



COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## MASTER'S DEGREE - PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### *Can I apply before I have my bachelor's degree?*

Yes, you can apply prior to completing your undergraduate degree. Your graduation date must be before the start of the program in January. Degree verification will be required if this is the case. You cannot start a master's program without first completing a bachelor's degree, with no exceptions.

#### *What kind of bachelor's degree is most beneficial?*

We do not require a specific undergraduate degree and there is not a "best" degree. Most programs are more interested in the overall academic performance of a student, rather than the title of their degree.

#### *Does Indiana State University accept community college credits?*

Yes, but you want to be sure the course you intend to take will meet the requirements of the program here at ISU. If a lab is to coincide with a course, verify a lab exists and that you are enrolled in a section of that lab.

#### *Do you accept online degrees and/or courses?*

Only online degrees and courses from regionally accredited colleges and universities will be considered.

#### *When do I have to complete prerequisite courses?*

Prerequisite courses must be completed no later than the June 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the program. All prerequisite courses must be successfully completed, with a grade of C or better, in order to officially matriculate into the program.

#### *Do I need to submit updated transcripts to ISU if prerequisites are taken after my CASPA application is completed?*

Yes, we do require official transcripts for all pending coursework as CASPA does not verify these grades. Official transcripts can be sent to:

Indiana State University Office of Admissions  
318 N 6th St  
Terre Haute IN 47809

#### *My undergraduate GPA is not strong. Can I still be a competitive applicant?*

ISU recommends that applicants have a minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA to enter the PA program.

#### *Can I retake courses to bring my GPA up?*

It is difficult to significantly raise one's GPA. CASPA includes the lesser grade on repeated courses taken with better performance. Please feel free to contact us if you are concerned about your academic background.

#### *How are GPA and academics evaluated?*

Review scores can go up or down based on other circumstances around the applicants academic history. For example, a score can go up if recent coursework is stronger than old coursework or down if evidence of poor academic history is shown, such as excessive withdrawals, or poor recent performance.

***Can I work and be in Indiana State University's PA Program?***

Our program is considered to be full-time. We cannot force you not to work, but it is highly recommended, due to the intensity of the coursework, that you do not work. In addition to classes, you will be required to attend meetings, hospital seminars, continuing education, etc., all of which may fall outside the normal class times.

***What kind of healthcare experience is preferred for entrance into the program?***

Patient health care experience is highly encouraged. A minimum of 500 hours is recommended. Patient health care can be defined as, but not limited to: shadowing with mid-level physicians, phlebotomy, nurse aide, medical assistant.

***How many students will be admitted to the PA Program at ISU?***

Every January, thirty students are admitted.

***Do you give preference to in-state students or ISU graduates?***

Yes, an applicant's score may go up if one or both of these factors occur.

***Is the PA program at Indiana State University accredited?***

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Indiana State University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Indiana State University. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2023. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

***Where can the PA student complete clinical rotations?***

Students are permitted to complete clinical rotations at sites approved by the PA clinical coordinator. Travel is required with travel expenses assumed by the student. Efforts are made to place students at desired sites, pending preceptor availability and an approved affiliation agreement. All students are required to complete an on-campus post clinical phase after the completion of all rotations.

***How much is tuition?***

Tuition costs may vary according to the academic year. All tuition information can be found at [Cost to Attend](#).