



Policy: Program Admissions Policy	Applicability: PASP Students
Policy Owner: Physician Assistant Sciences Program	Approved By: Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research
Effective Date: January 1, 2019	Last Reviewed: June 29, 2023
Next Review: June 29, 2024	Contact: (615)321-2933

PURPOSE: To detail the process by which applications to the Meharry Medical College Physician Assistant (MMC PA) Sciences program are screened and selected for review by Physician Assistant Admission Committee (PAAC).

POLICY: Meharry Medical College’s Physician Assistant Sciences Program is committed to using a holistic approach for recruiting, accepting, educating and graduating a diverse group of qualified individuals from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

DEFINITIONS:

Delay: postpone or defer an action or event.

PROCEDURE: Applicants must meet all program application requirements, as well as submit all required documents before the program application deadline in order to be considered for review. The initial screening of application and supporting material is completed by the Chair and/or the program staff on the PA Admissions Committee (PAAC).

The PAAC Chair will screen all application to verify all program requirements have been met including:

- U.S. citizen or international student in a legal status to study in the U.S. meeting the English-proficiency requirements.
- Completed CASPA and MMC PA supplemental application by the deadline.
- Prerequisite courses have been completed, with a minimum grade of “C” and verified by CASPA by August 1st of the year prior to matriculation.
- Anatomy and Physiology must be completed within five (5) calendar years of the application.
- Applicants must have an earned bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. college or university, by August 1st of the year prior to matriculation
- Official transcripts from every university or college attended. Students who attended international institutions must have their transcripts evaluated by one of the following companies: [World Education Services \(WES\)](#), [Global Credential Evaluators \(GCE\)](#), or [Educational Credential Evaluators \(ECE\)](#). All transcripts, including international institution transcript reports submitted and verified by CASPA.



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- Three (3) Letters of reference from any of the following: supervisor, professor, PA-C, MD/DO, other healthcare professionals and/or academic advisor. Letters of reference must be current and no older than one year at the time of CASPA submission.

After the minimum application criteria has been met, faculty will be assigned to review a selected number of applicants. Each CASPA application will have a total score calculated, resulting from the holistic admissions process, and interviews for admission or denial into the PA Sciences Program class will be generated.

Applicant Preference in the Decision to Extend an Offer to Interview:

- All officially designated Historically Black College and University (HBCU) graduates
- Military veterans with an honorable discharge (must produce a DD214 / DD256 or equivalent)
- Meharry Legacy (Applicant is a child, grandchild, or sibling of a Meharry graduate)
- Prior healthcare experience and community service/volunteer experience, especially in underserved communities which is consistent with the mission of Meharry Medical College
- First generation college student
- Received Pell Grant in college
- Resided in a federally designated Medically Underserved Areas/Populations ([Click here](#)) during high school
- Completion of recommended course work

Incomplete Application:

Applicants will be able to track the status of their application via CASPA application portal.

Applications that are incomplete or not verified by August 1st will not be reviewed for the current application cycle. The applicant is encouraged to reapply during the next application cycle once all requirements for application are met and the applicant will be required to resubmit all required application materials. The MMC PA Program does not save any documents submitted by the applicant for any prior application cycles.

GPA:



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The PA Sciences program does not have a minimum science or cumulative GPA requirement. However, for institutional reporting, as well as to report matriculating class averages, both science and cumulative GPAs will be tracked.

Age of Course Work:

All science prerequisite coursework must be completed within five (5) calendar years from the date of the application submission to the MMC PA Program.

Prerequisites:

The following prerequisites are required and must be completed with a “C” or better:

- Medical Terminology (1 credit hour)
- General or Inorganic Chemistry I & II, with lab (8 credit hours)
- General Biology I & II (6 credit hours)
- Human Anatomy or Anatomy and Physiology I, with lab (4 credit hours)
- Human Physiology or Anatomy and Physiology II, with lab (4 credit hours)
- General Psychology (3 credit hours), will also accept Abnormal or Developmental Psychology
- Advanced Placement (AP) high school course credit will be given for prerequisite courses, if accepted by the college or university.

The following coursework is highly recommended and a preference is given to applicants for each course completed with a “C” or better:

- Microbiology (3 credit hours)
- Immunology (3 credit hours)
- Genetics (3 credit hours)
- Biochemistry (3 credit hours)
- Organic Chemistry I, with lab (4 credit hours)
- Organic Chemistry II, with lab (4 credit hours)
- Statistics (3 credit hours)

All coursework, required or highly recommended for admission must be completed and verified by August 1st of the year prior to matriculation.



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English-Proficiency Requirements

All applicants born outside the United States are required to provide a TOEFL score of 100 or better on the internet-based test or secure a TOEFL waiver by the application deadline (TOEFL Code 1458).

- Waivers are automatically granted for applicants with a high school diploma, bachelor's degree, or graduate degree from an accredited U.S. institution.

Letters of Recommendation:

MMC PA Program requires three letters of recommendation to be submitted with the application. The letters of reference from any of the following: supervisor, professor/instructor, PA-C, MD/DO, other healthcare professionals, and/or academic advisor. Letters of reference must be current, no older than one year old at the time of CASPA submission.

Advanced Placement/Transfer Students:

All MMC PA Program courses must be successfully completed in the curriculum and no advanced placement options are offered. The program does not accept transfer students from other PA Programs.

Delayed or Deferred Admissions:

The MMC PA Program does not offer delayed matriculation/deferred admission. However, the PAAC will evaluate special circumstances on a case-by-case basis. The admitted student who fails to matriculate for the class selected must reapply for admittance. Past success of admission to the program does not confer the likelihood of admission with future applications.