



**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (MPAS)**  
**Austin College Health Professions Advising Guide**

**WHAT DOES A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DO?**

Physician Assistants, often called PAs, have a broad scope of duties and responsibilities, largely governed by the medical setting in which they work. For the most part, PAs are certified as medical generalists with a foundation in primary care. In Texas, PAs are regulated by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and work under the supervision of physicians.

**MASTERS OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES (MPAS)**

The MPAS degree programs generally range from 27-36 months in duration and includes both classroom instruction and clinical rotations. Following graduation from an accredited program, PAs must pass the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants examination (PANCE) and then be licensed by the state prior to being able to practice as a PA.

**TEXAS SCHOOLS & OTHER GATEWAYS OFFERING MPAS PROGRAMS**

There are currently eight accredited MPAS programs in Texas, seven of which you can apply to through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants or CASPA (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>). The Hardin Simmons is a new program that currently has provisional accreditation. The University of the Incarnate Word is also developing a new program but will not accept application until the 2018-2019 year.

Texas Schools & Other Gateways Offering an MPAS Program	Website
Baylor College of Medicine	<a href="https://www.bcm.edu/education/schools/school-of-allied-health-sciences/programs/physician-assistant">https://www.bcm.edu/education/schools/school-of-allied-health-sciences/programs/physician-assistant</a>
Hardin Simmons University	<a href="https://www.hsutx.edu/academics/holland/graduate/physician-assistant/">https://www.hsutx.edu/academics/holland/graduate/physician-assistant/</a>
Interservice at Fort Sam Houston*#	<a href="http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/ipap/">http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/ipap/</a>
Texas Tech University Health Science Center (GATEWAY)*	<a href="https://www.ttuhscc.edu/health-professions/master-physician-assistant-studies/">https://www.ttuhscc.edu/health-professions/master-physician-assistant-studies/</a>
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	<a href="https://go.umhb.edu/graduate/physician-assistant/home">https://go.umhb.edu/graduate/physician-assistant/home</a>
University of North Texas Health Science Center Fort Worth	<a href="https://www.unthsc.edu/school-of-health-professions/physician-assistant-studies/">https://www.unthsc.edu/school-of-health-professions/physician-assistant-studies/</a>
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	<a href="http://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/health-professions/departments/physician-assistant-studies">http://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/health-professions/departments/physician-assistant-studies</a>
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	<a href="https://shp.utmb.edu/PhysicianAssistantStudies/">https://shp.utmb.edu/PhysicianAssistantStudies/</a>
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	<a href="http://www.utrgv.edu/pa/">http://www.utrgv.edu/pa/</a>
University of Texas Southwestern School of Health Professions	<a href="http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/education/school-of-health-professions/programs/physician-assistant-studies/">http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/education/school-of-health-professions/programs/physician-assistant-studies/</a>
Oklahoma City University (GATEWAY)	<a href="http://www.okcu.edu/physician-assistant/">http://www.okcu.edu/physician-assistant/</a>

\*These programs do not accept international students

#The Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) is only open to military applicants

For more information, contact [Kelly Reed](#) or [Chris Goldsmith](#)

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## OUT OF STATE SCHOOLS OFFERING MPAS PROGRAMS

If you are interested in applying to out of state MPAS programs in the United States, you are encouraged to visit the Physician Assistant Education Association (PEAE) Directory of Physician Assistant Programs (<http://directory.paeaonline.org>). Typically, you will apply to these programs through the CASPA application service.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES FOR TEXAS MPAS PROGRAMS:

Below are the general prerequisite course requirements for admission to most MPAS programs in the Texas and Oklahoma City University. It is encouraged that you check the actual requirements on the institution's website.

General Prerequisites	Austin College Courses
General chemistry – 1 year	CHEM 111 (or CHEM 211) & CHEM 112
Organic chemistry – 1 semester*	CHEM 221
General Biology	BIOL 115 & BIOL 116
Anatomy & Physiology – generally 2 semesters <sup>@</sup>	Two semester sequence not offered at Austin College
Other Biology courses (Genetics & Microbiology)	Biol 228 & Biol 230
Psychology – 1 semester <sup>#</sup>	PSY 101
English <sup>^</sup>	Two semesters (ENG 114 is a comp course)
Statistics – 1 semester <sup>&amp;</sup>	MATH 120
Medical Terminology	Taken as a directed study course in Biology (BIOL 261)

\*UT San Antonio requires 2 semesters of OChem (ie CHEM 221 & CHEM 222) and one semester of Biochemistry (CHEM 351). Students who complete two semesters of OChem will be more competitive applicants for most programs.

# Baylor and UNTHSC require 2 semesters of Psychology

&UNTHSC and UT Southwestern also require a Math class of college algebra or higher (MATH 151 recommended)

<sup>^</sup>Only Baylor requires an English composition course

<sup>@</sup>Contact a pre-health advisor for advice on completing this requirement.

## GRE GENERAL TEST:

The GRE General Test is a standardized designed to test knowledge and ability in four areas: verbal reasoning, quantitation reasoning, and analytical writing. More information concerning this test is available on the ETS website (<https://www.ets.org/gre>). The GRE is administered through Prometric Centers and appointments are available year-round. Most students take the GRE exam sometime between January and April of their junior year.

## HOW ARE YOU EVALUATED FOR ADMISSION TO MPAS PROGRAMS?

1. GPA – both cumulative (average GPA of matriculants ~3.5) and BCPM (Biology Chemistry Physics Math) (average GPA of matriculants ~3.35)
2. GRE score – on average, matriculants score in the following percentiles: V (42%), Q (50%), A (48%)
3. Your ability to show your understanding and commitment to a career as a Physician Assistant – you will want to shadow and get a recommendation letter from a practicing PA
4. Hands-on patient experience: examples include EMT, scribe, Phlebotomist, & ER Tech
5. Your ability to show a pattern of commitment to service

**GATEWAY MPAS PROGRAMS: GUARANTEED INTERVIEWS FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS**

Students and alumni who successfully complete all prerequisites, maintain required GPAs and graduate from Austin College are eligible for guaranteed interviews to the following Master of Physician Assistant Studies Programs. Contact a pre-health advisor for more information.

**Texas Tech Health Science Center** - <http://www.ttuhscc.edu/health-professions/master-physician-assistant-studies/> - This is an early acceptance program for current students to apply after their sophomore year.

**Oklahoma City University** –<http://www.okcu.edu/physician-assistant/>