiced clinically in the settings of urgent care, internal medicine, and sleep medicine. He has also served on the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) Exam Development Board since 2017.

Co-Director of Clinical Education: Heather F. Neighbors, MSPAS, PA-C

Mrs. Neighbors joined the faculty in August of 2018. She is a graduate of the UAB Surgical Physician Assistant Program and completed her studies in 2008. In 2004, she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Auburn University. Upon graduating from the PA program, Mrs. Neighbors joined a Vascular Surgeon in private practice in Birmingham, where she practiced for ten years. While working in the operating room of multiple hospitals in Birmingham, Mrs. Neighbors recognized the vital importance of clinical training and experience. This knowledge motivated her to join the PA program as the Director of Clinical Education. Mrs. Neighbors is committed to educating our future PAs and is motivated to help provide the best didactic and clinical training, using the wealth of knowledge she brings from her years of clinical experience.

Co-Director of Clinical Education: Jana Villanueva, MSPAS, PA-C

Mrs. Villanueva joined the faculty in November of 2019. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in 2009 from Bryan College in Dayton, TN and earned a Master of Medical Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies in May of 2014 from Wake Forest School of Medicine, in Winston-Salem, NC. Prior to joining the faculty, Mrs. Villanueva practiced for 3 years as a primary care PA. While providing medical care at Wake Forest Family and Community Medicine and in the Student Health Clinic at High Point University, she also served as a preceptor, where she helped to train students in the practice of medicine. Mrs. Villanueva has a passion for teaching, mentorship and providing medical care to the underserved. She is also committed to being a champion to the PA profession, by providing didactic and clinical instruction to our future clinicians, through evidence-based patient care and inquiry-based learning.

Dina DeMarco, MS, PA-C

Ms. DeMarco joined the Physician Assistant Studies Program in July of 2020. She is an alumna of A.T. Still University Physician Assistant Program, graduating in 2004 with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. Since graduating, she has dedicated herself to mastering the art of first-assisting and has more than 15 years' experience of practicing as a multispecialty surgical PA across the country. Ms. DeMarco's clinical experiences have afforded her an opportunity to train utilizing several highly specialized surgical techniques including advanced maxillofacial reconstruction, robotic laparoscopy, C-sections, advanced hepatobiliary surgery, and advanced laparoscopy. Surgical skills mastered while practicing in these areas, along with those obtained while working in clinic, in the

hospital and in critical care settings, provides her with a strong foundation to help train the next generation of physician assistants who are ready to transition to practice in any surgical subspecialty upon graduation. Ms. DeMarco has served as an adjunct faculty and preceptor for the University of Utah, George Washington University, Idaho State, and Touro University PA programs.

Fallon Lotson, DHSc, PA-C

Dr. Lotson joined the faculty in December of 2021. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Miami in 2005, a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies from South University in 2013, and a Doctor of Health Science degree with a concentration in Education from A. T. Still University in 2020. Dr. Lotson has practiced clinically in psychiatry, and pain management and rehabilitation medicine. She has served as a preceptor, and in the leadership role of Lead Advanced Practice Provider (APP). Dr. Lotson is committed to advancing the PA profession by providing educational opportunities for students to become well-rounded PAs and work collaboratively with other clinicians.

Erin Dorman, MSPAS, PA-C

Mrs. Dorman joined the faculty in August of 2021. She completed her undergraduate degree in Anthropology at the University of Texas Austin. She then went on to complete a Master of Science degree in Health Education at the University of Florida in 2010, and a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies from UAB in 2019. Erin began her career in medical education, working in both Women's Health and Simulation. Prior to joining the faculty, she practiced with the UAB Hospitalist Service, where she continues to practice currently.

Allison Litton, DrPH, MSW

Dr. Litton joined the faculty in August of 2019. She teaches clinical research courses in the PA program and serves as the faculty advisor for the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies/Master of Public Health (MSPAS/MPH) dual degree students. Dr. Litton received a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Science degree in Social Work from the University of Alabama, and a Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health degree from UAB. Dr. Litton has worked at UAB in various roles since 2002, with a focus on cancer education, evaluation methods, and health disparities research. This experience led her to start a non-profit organization called Meals OnCol, a meal delivery service for cancer patients, which is tailored to alleviate side effects from cancer treatment.

David Wood, MSPAS, PA-C

Mr. Wood joined the faculty in September of 2022. He obtained a Bachelor of Health Science degree from the University of Florida in 2013, and a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree from UAB in 2015. Mr. Wood practiced clinically in emergency medicine for 3 years, and critical care medicine for 4 years; at which time he also served as a preceptor for multiple physician assistant and nurse practitioner programs. Prior to joining the faculty, Mr. Wood served as the Director of the APP Critical Care Residency Program, covering Princeton Baptist Medical Center, Brookwood Baptist Medical Center, and Shelby Baptist Medical Center. Of note, this is the only post-graduate fellowship for physician assistants and nurse practitioners in the state of Alabama. Throughout his years of experience in clinical practice, Mr. Wood developed a passion for teaching, training, and mentoring the next generation of medical providers, prompting his transition to full-time faculty in the PA program.

ADMISSION INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Application Deadline

Completed applications must be received by the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) by August 1 of the year prior to the expected term of enrollment.

Application Procedure

The UAB PA program participates in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Please consult <https://caspa.liasoncas.com> for more information regarding specific application procedures and fees. Applicants should send all application materials directly to CASPA. Official GRE scores are sent from ETS directly to CASPA using code 0570. CASPA will verify the application information and send completed applications to the program.

After completing the CASPA application, the applicant should complete the UAB PA Supplemental Application. A \$75 processing fee will be included with the supplemental application. *This is a non-refundable fee.* Following the program's receipt of the CASPA application, official GRE scores, and UAB PA Supplemental Application, the PA program will review the application packet.

Applications are reviewed by members of the admissions committee. Interviews are held in November, and admissions decisions are finalized in January. Students who are accepted to the Physician Associate Studies Program will also need to complete the UAB Graduate School application.

Admissions Timeline

- August 1 of the year prior to matriculation: Last day to take the GRE
- April 29: CASPA opens. e-Submit the CASPA application at: <https://caspa.liasoncas.com>
- August 1: Deadline to e-submit the CASPA application (11:59 PM EST)
- August 7: Deadline to submit the UAB PA Program Supplemental Application (11:59 PM CST)
- October 1: Deadline for application to be reviewed and verified by CASPA (11:59 PM EST)
- April-October: Processing of verified applications
- September: Interview decisions made
- October: Students invited for interviews (emailed the second week of October)
- October-November: Interviews
- Mid-November: First round of acceptance letters emailed
- Late December: Second round of acceptance letters emailed
- December: Deadline to accept offer of admissions
- January: Admission decisions finalized
- Mid-January: Waitlist and letters declining admissions sent
- February-March: Admitted students complete the UAB Graduate School Application at: <https://www.uab.edu/graduate/admissions/domestic-applicants/application-process>
- April-August: Complete orientation requirements (check-list items)

Admission Requirements

- Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college/university.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test scores from the verbal, quantitative, and analytic sections. Applicants with advanced degrees whose GRE scores are older than 5 years (i.e., the time limit that ETS will send scores) can request the PA program to consider dated scores if the applicant can provide documentation of their GRE scores directly from the institution they attended. The documentation should be sent directly from the student's graduate degree institution to the PA Admissions Office prior to the August 1st deadline for application evaluation. Please note that recent GRE scores often make applicants with an advanced degree

more competitive than applicants with an advanced degree that do not have recent GRE scores. *Furthermore, as with all applicants, the UAB admissions review committee could still determine that the applicant should retake the GRE and reapply the next application cycle.*

- A minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (A = 4.0).
- A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) *in natural science courses.*
- Interview with faculty and alumni.
- Complete a background check, drug screening, and immunization requirements.
 - UAB PA students must be medically cleared prior to enrollment. Detailed information is available via UAB Student Health Services: <https://www.uab.edu/students/health/medical-clearance/immunizations/level-3b>.
- Technical ability to complete the program (see Performance Standards on pages 15-16).
- A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) in the program prerequisite courses, with a minimum grade of "C" in each of the following:
 - 8 semester hours of biology for science majors
 - 3-4 semester hours of microbiology (lab preferred)
 - 3-4 semester hours of human anatomy
 - 3-4 semester hours of human physiology
 - 8-9 semester hours of general chemistry (lab preferred)
 - 3-4 semester hours of statistics
 - 2-3 semester hours of medical terminology (3 hours preferred)
 - 6 semester hours of psychology to include introduction to psychology (3 hours) AND developmental or abnormal psychology (3 hours)
 - *Questions regarding course descriptions and equivalencies can be emailed to AskCDS@uab.edu.*

Credit for Prior Learning Experiences

The program *does not grant advanced placement* nor is credit given for prior experiential learning or for courses provided by another PA program.

Estimated Fees Related to Admissions

- CASPA application fee of \$179 for the first program, \$55 for each additional program applied to.
- UAB PA Supplemental Application fee of \$75.
- UAB Graduate School Application fee of \$50.
- UAB *non-refundable* PA Program Seat Deposit fee of \$1,000 for those accepted into the program.
 - Deposits are applied towards the first semester of tuition in the program.
 - *Deposit will be forfeited if the student does not enroll and attend the program.*
- Other expenses to anticipate:
 - GRE preparation and examination.
 - Cost of sending transcripts to CASPA and UAB.

APPLICANT REVIEW PROCESS

Program-specific rubrics are utilized to assess students during an initial review of the CASPA and Supplemental Applications, as well as during the interview. Initial review of applicants includes an evaluation of the student's academic record, clinical experience, personal statement, letters of reference, and attributes that align with the program's mission. Upon completion of the initial review, cumulative performance of all applicants is utilized to identify students selected for an interview.

Program-specific measures that are evaluated on each rubric are categorized below. To assess competitiveness of the program from a historical perspective, students are encouraged to review the admission data summaries included on the PA program website:

<https://www.uab.edu/shp/cds/physician-associate-studies/admissions>.

Academics

- Cumulative GPA, overall science GPA, prerequisite GPA, final course grades of "D," "F," and "W," completion of all prerequisite course *at time of application submission*, and GRE percentage scores.
- Credit hour demand, outside commitments while enrolled in courses, and course work completed in a graduate-level program in a health-related field of study are considered in the application score.

Clinical Experience

- Although not required for admission, experience in a healthcare setting (providing direct or indirect patient care) is preferred.
- Applicants are evaluated on the extent (hours completed), duration of experience (months, years), and scope of clinical experience.
- Leadership experience and exposure to the PA profession, in the form of shadowing or working alongside a PA, are considered in the application score.

Personal Statement

- Applicants are evaluated on the content and quality of their personal statement.
- Also utilized to perform a second review of applicants prior to finalizing invitations for interview.

Reference Letters

- Three letters of reference are evaluated and considered in the application score.

Supplemental Application

- Applicants are evaluated on the content and quality of responses to the supplemental questions.
- Utilized to identify attributes and characteristics that meet the program's mission, and to perform a second review of applicants prior to finalizing invitations for interview.

Favored Applicants

The PA program is committed to recruiting native Alabama residents and students who completed their undergraduate or graduate studies at UAB. The program is also committed to admitting a diverse group of students who exemplify attributes that align with our program mission. This includes those from diverse backgrounds, veterans, first-generation scholars, multilingual students, and applicants who have shown a commitment to service and practicing in an underserved or rural area.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Didactic Curriculum

Didactic courses are completed on the UAB campus during the first four semesters of enrollment in the program. The didactic curriculum includes a total of 65 credit hours that consists of both biological sciences and clinical-related courses. All courses are required and must be successfully completed prior to beginning the clinical phase of training.

DIDACTIC CURRICULUM	
Fall I	Semester Hours (18)
CDS 505 Professional Skills Development	1
PA 601 Human Gross Anatomy and Lab	4
PA 602 Physiology	4
PA 605 Clinical Pathology	4
PA 610 Clinical Lab Medicine	3
PA 615 Introduction to the Profession	1
GC 535 Medical Genetics Across the Lifespan	1
Spring I	Semester Hours (16)
PA 603 Pharmacotherapeutics I	3
PA 606 Clinical Medicine I	6
PA 608 Surgical Disease I	3
PA 611 History and Physical Examination	3
PA 616 Electrocardiography	1
Summer I	Semester Hours (18)
PA 604 Pharmacotherapeutics II	3
PA 607 Clinical Medicine II	6
PA 609 Surgical Disease II	3
PA 613 Surgical Techniques	3
PA 618 Risk Management	1
PA 619 Fundamentals of Clinical Research	2
Fall II	Semester Hours (14)
PA 614 Applied Clinical and Technical Skills	2
PA 617 Applied Behavioral Medicine	3
PA 620 Analysis of Professional Literature	2
PA 633 Navigating Healthcare Delivery and Reimbursement Systems for Physician Associates	2
PA 634 Simulated Clinical Concepts	2
PA 635 Population-Based Approaches to Patient Care	2
NTR 645 Advanced Nutrition for Healthcare Professionals	1

Clinical Curriculum

During the clinical year, students complete a total of 50 credit hours which is incorporated into 11 clinical rotations, a series of senior seminars, and a master's research project presentation.

CLINICAL CURRICULUM	
Spring II	Semester Hours (17)
PA 621 Clinical Service I	4
PA 622 Clinical Service II	4
PA 623 Clinical Service III	4
PA 624 Clinical Service IV	4
PA 643 Senior Seminar I	1
Summer II	Semester Hours (18)
PA 625 Clinical Service V	4
PA 626 Clinical Service VI	4
PA 627 Clinical Service VII	4
PA 628 Clinical Service VIII	4
PA 644 Senior Seminar II	1
PA 698 Presentation of Research Project	1
Fall III	Semester Hours (14)
PA 629 Clinical Service IX	4
PA 630 Clinical Service X	4
PA 631 Clinical Service XI	4
PA 645 Senior Seminar III	2

Clinical Service Rotation Requirements

Required Rotations:

- Emergency Medicine
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Women's Health
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry

Elective Rotations:

- Surgical Subspecialties
- Medicine Subspecialties
- Trauma Subspecialties
- *Note, dual degree students will complete their MPH internship hours during an elective rotation*

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Clinical Rotations

Students are responsible for finding their own housing and paying for additional expenses incurred while attending an out-of-state rotation. Per Accreditation Standards, students are not required to provide or solicit clinical sites or preceptors.

Essential Requirements

Fundamental tasks, behaviors, and technical abilities needed to successfully complete the academic and clinical requirements of the program and to satisfy licensure/certification requirements are required of all students. These requirements are available upon request from the Director of Admissions at AskCDS@uab.edu, and can also be found at the end of this booklet (please see Performance Standards on pages 15-16).

Registering for Disability Services

Admitted students requesting disability accommodations need to be registered and approved by the UAB Disability Support Services (DSS) located at the Hill Student Center, 1400 University Blvd, Suite 409, Birmingham, AL, 35233. Office: (205) 934-4205. Requests must be submitted each semester for each course.

Tuition and Fees

Below is a summary of expenses required of PA students while progressing through the 27-month program. In addition to tuition and fees which are directly charged to the student's account, students are also required to pay for additional costs, which includes white coat and patches, program scrubs, medical equipment, surgical instruments, textbooks, and PANCE registration. Students are also highly encouraged to pay for AAPA (American Academy of Physician Associates) memberships.

This spreadsheet is intended to be used as a guide to assist students in estimating funds needed for financial aid and/or a need for personal loans. The amount of each expense listed below has been estimated. Actual amounts may vary, depending on individual items purchased by each student.

TUITION	ESTIMATED COST
In-State Tuition (115 credit hours)	\$610 per credit hour (<i>\$70,150 total</i>)
Out-of-State Tuition (115 credit hours)	\$1,505 per credit hour (<i>\$173,075 total</i>)
Seat Deposit	\$1,000 (<i>nonrefundable, applied to tuition</i>)
INSTITUTIONAL FEES	ESTIMATED COST
Fall I Lab/Clinical Supply Fee (PA 601)	\$150
Fall I Anatomy Lab Fee (PA 601)	\$387
Spring I General Lab Fee (PA 611)	\$50
Spring I History and Physical Simulation Fee (PA 611)	\$250
Summer I Lab/Clinical Supply Fee (PA 613)	\$150
Summer I General Lab Fee (PA 613)	\$50
Summer I Physician Associate Pig Lab Fee	\$300

Summer II History and Physical Simulation Fee (PA 629)	\$250
Fall II History and Physical Simulation Fee (PA 634)	\$250
Fall III Graduation Application Fee	\$50
Fall III Graduation Fee	\$60
Annual Student Parking Fees	\$647 (Fall I) / \$647 (Fall II) / \$255 (Fall III)
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED EXPENSES	ESTIMATED COST
Background Check/Drug Screen	\$79 (Fall I) / \$68 (Fall II)
Fall I White Coat with Embroidery (x 2)	\$75 - \$150
Fall I Program Patch (x 2)	\$20 (\$10 each)
Fall I MSPAS Program Scrubs (x 2 pair)	\$150
Fall I H&P Equipment	\$200 - \$400
Fall I AAPA Membership (<i>optional</i>)	\$75
Spring I Surgical Instruments with Engraving	\$70
Summer I ACLS/BLS Training	\$160
Fall III PANCE Registration Fee	\$550

* UAB Tuition and Fees: <https://www.uab.edu/cost-aid/cost/detailed-tuition-fees#graduate>

Additional information regarding tuition and fees are provided at:
<https://www.uab.edu/cost-aid/cost/detailed-tuition-fees#graduate>
<https://www.uab.edu/cost-aid/cost/detailed-tuition-fees#institutional-fees>

Fee Payments

University regulations and policies regarding tuition, fee payments, late fees, and delinquent accounts are published in UAB's online student handbook, which is accessible via the following link:
<https://www.uab.edu/shp/cds/physician-associate-studies/student-handbooks>.

Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market is an interstate agreement among selected southern states for sharing academic programs at both the baccalaureate and graduate level. Participating states decide if residents meet their qualifications to enroll in a specific out-of-state program on an in-state tuition basis. For additional information, contact your state coordinator at: www.sreb.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. & Mrs. Elbert H. Purser Endowed Scholarship: Established in 1979 and subsequently endowed in 1983 through a gift from the Elbert H. Purser Trust. Applicants must be admitted to or enrolled in the UAB Physician Associate Studies Program and must be natives or permanent residents of the state of Alabama. Selection is made by a committee of PA program faculty and annual awards are determined based on the availability of funds.

Bill Parker Endowed Scholarship: Established in 2018. Mr. Parker is a 1972 graduate of the Physician Associate Studies program who worked as an Orthopedic PA for over 40 years. Applicants must be admitted to or enrolled in the UAB Physician Associate Studies Program and will be chosen by the faculty.

Comer Foundation Scholarship: Established in 2021. Applicants must be permanent Alabama residents who are admitted to or enrolled in the UAB Physician Associate Studies Program and must demonstrate the following: financial need as determined by the Office of financial aid, good academic standing, and plans to live in and practice within Alabama upon completion of their studies.

William John Gill PA-C Sponsored Scholarship: Established in 2021. Applicants must be admitted to or enrolled in the UAB Physician Associate Studies Program and must demonstrate an interest in practicing in a rural/underserved or health professional shortage area upon completion of their studies.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT NATIONAL CERTIFYING EXAM (PANCE) OUTCOMES

GRADUATING COHORT	NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME TEST TAKERS	UAB PASS RATE FIRST-TIME TEST TAKERS	NATIONAL PASS RATE FIRST-TIME TEST TAKERS
2021	72	96%	93%
2022	68	91%	92%
2023	56	98%	92%
2024	55	95%	92%
2025	55	96%	91%
5-YEAR FIRST-TIME PANCE AVERAGE		95%	92%

PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Excellent employment opportunities are available for Physician Associates, particularly in settings that have difficulty attracting physicians, such as rural and inner-city clinics. Employment opportunities for PAs are expected to grow at a much faster rate than the average for all occupations. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of Physician Associates is expected to increase by 28% from 2023 to 2033. This is due to the anticipated expansion of the health services industry and the need to provide care to patients. Physicians and institutions employ PAs in primary care and surgical specialties because PAs are effective members of the healthcare team.

All States and the District of Columbia have legislation governing the practice of Physician Associates. All jurisdictions require Physician Associates to pass the Physician Associate National Certifying Examination (PANCE), administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Associates (NCCPA). This exam is open to all graduates of accredited PA educational programs. To remain certified, PAs must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every 2 years and pass the Physician Associate National Recertification Examination (PANRE) every 10 years.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Physician Associate Studies Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). For answers to the most frequently asked questions, please visit our website: <https://www.uab.edu/shp/cds/physician-associate-studies>

UAB PA Program Information Sessions

For more information about the PA program, the application process, and career opportunities as a Physician Associate, attend one of our program information sessions. Sessions are held regularly during March - July of each year. For more information about upcoming dates or to reserve a seat for one of these sessions, please email AskCDS@uab.edu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UAB

Policies and procedures for UAB and the School of Health Professions

<https://www.uab.edu/shp/cds/physician-associate-studies/student-handbooks>

General information about UAB: www.uab.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE CAREERS, PROGRAMS, AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA): www.aapa.org

PA Education Association (PAEA): <http://www.paeonline.org/>

Alabama Society of Physician Assistants (ASPA): <http://www.myaspa.org/>

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, Inc. (NCCPA): www.nccpa.net

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Fundamental tasks, behaviors, and abilities are necessary to successfully complete the academic and clinical requirements of the program, and to satisfy licensure/certification requirements. Students requesting disability accommodations must do so by submitting a disability accommodation request in writing to the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS). Requests must be submitted each semester.

MINIMUM TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Students should be aware that the PA program requires that all students demonstrate the technical skills needed to complete the entire PA program curriculum. These skills include the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, utilize computerized information technology, and possess the visual, auditory, and motor skills needed to evaluate and treat patients effectively.

Students who are not able to demonstrate the required technical skills needed to successfully complete the PA may be dismissed from the program until such time that they can demonstrate technical skill proficiency. A reasonable attempt will be made by the PA program to accommodate students with disabilities.

Critical Thinking: Students must possess the intellectual capabilities required to complete the full curriculum and achieve the level of competence delineated by the faculty. Critical thinking requires the intellectual ability to measure, calculate, synthesize, and analyze a large and complex volume of medical and surgical information. Students in the program must also be able to perform applicable demonstrations and experiments in the medical sciences.

Computer Technology Skills: Students must be able to utilize computerized information technology to access and manage on-line medical information, participate in computerized testing as required by the curriculum, conduct research, prepare multimedia presentations, and participate in the management of computerized patient records and assessments.

Communication Skills: Students must be able to communicate clearly and effectively, in order to elicit and relay medical information.

Observation Ability: Students must be able to observe a patient during a physical exam and perform a wide range of technical skills while evaluating and managing patients.

Auditory and Tactile Ability: Students must have the ability to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, and percussion, as well as perform a wide range of technical procedures involved in the practice of medicine and surgery.

Motor and Fine Skills: Students must be able to execute the physical movements required to maneuver in small places, calibrate and use equipment, position, and move patients, and perform the technical procedures involved in the practice of medicine and surgery.

Interpersonal Ability: Students must possess a wide range of interpersonal skills, including but not limited to: (1) the emotional health required for management of high stress situations while maintaining their full intellectual abilities; (2) the ability to exercise good judgment; (3) the ability to complete all assigned patient care responsibilities; (4) the ability to manage time (show up on time, begin and complete tasks on time); (5) the ability to develop a mature, sensitive and effective relationship with medical colleagues, clinical and administrative staff, patients and families; (6) the ability to identify, use, understand, and manage emotions in positive ways to relieve stress, communicate effectively, empathize with others, overcome challenges and diffuse conflict; and (7) the ability to recognize your own emotional state and the emotional states of others, and engage with people in a way that draws them to you.



**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM (UAB)
MSPAS PRE-PA ADVISING GUIDE**

Demographics:

Name: _____

Email: _____ Contact Number: _____

Current Education Status: Junior Senior Graduate Graduate School Working

Anticipated Application Year: _____

Academic Performance:

Course Name	Course Prefix	Course Number	Course Title	Status *	Term	Year	Credit Hours	Grade
<i>Ex. Biology</i>	<i>BY</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>Biology 1</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>A</i>
Introduction to Psychology								
Abnormal <i>or</i> Developmental Psychology								
Chemistry I (LAB)								
Chemistry II (LAB)								
Biology 1 (LAB)								
Biology 2 (LAB)								
Anatomy <i>or</i> Anatomy & Physiology 1								
Physiology <i>or</i> Anatomy & Physiology 2								
Microbiology (LAB)								
Statistics (LAB)								
Medical Terminology								

* Status can be in-progress

Degree:

Name of College or University	Major - Minor Concentration	Type of Degree	Accrediting Body	MM/YYYY

Entrance Testing:

GRE Date(s)	GRE Quantitative Score	GRE Cumulative Score	GRE Verbal Score

Overall GPA	Pre-Requisite GPA	Science GPA	Graduate GPA (If applicable):

Experience:

Job Title	Location	Type *	Cumulative Hours or Days Worked	Start/End Dates
<i>Scribe</i>	<i>Mercy Medical Center</i>	<i>Work</i>	<i>100 days</i>	<i>01/2020 - Current</i>

* Options can be work, volunteer, shadow, etc.

Leadership Experience:

Service Activities:

