



HEALTH PROFESSIONS

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Admissions Policy

APPLIES TO: Prospective Students

DATE OF REVISION: 05/30/2025

BACKGROUND:

ARC-PA Standard 3.13 states: *The program must make student admission decisions in accordance with clearly defined and published practices of the institution and program.*

PURPOSE:

To ensure compliance with ARC-PA standard 3.13, the CMU PA program will clearly define and publish the practices used to make student admission decisions.

POLICY:

To ensure fair and equitable admissions for all prospective students, the Central Michigan University PA Program's Admissions Committee has established a scored, yet holistic, approach to the process of admissions. This process ensures that students admitted into the CMU PA Program will have the potential to be academically successful and complete the program to become compassionate and competent Physician Assistants.

PROCEDURE:

The CMU PA Admissions Committee is comprised of faculty, preceptors, community physician assistants and physicians, and CMU PA Program alumni. The admissions committee also receives support from the College of Health Professions Office of Graduate Admissions.

The prerequisites for admission into the CMU PA program are:

- A completed bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college/university or appropriate international institution.
- A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0.
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in every prerequisite course.
- A minimum of 500 hours of paid direct patient care experience.
- Three completed letters of reference.
- One semester of anatomy lecture with lab.
- One semester of physiology lecture with lab.
- One semester of pathophysiology.
- One semester of microbiology with or without lab.
- One semester of biochemistry with or without lab.
- One semester of developmental psychology (from birth through old age).

The CMU PA program participates in the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). All documents must be submitted to CASPA and verified by the application deadline of September 1st. All prerequisites and bachelor's degree must be completed prior to matriculation.

Admissions Policy

The program's admissions committee, along with program faculty, preceptors, CMU PA Program alumni, and community physician assistants and physicians will assist in the applicant selection process. Each completed application is evaluated and scored for established criteria that include: 1) academic performance, 2) healthcare related experience, 3) personal attributes as recognized by three letters of reference, personal statements, and volunteer experiences.

Any applicant not meeting the minimum standards is notified in writing at the completion of the initial review. Applicants who have attended CMU for their undergraduate degree and have maintained a minimum grade point average of 3.40 will be offered a formal interview. Additionally, the CMU PA Program agrees to interview up to four suitably qualified and duly enrolled full-time students from Northern Michigan University who meet all the admissions criteria but are not guaranteed admission. The CMU PA Program also agrees to interview up to two suitably qualified and duly enrolled full-time students from Lake Superior State University who meet all the admissions criteria but are not guaranteed admission. The CMU PA Program agrees to interview up to two suitably qualified and duly enrolled full-time students from Michigan Technological University who meet all the admissions criteria but are not guaranteed admission.

The purpose of the formal interview is to further assess personal attributes such as communication skills, emotional and intellectual maturity, and general knowledge of the PA profession and the responsibilities and skills it entails. The interviewee will be asked to complete two individual interviews, one group interview, and a writing sample. The scores generated from the initial application review will determine if an invitation to interview is issued. The scores generated at the time of the interview are combined with the pre-interview scores and calculated into a weighted total. After final review by the program director and the admissions committee, offers of admission are extended via email. Each applicant receives one of three emails explaining the results:

1. Program acceptance email;
2. Program wait-list email;
3. Program denial email.

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

Approved by Admissions Committee on May 30th, 2025.

Kathleen Flannery, PA-C

5/30/2025

Signature

Date

Kathleen Flannery, PA-C
CMU PA Program Director