



APPLIES TO: Prospective students

DATE OF REVISION: 3-18-2026

BACKGROUND: ARC-PA Standard A3.13 states: *The program makes student admission decisions in accordance with clearly defined and published practices of the institution and program.*

PURPOSE: To ensure compliance with ARC-PA standard A3.13, the CMU PA program will clearly define and publish the practices used to make student admission decisions to ensure that all applicants possess the necessary English language proficiency to successfully engage in the academic, clinical, and professional requirements of the Physician Assistant program.

POLICY: Applicants must demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in English, consistent with the expectations of the program and the physician assistant profession.

The TOEFL iBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test) is the preferred method for demonstrating English language proficiency and is required for all applicants who have not earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States. Applicants who have completed a bachelor's degree in the United States are considered to have met this requirement.

A minimum score of 79 on the TOEFL iBT is required.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) may be accepted as an alternative examination. Applicants submitting IELTS scores must achieve a minimum overall band score of 6.5.

Applicants must meet the minimum score requirements prior to matriculation.

There is no waiver for this requirement. This requirement is applied consistently to all applicants and is not subject to exception.

PROCEDURE: Applicants who have not earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or who are not citizens of a TOEFL-exempt country must submit English proficiency scores to CASPA (Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants). The TOEFL iBT is the preferred examination with a minimum score of 79. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) may be accepted as an alternative with a minimum overall score of 6.5. Official scores must be submitted directly from the testing agency and received by CASPA for the application to be considered complete. Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements will be considered ineligible for admission. There is no waiver for this requirement.

Approved by Faculty Executive Committee: April 1st, 2026

Kathleen Flannery, DMSc, PA-C

4-1-2026

Signature

Date

Kathleen Flannery, DMSc, PA-C
CMU PA Program Director