



**LSU Health New Orleans**  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

# **Master of Physician Assistant Studies Admissions Guidelines**



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## INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This booklet is intended to serve as a guide for potential and current applicants to the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (PA) Program at Louisiana State University Health Science Center New Orleans (LSUHSC-NO). This booklet contains both generic information about our school and program in addition to specific admissions criteria and application data that is related to the current application cycle. It should be considered an adjunct to the PA Student Handbook, which contains information regarding the program and related policies.

Applicants are encouraged to fully explore the current website, including the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

The information herein is subject to periodic review and revision as deemed necessary by the program. Changes will be indicated by the publication/revision date. It is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to be aware of all application requirements and work with admission staff to ensure a successful application.

## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT NEW ORLEANS

Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, New Orleans is home to the LSU Health Science Center. Students are immersed in their disciplines while attending school with a wide range of programs, approachable teachers, and an atmosphere that encourages interdisciplinary collaboration.

### Purpose

LSUHSC-NO exists to educate, to care for patients, and to discover. For these purposes, we ensure a continuous supply of trained Louisiana health care professionals who will train future generations of health care professionals, provide patient care to their communities, and lead in the discovery of medical and scientific breakthroughs.

### Mission

#### Mission 2030

LSUHSC-NO will be the #1 health sciences university in the Southeast, surpassing all other health science universities.

We will be #1 in student, faculty, and staff achievement.

We will be the #1 choice for residency training.

We will be #1 in patient satisfaction.

We will be #1 in Genomics-based research in the Southeast.

### Values and Beliefs

LSU Health New Orleans is dedicated to Excellence in Patient Care, Mastery in Teaching, and Continuous Learning. We believe in the relentless pursuit of Knowledge and Discovery in order to improve health care. We are committed to Serving – our students, our patients, each other, and our communities. All our energies should lead to Improving Health and Wellbeing of our patients and our communities. Being part of this team is a commitment to perform our duties with Compassion and Respect for others. Everything we do should reflect Professionalism at its highest level.

Being part of LSU Health New Orleans is about Commitment:

- To the institution and its mission
- To our individual roles and responsibilities
- To advancing the wellbeing of all our stakeholders

We believe in going The Extra Mile.

### Vivid Description of Our Future

LSU Health New Orleans will be a central player in developing and delivering the world's best-trained health care professionals, and the best health care professionals will want to work on our teaching, research, and clinical teams.

As a result of our matchless and consistent delivery of patient care and our services that unfailingly exceed all expectations, LSU Health New Orleans will be the health center of choice among students, faculty, patients, and researchers. We will receive unsolicited testimonials saying, "You make me feel as though I am your only focus."

We will be discovering solutions to the world's most troubling health problems and making meaningful contributions to the health of local communities around the world.

Our employees will take pride in their contributions to health care and feel this is the best place they've ever worked, and LSU Health will be recognized as one of the best organizations to work for in the Southeast.

In making all their health care decisions, people will ask, "Can I have access to LSU Health?" And, when seeking health care and training recommendations, people will frequently hear, "Insist on LSU Health professionals."

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSION

### What is a PA?

A physician assistant (PA) is a medical professional who practices medicine in partnership with a physician as part of a healthcare team. A PA is a graduate of an accredited PA educational program who is nationally certified and state-licensed to practice medicine with the supervision of a physician.

PAs have the best job in America, according to a report from [Glassdoor](#). To find out what it's like to have the top career in America right now.

[Monster.com](#) ranks the PA profession as having the highest expected rate of growth – 38.4 percent – of all jobs in the U.S. from 2012 to 2022, based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In its 2012 [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) the US Department of Labor stated, "*Employment of physician assistants is expected to increase 30 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. As more physicians enter specialty areas of medicine, there will be a greater need for primary healthcare providers, such as physician assistants.*"

### PA Profession

Physician assistants are health care professionals trained in intensive programs that mirror the medical model of physician education and that must be accredited by the ARC-PA. Prior to entering clinical

practice, a new graduate must take a national certification examination developed by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Once certified by the NCCPA, the new graduate must be licensed to practice medicine with supervision by an appropriate state medical board. To maintain national certification, each PA must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and sit for a recertification every ten years.

PAs provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. They can be found in the primary care specialties of family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology as well as in other medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties.

As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct interviews and physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and in virtually all states can write prescriptions. A PA's practice may also include education and research.

What a PA does varies with training, experience, state law and the scope of the supervising physician's practice. In general, a PA will see many of the same types of patients as the physician. Referral to or consultation with the physician is done for unusual or hard to manage cases. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and most U.S. Territories have enacted laws that authorize PA to prescribe in the context of the M.D. - PA practice arrangement.

## **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

### **Mission**

The Mission of the LSUHSC-New Orleans Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program is to recruit and educate individuals of the highest quality from diverse backgrounds to provide evidence-based, patient-centered healthcare to the people of Louisiana.

### **Vision**

The LSUHSC-New Orleans Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program will be a leader in the education of competent, compassionate, healthcare providers providing access to care for the people of Louisiana.

### **Goals**

The LSUHSC-New Orleans Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program is committed to:

- Recruit highly qualified applicants for enrollment as students in the LSUHSC-New Orleans Physician Assistant Program
- Obtain accreditation-continuing status, develop and maintain a standard of excellence for the program
- Develop and maintain a curriculum that promoted a 90% or better graduation rate for students entering the LSUHSC-New Orleans Physician Assistant Program
- Develop and maintain a curriculum that produces a PANCE rate first-time pass rate above the nation average.



### Accreditation Status

The LSUHSC-NO PA Program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA). The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional to the LSUHSC-NO PA Program.

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program appears to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA *Standards*. The program maintains this accreditation when a program appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the *Standards* as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.



## Non-Discrimination Policy

The LSUHSC-NO PA Program does not discriminate in the recruitment and admission of students on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, religion, political affiliation or handicap as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504.

## Educational Program

The LSUHSC-NO PA Program is divided into two phases (didactic and clinical) and spans 29 consecutive months.

### Didactic Phase

The 17-month [didactic phase of the curriculum](#) focuses on human structure and function, physiologic systems governing body function, pathological and behavioral alterations causing clinical manifestations of illness, and therapeutic principles underlying the management of illness and injury. The program will include learning opportunities in clinical genetics, culture and diversity, ethics and health promotion and disease prevention.

Both discipline-specific and interdisciplinary learning experiences with medical and allied health professions students delivered in traditional and team-based fashion are used to define the shared knowledge base requisite to entry-level practice.

As students master a specified body of knowledge and core skills, they enter a period of critical thinking and reasoning designed to integrate the basic and pre-clinical sciences of medicine. Concepts in epidemiology, principles of pathology and pathophysiology, the clinical manifestations of illness and injury, and the ability of testing to assist in the diagnostic and management processes are integrated within the Differential Diagnosis course. Courses in Electrocardiography, Radiology and Diagnostic Testing are used to reinforce student understanding of diagnostic test selection and interpretation. Students will matriculate with medical students in Clinical Pharmacology to develop a comprehensive knowledge base on which to begin their clinical use of pharmacotherapeutics. Together, these courses provide the foundation of information needed to select evidence based treatment options for the management of disease.

Learning about the role of the PA and the importance of cultural beliefs and alternative care practices to the outcomes of care are addressed in the courses PA Professional Practice, Clinical Practice Issues and Culture and Diversity. Critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving, are intrinsic to the curriculum and essential to practice and introduced in the courses Differential Diagnosis, and Clinical Medicine I and II.

Students are also prepared for the development and writing of the Master's Project, required for graduation, in the courses Research Methods I, II and [Capstone Project](#).

Faculty within the PA Program and the LSUHSC-NO basic science and clinical faculty all participate in the presentation of these didactic experiences.



### Clinical Phase

The 12-month [clinical rotation phase of the curriculum](#) provides in-depth instruction in the evaluation and management of disease and injury alongside medical students, residents, allied health practitioners and faculty in emergency medicine, internal medicine (inpatient and outpatient), family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry and behavioral medicine, and surgery.

The training experiences are used to prepare PA students to deliver health care services to diverse patient populations of all ages with a range of acute and chronic medical and surgical conditions.

Students will have the opportunity to train in state-of-the-art urban medical centers, rural hospitals and clinics and in private offices of a variety of health care providers. Service based projects in urban and rural communities are being explored to enhance the learning experience of the students. Community service is valued by the program and the profession and is an integral part of the educational process. Clinical sites are located throughout the State of Louisiana. **Students should plan on the possibility of being placed outside the New Orleans area for some of their supervised practice experiences during their clinical training. Students placed outside of the New Orleans area WILL be responsible for their housing and transportation.**



Following graduation, graduates are required to pass the PA National Certifying Examination (PANCE) in order to practice. Below are the most recent trends in the performance of our graduates.



**Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination  
Five Year First Time Taker Summary Report**

**Program Name:** Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center PA Program (LSUHSC-NO)

**Program Number:** 6019

**Report Date:** 10-12-2015

Definitions of the report headings are provided at the end of the report.  
All information is current as of the date the report was generated.

Class	Class Graduation Year	Number of First Time Takers	Program First Time Taker Pass Rate	National First Time Taker Pass Rate for the Class Graduation Year
LSUHSC PA Class 2015	2015	29	90%	Available in 2016

Five Year First Time Taker Average Pass Rate for Program: 90%

Five Year National First Time Taker Average: 94%

**Tuition and Fees**

The tuition and fee rates for the PA Program at LSUHSC-NO are announced prior to the start of each academic year and are subject change without notice.

Below is an estimate for the upcoming academic year.

<b>Tuition and Fees</b>				
	<b>Fall 2016</b>	<b>Spring 2017</b>	<b>Summer 2017</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tuition (Unrestricted)	\$8,407.20	\$8,407.20	\$4,207.60	\$21,022.00
Operational Fee (Unrestricted)	\$83.00	\$83.00	\$41.00	\$207.00
Academic Excellence Fee (Unrestricted)	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$60.00	\$240.00
Safety and Security Fee	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$250.00
Building Use Fee (Unrestricted)	\$48.00	\$48.00	\$24.00	\$120.00
Technology Fee (Restricted)	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$120.00
Student Housing Fee (Restricted)	\$45.50	\$45.50	\$35.00	\$126.00
Student Health Services Fee (Restricted)	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$17.50	\$137.50
General Activity Fee (Restricted)	\$24.50		\$0.00	\$49.00
<b>Total Student Fees</b>				
RESIDENTS (Unrest. & Restricted)	<b>\$8,903.20</b>	<b>\$8,903.20</b>	<b>\$4,465.10</b>	<b>\$22,271.50</b>
Non-Resident Fee (Unrestricted)	\$8,738.60	\$8,738.60	\$4,368.80	\$21,846.00
<b>Total Student Fees</b>				
NON-RESIDENTS	<b>\$17,641.80</b>	<b>\$17,641.80</b>	<b>\$8,833.90</b>	<b>\$44,117.50</b>

The official tuition and fees website for LSUHSC-NO is maintained by the office of the Registrar. <http://www.lsuhs.edu/tuition/alliedhealth.aspx>.

The Legislature of the State of Louisiana is responsible for setting the tuition rates for all public institutions of higher learning. The legislature meets annually.

The tuition rates for all programs are reported for one year only, due to the possibility of tuition rate changes on an annual basis.

To obtain an estimated total cost of tuition, the applicant may add the tuition for 3 spring semesters, 2 summer and 2 fall semesters, which would equal the 29 month duration of the program.

**For Example:** Tuition and Fees (if not amended by the Legislature) for a student starting the program in January of 2016 with graduation in May of 2018 would be (approximately):

**Resident:** \$22,271.50 + \$22,271.50 + \$8,903.20 = \$53,446.20 (est)

**Nonresident:** \$44,117.50 + \$44,117.50 + \$17,641.80 = \$105,876.80 (est)

Additional expenses are listed below.

Additional Required Fees and Expenses	
Graduation Fee	\$50
Physical examination course equipment	\$1,000
Required Books and Recommended Books	\$2,320
Patient Tracking System	\$80
Background Check	\$60
Laptop Computer**	\$1300-1500
Uniforms	\$200
Anatomy Lab	\$50
Suture Lab Supplies	\$75
White Coats/patches/name tag	\$90
AAPA Dues	\$75
LAPA Dues	\$25
NCCPA PANCE (National Entry Level Board Exam)	\$425
Louisiana State Licensing Fees (Initial)	\$250
Parking	\$75

\*Additional required fees and expenses are estimated and are subject to change. Students are required to show proof of and maintain health insurance coverage for the entire length of the program.

### Laptop

All incoming first year students in the Physician Assistant Program may be required to possess a laptop computer as part of the required equipment needed for classes. The curriculum of the Physician Assistant Program includes courses taken with the School of Medicine students and computer access

must be identical. Computer-based learning materials and exams are part of the curriculum. To ensure standardized testing conditions and computer support, all students must purchase the specified model through the School of Allied Health Professions. The approximate cost of the computer will be \$1300 - \$1500 including hardware, software, three (3) year warranty, shipping and taxes. A fact sheet which includes specifications and order form will be sent to accepted applicants for admissions. The cost of the computer is added to the student's spring fee bill and is eligible for financial aid.

### Financial Aid

The primary responsibility for the funding of your education lies with you and your family. Financial aid is available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. For more information, contact the [Office of Financial Aid](#).

External loan repayment opportunities exist and are further detailed on our [website](#).

### Program Sequence and Advanced Standing

Students are expected to complete the designated professional curriculum in the sequence specified. Each semester's course work is to be considered pre-requisite to the next semester. Students may not enter the program with advanced standing, regardless of educational or work experience, and no accelerated curriculum or course waivers are offered.

### Important External Links

The following links maybe useful in learning about the PA Profession:

- The American Academy of Physician Assistants
  - [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)
- The Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants
  - [www.ourlapa.org](http://www.ourlapa.org)
- The Physician Assistant Education Association
  - [www.paeaonline.org](http://www.paeaonline.org)
- PAEA Applicant Resource Blog
  - [www.pafocus.org](http://www.pafocus.org)
- The US Bureau of Labor Statistics
  - [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physician-assistant.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physician-assistant.htm)

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

The following information represents the most comprehensive and up to date policies and standards for those interested in applying for the PA Program this **current admission cycle**.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to be aware of the information in this document and meet all published deadlines and requirements to apply to the program. If an application file is not complete and verified by the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, it will not be considered regardless of the original CASPA submission date. Please pay close attention to the instructions and deadlines in this guidebook to assure a complete and competitive application.

Falsification or deliberate exclusion of information (personal or academic) during any portion of the application process, including the CASPA application, will be cause for immediate withdrawal of your application for the current cycle and future consideration for acceptance into the LSUHSC-NO PA Program.

### Application Process

The PA Program will admit students only once a year (in January). An application file will be considered complete and reviewable by the PA Program Admissions Committee after satisfactorily completing the following steps:

#### Step 1: Review All Admission Requirement Outlined Below

It is the applicant's responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in this publication (and any subsequent revisions applicable to this admission cycle) and to assure they meet all the Admission Requirements outlined therein.

#### Step 2: Complete the CASPA Application

All applications must be processed through the [Central Application Service for Physician Assistants \(CASPA\)](#). GRE Scores must be sent directly to the CASPA website. Unsolicited information or letters of recommendation will not be added to any application. The LSUHSC-NO PA Program does not have a supplemental application. **All application materials will be gathered by CASPA and sent to the program after completion and all information is verified.**

- Applications are accepted beginning late April and must be **electronically submitted to CASPA AND verified by August 1<sup>st</sup>** for entry into the class that will start the following January.
- The PA Program reserves the right to verify credentials documented in the applicant's application.
- You should review and adhere to the CASPA [Admissions Code of Cooperation](#) and [Professional Code of Conduct](#).
- Waiver of Fees: If the CASPA fee is prohibitive to applying, please review the "Fee Waiver Division" information at the CASPA website to determine if you qualify for this service (See CASPA FAQ section).
  - This waiver is offered by CASPA and with limited funding. Waivers are granted until funding is depleted. Please contact CASPA for more information.
- **Personal Narrative:** Applicants are asked to write "*a brief statement expressing your motivation or desire to become a physician assistant*", which should be written at a graduate level and demonstrate that you have an in-depth understanding of the PA role and functions.
  - Applicants are also encouraged to explain any aspects of their application that may need further clarification (e.g., gaps in education or work history; academic inconsistency, difficulty or poor performance; etc.).
- **Letters of Reference:** Although CASPA only requires two (2) letters of reference to consider an application complete, LSUHSC-NO **requires three (3) references**. All three **MUST** be submitted before your application will be considered complete and reviewable by the PA Program Admissions Committee.

- References should be selected from individuals who are well acquainted with the applicant academically, personally, and/or professionally over a period of time.
- References should be from a variety of sources, however, **one letter must be from a physician assistant.**
- References from family members are **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.**
- Unsolicited information or letters of recommendation sent directly to the program will not be added to any application.

Contact CASPA with any questions (617.612.2080) [caspainfo@caspaonline.org](mailto:caspainfo@caspaonline.org)



### Special Instructions

- Updating Completed Courses: If you have already submitted your CASPA application but have completed coursework that will fulfill the pre-requisites, it is the applicant's responsibility to update the CASPA transcript as outlined in the "After the Application" section.
  - The final day to access and update your CASPA application is determined by CASPA.
- **Reapplying:** If reapplying to our program, it is the applicant's responsibility to make sure the newest application reflects your most recent transcripts, healthcare experience, and certifications.
  - No assumptions will be made by the admissions staff in regards to these areas.
- In addition, your personal statement should reflect your current motivation and reflection on your career pursuits.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to complete all areas of the CASPA application. Applications will be eliminated for the following reasons:

- Failure to submit an application, have it verified and mailed through CASPA by the deadline posted on the LSUHSC-NO Master of Physician Assistant Studies website.
- Failure of application verification and mailing by CASPA by the published deadline.
- Aptitude scores and grade point averages that do not reach the required minimums.
- Missing transcripts or letters of recommendation.
- Inability to complete course prerequisites prior to matriculation.
- Failure to meet and or maintain the program technical standards.
- Failure to accumulate 80 hours minimum of healthcare experience.

### Faculty Screening Criteria

Each application is graded against ten criteria using an eleven point scale [from zero to ten]. The screening criteria include: communication, critical analysis, commitment to service, teamwork, role awareness, leadership, care provider attributes, intellectual capacity, maturity, and motivation. Evidence for scoring is derived from the applications, letters of recommendation, work, and extra-curricular activities described in the application. The scores assigned result in the Invitation Rank Score. Invitations

are extended to those applicants that the admissions committee perceives to be competitive for admissions.

### Interview

After review of all application materials, the Admission Committee will invite qualified applicants to interview on campus. This interview may include interviews based on the Multiple Mini Interview technique or may include a panel interview and the performance of an onsite writing example. The Admission Committee will evaluate all application materials and the results of the interview and select the most qualified candidates. All invitations for interviews are generated and communicated to qualified applicants through CASPA and the LSUHSC-NO Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program. This occurs via email within one week of generating the Invitation Rank Score. The dates for interviews are decided by the PA Program. Invitees are required to acknowledge their acceptance of the offer for interview to the program within seven days. A maximum of 120 applicants are interviewed.

The ten criteria used by the faculty interviewers to rate candidates include: communication, critical analysis, commitment to service, teamwork, role awareness, leadership, care provider attributes, intellectual capacity, maturity, and motivation. Each interviewer then completes an Interview Form that generates a mean score that is factored into the Final Acceptance Rank Score.

### Acceptance

The Program Director, the Admissions Committee and the Medical Director will then review all materials and recommend one of the following:

- Acceptance (for those who have completed all prerequisites and are highly recommended for admission)
- Conditional acceptance (for those who need to complete prerequisites)
- Wait list (applicants who meet the minimum requirement and who may be offered acceptance if the best qualified candidates do not fill all available seats)
- Non-admission (applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements or who are not competitive within the applicant pool)

Each of the following qualities is viewed as essential to support the development of a physician assistant. When evaluating an applicant's readiness to matriculate in the LSUHSC-NO Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program, members of the admissions committee consider closely all information available with particular attention to the following elements:

- Rigorousness of courses taken in undergraduate school
- Science **and** overall grade point average
- Scores received on the Graduate Record Examination
- Responses to questions contained in the application
- References from advisors, professors, and employers
- Leadership experience
- Community service experience
- Communication skills
- Interest in the problems of people
- Compassion
- Personal integrity

- Motivation for a career in health care
- Recommendations of faculty interviewers

**The accelerated nature of the graduate-level curriculum offered by LSUHSC-NO for students enrolled in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program requires that applicants seeking admission provide adequate evidence of their ability to undertake an advanced course of study.**

**Notifications and Communication**

Upon submission of any of the application requirements, applicants will receive electronic notification of their application status from the LSUHSC-NO PA Program. Due to the high volume of applications, **e-mail is the best mode of communication** with the program office. You are required to regularly check your account and update the PA Program with regards to any e-mail address changes in a reasonable period of time. Failure to respond to program requests in a timely manner may result in loss of eligibility for program admission.

**Application Important Dates**

It is the applicant’s responsibility to follow up with CASPA and LSUHSC-NO to make sure all requirements are met and documents are received in a timely manner to comply with the published deadlines.

Please note the following **DEADLINES** for matriculation:

PA Class Entering	CASPA Application Deadline	PA Class Graduation
January 2017	August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	May 2019

**EARLY APPLICATION** does not guarantee an interview or give the applicant any advantage. All applications will be considered if submitted and verified by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Residents of the State of Louisiana are given preference in the admissions processes of all LSU Health Sciences Center certificate and degree programs. For certain highly competitive curricula, non-resident applications will not be accepted.**

Residence status is determined by the Office of the Registrar and is based upon guidelines established by The LSU System in [Permanent Memoranda 31](#).

**IT IS BEST TO APPLY TO OUR PROGRAM SHORTLY AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALL PREREQUISITE COURSES AND HAVE THE FINAL GRADES LISTED ON YOUR TRANSCRIPT.**

## Application Checklist

Below is a brief checklist of the major components of the LSUHSC-NO Admissions criteria that will be necessary to complete your application and be considered for a potential interview.

### LSUHSC-NO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

#### ADMISSIONS SELF-APPRAISAL CHECKLIST

I HAVE OR WILL HAVE COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING: Please refer to the website for prerequisite information and the latest on deadline dates:	In Progress	Completed
<b>All prerequisites MUST be passed with a "C" or Better</b>		
<b>MICROBIOLOGY/BACTERIOLOGY</b> for science majors with lab (3 or 4 credits)*		
<b>ANATOMY (vertebrate comparative anatomy)</b> (with lab) (4 credits)	You may take A&P I and A&P II (with labs) to meet this requirement	
<b>PHYSIOLOGY (vertebrate comparative physiology)</b> (with lab) (3 or 4 credits)*		
<b>GENETICS</b> for science majors (3 credits)		
<b>CHEMISTRY I and II</b> for science majors (with lab) (8 credits)		
<b>MATH</b> (3 hours) Must be at the level of college algebra or higher.		
<b>STATISTICS</b> ( with analysis of variance and/or multiple regression) (3 credits)		
<b>ORGANIC CHEMISTRY/BIOCHEMISTRY</b> (with lab) (3 or 4 credits)		
<b>Minimum of 8 credits upper level biology electives:</b> Immunology, Bacteriology, Histology, Parasitology, Nutrition, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Embryology (this list serves as an example and is not comprehensive)		
<b>BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES</b> (Sociology or Psychology) (6 credits)		
<b>PREREQUISITE CHECKLIST:</b> The LSUHSC-NO MPAS Program does NOT review individual transcripts or courses to determine course qualifications. Please consult your college advisor for specific questions regarding prerequisite courses.		

\*If your institution does not offer a lab with these courses, you will be exempt from the lab requirement for these courses ONLY. (3 credits are acceptable when no lab offered). **All science courses MUST be for science majors. No distance/online courses accepted.** All prerequisites MUST be passed with a grade of "C" or better. **GPA: All course grades are used in GPA calculations.** Refer to CASPA information for method of calculating GPA's. The LSUHSC-NO Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program does not accept prior learning experiences to fulfill prerequisite and/or professional course work credits as evidenced through written examinations, demonstrated skills or health care experience. **No courses will be waived.**

<b>Overall Grade Point Average:</b> (estimate) <b>3.0 MINIMUM</b>	
<b>Science Grade Point Average:</b> (biology, microbiology, immunology/virology, anatomy, physiology, genetics, chemistry for undergraduate and graduate courses) (estimate) <b>3.0 MINIMUM</b>	
<b>Other Information:</b> <b>Complete CASPA application</b> including all official transcripts and supporting documents ( <a href="http://www.caspa.org">www.caspa.org</a> ) marked submitted and completed and verified by CASPA.	
<b>FEES: CASPA</b> (varies depending upon number of program applications)	
<b>BACHELOR'S DEGREE:</b> Prerequisites and degree from an accredited United States University must be completed prior to matriculation in the program. At the latest, must be completed no later than the Fall semester of the year prior to matriculation.	
<b>GRADUATE RECORD EXAM (GRE):</b> GRE scores are valid for 5 years from the date taken. LSUHSC-NO institution code is 6385. You must take the GRE even if you have a Master's degree.	
<b>CURRENT BASIC LIFE SUPPORT:</b> (AHA BLS or BCLS) Certification is required upon enrollment in the program and <b>MUST BE MAINTAINED</b> throughout matriculation.	
<b>Three Letters of Reference (sent through CASPA only)</b>	
<b>Health Care experience</b> (80 hours minimum, more suggested)	
<b>Technical Standards</b> (Must meet and maintain)	

**NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application requirements (prerequisites, grade point averages, etc.) and deadlines since these are subject to change.** Documentation of matriculation in prerequisite courses by semester attended, in progress, or planned and other requirements in as much detail as possible is required. Your application will be considered incomplete if there is missing information and/or documentation by the published deadline **and will not be processed** due to the volume of applications received.

## Admissions Requirements

### GPA

All applications must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale AND an overall science GPA of a 3.0 at the time of application.

**Note:** Although 3.0 is the minimum GPA required, students with higher GPAs are more competitive.

**Statistics from the previous matriculating students**

Matriculating Class	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Applications</b>				
<b>Total Applicants</b>	219	261	330	488
<b>Interviewed</b>	54	61	65	88
<b>Matriculated</b>	30	30	30	30
<b>Graduated</b>			29	30
<b>Demographics</b>				
<b>Percent Male</b>	13.30%	36.67%	20%	20%
<b>Average Age</b>	23	24.33	24.53	23.3
<b>Louisiana Residents</b>	100%	86.70%	86.70%	90%
<b>Out of State Residents</b>	0%	13.30%	13.30%	10%
<b>Preparedness</b>				
<b>Cumulative GPA</b>	3.46	3.48	3.49	3.66
<b>Science GPA</b>	3.18	3.38	3.47	3.6
<b>Hours of Experience</b>	2000	3803	2600	1457

### GRE Exam

Applicants must successfully complete the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Exam results must not be older than 5 years. All applicants seeking admission to the LSUHSC-NO PA Program must register for and take the Graduate Record Examination General Test ([www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org)). When filling out the application, you will be asked for an Institutional Code. The institutional code for LSUHSC-NO CASPA is 0202. Your official GRE scores must be sent directly to CASPA.

**Minimum GRE scores:** Applicants must have a minimum score of 153 (old score 500) on the verbal and 144 (old score 500) on the quantitative, and 3.5 on the analytical writing components of the GRE General Test to be competitive with others in the overall applicant pool.

### Citizenship

Applicants must be a United States Citizen or permanent resident. In spite of recent advances in the PA concept in other countries, it is a unique profession to the United States healthcare environment. As

such, we train physician assistants to work with the U.S. healthcare system and want to ensure graduates of the PA Program are eligible to continue in the U.S. upon completion of their training.

### Bachelor's Degree

Applicants must have completed all undergraduate degree requirements and have been issued a bachelor's degree prior to matriculating as an LSUHSC-NO student. If the bachelor's degree was issued by a U.S. college or university, it should be from a regionally accredited institution. Official transcripts from the awarding institution must specify the date upon which the degree was issued.

NOTE: A Bachelor's degree must be completed before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the anticipated matriculation.

### Prerequisite Coursework

Applicants must have completed the following required courses and have earned a grade of "C" or better in the following required subjects and have completed the required courses within the past ten years. ALL science courses must be for science majors. Survey courses are not accepted.

- Biological Sciences – 8 hours of upper level coursework (3000+ level courses)
- Microbiology or Bacteriology (with lab) 4 credits
- Chemistry I and II (with labs) 8 credits
- Anatomy (human or comparative with a lab, comparative preferred) 4 credits
- Physiology (general, human or comparative with lab, comparative preferred) 4 credits
  - **Note:** Louisiana State University students: Biol 2160 will meet this requirement. A 3000 or 4000 level physiology course will also meet this requirement.
- Statistics (with analysis of variance and /or multiple regression) 3 credits
- Genetics 3 credits
- Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry 3 or 4 credits
- Behavioral Sciences 6 credits (Sociology or Psychology)
- College algebra or higher 3 credits

Applicants are urged to complete their elective coursework in areas of behavioral, physical or social sciences. After review of the applicant's records the Admissions Committee may require additional course work and testing as condition of acceptance.

No science prerequisite coursework completed online will be accepted. No courses will be waived.

\*\*All prerequisite coursework must be completed within the last ten years. Coursework greater than ten years will not be accepted.

### Healthcare Experience

A minimum of eighty hours of documented healthcare experience, however, more hours are highly recommended. This experience may be either paid or volunteer and should include exposure to mid-level practitioners. We reward healthcare experience based on your CASPA application descriptions so it is important that you carefully follow the CASPA guidelines when describing the type of experience you have accumulated.

Below you will find examples of acceptable healthcare experience:

- Emergency Medical Technician
- Licensed Vocation Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Scribe
- Medical Technologist
- Military Medical Corpsman
- Nursing Assistant
- Paramedic
- Psychiatric Technician
- Radiologic Technician
- Respiratory Therapist
- Chiropractor
- Registered Nurse

Current CPR must be obtained and maintained throughout matriculation if accepted.

### **Technical Standards**

All applicants must be able to master the Technical Standards prior to and throughout the program.

This description defines the capabilities that are necessary for an individual to successfully complete the LSUHSC-NO physician assistant curricula.

#### **Observation and Sensation**

The PA student must possess sufficient visual, auditory, and tactile sensation to receive appropriate information in the classroom, laboratory, and other educational and clinical settings. Sensation must be satisfactory to receive verbal and nonverbal communications from patients and others, and to perform inspection, auscultation and palpation techniques during the physical examination.

#### **Communication**

The PA student must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients, family members, and other clinicians. This includes expressive and receptive modes of verbal, nonverbal, and written communication. The student must have the ability to accurately assess receptive communication in order to make appropriate and timely responses. The student must be able to communicate attentively, effectively, and sensitively to others.

#### **Motor Functions**

Students must have sufficient strength and coordination to perform the activities required of a physician assistant. These include but are not limited to performing a physical examination utilizing diagnostic instruments and techniques in palpation and percussion. Students must have sufficient stamina to sit, stand, and move within classroom, laboratory, examination rooms, treatment rooms, and operating rooms for long periods of time. The student must have sufficient coordination to move about patient care environments, and sufficient dexterity to use

common medical instruments. Students must be able to arrange for transportation between educational and clinical settings.

### **Intellectual Capability**

Clinical problem solving and reasoning requires these intellectual abilities and encompass those to accurately measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, learn, and retain information and make decisions in a timely manner. Students must be able to comprehend two and three-dimensional structures, and must be able to understand diagnostic testing and treatment regimens.

### **Behavioral and Social Attributes**

Individuals must possess the emotional health required for the appropriate use of their intellectual and mental abilities, including logical thinking, good judgment, impulse control, empathy, interest and motivation. These abilities should be sufficient to assure the development and maintenance of therapeutic relationships with patients and those who care for them. Individuals must be able to maintain emotional health despite stress, uncertainty, and physically taxing workloads and to adapt to changing situations while handling the responsibilities associated with medical education and patient care.

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Allied Health Professions at New Orleans will consider for admission, progression, and graduation individuals who demonstrate the knowledge and the ability to perform or learn to perform the skills described in this document. Individuals will be assessed not only on their scholastic accomplishments, but also on their physical and emotional capacities to meet the requirements of the school's curriculum and to graduate as skilled and effective practitioners of medicine. Therefore, the following technical requirements apply.

1. The ability to observe and participate in experiments in the basic sciences
2. The ability to analyze, synthesize, extrapolate, solve problems, and reach diagnostic and therapeutic judgments in a timely manner
3. The sufficient use of the senses of vision, hearing and the somatic sensation necessary to perform a physical examination
4. The ability to establish and maintain professional relationships with patients, faculty, and peers
5. The ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with patients, and colleagues
6. The ability to perform routine laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures
7. The ability to perform appropriately in emergency situations
8. The ability to display good judgment in the assessment and treatment of patients

These technical standards are identical to the technical standards required of students matriculating in the LSUHSC-NO School of Medicine, and conform to the LCME accreditation standards.

## Physician Assistant Shadowing Experiences

Physician Assistant Shadowing Experiences are not required. This experience not only gives the applicant an insight into the profession on an intimate level, but also afford the applicant an opportunity to see if she or he is a 'good-fit' for the profession.

If PA shadowing it not done, it is recommended that you research the profession and talk about the PA profession with a Physician Assistant before interviewing. Your knowledge of the profession and your reasons for selecting this career are likely to play a role in the interview process.

## AFTER THE APPLICATION

### Notification and Communication

Upon submission of any of the application requirements, applicants will receive electronic notification of their application status via e-mail through the CASPA website. You are required to regularly check your e-mail account provided on your CASPA application and update any e-mail address changes in a reasonable period of time. Failure to respond to program requests in a timely manner may result in loss of eligibility for program admission.

When trying to get information from the LSUHSC-NO Program office, e-mail communication is preferred. You may e-mail the program at [PAProgram@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:PAProgram@lsuhsc.edu).

### Updating CASPA Transcripts

If you have already completed and submitted your CASPA application but have since completed additional coursework that is required by our program (i.e. pre-requisites), you must update your CASPA application so we are able to calculate your pre-requisite GPAs.

This can be accomplished in the following manner and MUST be completed before access to your application is removed by CASPA:

- Navigate to the "Coursework" section of your verified CASPA application for this cycle.
- Delete any Planned/In Progress courses that are now complete.
- Re-enter these courses as "Completed".  
NOTE: you must have completed ALL courses in the term before you can change the status to "Complete"
- You may also enter any new "Planned" or "In-progress" courses in upcoming terms as applicable.
- Click "Save" to submit the information as an update.

Once you update the courses, you MUST submit proof of completion from the individual school(s) for us to verify the updated information. Unofficial or student copies of transcripts will not be accepted. Once an offer for matriculation is made, official transcripts will be required.

- Official transcripts should be mailed to the following address:

LSUHSC- New Orleans

ATTN: Physician Assistant Program  
411 S. Prieur Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112

NOTE: All transcripts should be mailed to CASPA for verification. Offer of invitation to the PA Program may be given while some coursework is in progress. Those courses **MUST** be completed before December 31, 2016. Those transcripts are the **ONLY** transcripts that should be sent directly to the program.

### Notice of Interviews

Competitive applicants will be invited to participate in an interview process to assess interpersonal and communication skills, maturity, and understanding and commitment to the PA career and the LSUHSC-NO Program's missions and values.

Interviews will be held on the LSUHSC-NO campus and candidates will be given no less than two weeks' notice to facilitate the necessary arrangements to participate in the interview process. Out of state applicants will be given 4 weeks' notice.

Absence or withdrawal from the interview automatically places the applicant at risk for forfeiture of consideration for a seat in the class. Due to the interactive nature of the interview process, long distance interviews (either via telephone or videoconferencing) are not acceptable alternatives.

### Acceptance in the Program

Notification of acceptance into the LSUHSC-NO PA Program will be provided within two (2) weeks of the final interviews. Applicants offered a seat in the January class must acknowledge acceptance of the offer within ten (10) calendar days of their notification by providing the following:

1. An electronic response to the PA Program of Acceptance letter.
2. A non-refundable acceptance deposit (\$500) to hold a seat in the class and which will be applied toward tuition
3. A completed criminal background check (will include checking sex offenses and crimes against minors or elderly). Regarding misdemeanors or felonies, even if indicated that record is expunged, the information is still discoverable during a background check. **Any omission or errors are considered falsification of the application, and this could result in negative clearance.** A negative clearance, however, will not necessarily preclude matriculation; but a conviction of a felony offense may result in ineligibility to receive licensure in Louisiana.

### Health Requirements

The State of Louisiana requires students in health care related fields to have been immunized against certain diseases. The specific immunization requirements are based on Louisiana Department of State Health Services, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Centers for Disease Control recommendations. Once at the LSUHSC-NO SAHP homepage select "Incoming Students" for information

about the documents used to indicate immunization completion, and “Student Immunization Requirements” for a list of those immunizations required of all entering students.

NOTE: Effective Sept. 1, 2011, all students enrolling in LSUHSC-NO health-related training programs, to include the PA Program, are required to have undergone meningitis vaccination within the last 5 years and no later than 10 days before their date of enrollment in 2016.

### **Wait List Status**

Students who are not offered a seat in the program following the Interviews may be placed on a wait list, at the recommendation of the Admissions Committee and/or the Program Director. The wait list is activated as necessary by the Program Director. Rank or position on the wait list will not be disclosed to candidates due to its dynamic nature. A wait list is valid from the close of the interview process through the first week of classes for which the student applied. Wait-listed applicants not advanced to a seat are NOT considered for admission to the following class without reapplication.

### **Deferment Policy**

LSUHSC-NO does not allow deferment of acceptance into the Program. Those applicants who cannot matriculate into the Program after acceptance for any reason must re-apply the following application cycle.

### **Reapplication**

Applicants who are not accepted to the PA Program are encouraged to self-evaluate their application (and interview if granted) in order to identify areas that can be improved. The PA Program at LSUHSC-NO encourages reapplication once a serious effort has been made to remedy any deficiencies. Such an effort by an applicant is viewed by the admissions committee as an indication of motivation and perseverance and highlighted in a subsequent application.

Consultations with admissions staff to discuss ways to strengthen your application to our program are available and can be scheduled on an individual basis.

If recycling your CASPA application for a subsequent admissions cycle, it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure the resubmission accurately reflects your most recent preparation and status. Updating your transcripts, healthcare experience, certifications, and personal statement are highly recommended.

## **INFORMATION SESSIONS**

The LSUHSC-NO Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program offers information sessions for individuals who are interested in attending the program. Dates for these information sessions will be posted on the program website.

What to expect: Information sessions are given by the program and are open to the public. These sessions are scheduled two to three times a year. Attendance at these sessions is not required for admission. The applicant is responsible for knowing program prerequisites and requirements.

Participants learn firsthand about our Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program from program faculty. A review of the prerequisite courses required for admissions, an admissions process overview

and if time permits, a tour of the program, including classrooms and physical examination lab. Occasionally, current students will be on hand to share a glimpse of their life as a PA student.

Participants are encouraged to come prepared by bringing a notebook and pen/pencil. We have found that spending time reviewing the information on our website before coming to an information session is valuable.

We also highly recommend that participants research the physician assistant profession prior to attending a session. We highly recommend these information sites:

<http://www.aapa.org/>

<https://portal.caspaonline.org/>

<http://www.paeaonline.org>

We want you to leave with a very clear understanding about the high expectations we have of our students, the challenging nature of graduate school and what you are committing to if you enter our program.

### **Driving Directions and Parking**

The School of Allied Health Professions is located at 411 S. Prieur Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Visitor parking is provided on the first level of the South Roman Street garage. The entrance is on South Roman Street. There is an automated pay station located on the first level by the elevators. The automated pay station accepts cash and credit cards. Visitor parking rates are \$1.00 per hour up to a daily max of \$10.00.

<http://www.lsuhs.edu/administration/ae/visitorparking.aspx>

### **Campus Map**

<http://www.lsuhs.edu/maps/downtown.aspx>

### **Directions**

<http://www.lsuhs.edu/maps/>

