



PROGRAM OFFERED

- ◆ MPA

Physician Assistants (PAs) are graduates of accredited PA programs who are licensed to practice medicine in collaboration with a supervising physician. There are more than 139,000 certified PAs nationally, with over 10,674 in California alone. PAs provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive health care services as a member of a healthcare team.

PAs conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret laboratory tests and imaging, counsel on health care issues, and assist in surgery. They also treat injuries, record progress notes, instruct and educate patients, and order or carry out therapies. All fifty states, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have enacted laws that authorize PA prescribing. PA practice is centered on patient care and may include education, research, and administrative duties.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Employment opportunities are excellent for PAs, particularly in underserved areas or settings that have difficulty attracting physicians, such as rural and inner-city clinics. PAs can work in any medical specialty and can work in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, academic medical centers, and public clinics.

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates a 31% growth in PA jobs between 2019 & 2029. The PA profession has been ranked multiple times as one of the top 10 careers in the nation. Physicians and institutions are expected to employ more PAs to provide primary care and work in many medical and surgical specialties because PAs are productive and effective members of the health care team.

EARNINGS

The most recent PA Census reports the median total income for PAs is \$110,000 nationwide and \$130,000 for California. Median annual compensation for PAs in California range between \$125,000 for primary care and \$113,000 - \$140,000 based on specialty.

EMPLOYMENT

While PAs practice in over 60 different specialty fields, 22.2% of PAs practice in primary care: family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, and obstetrics/gynecology. Other prevalent specialties for PAs include general surgery/surgical subspecialties, emergency medicine, the subspecialties of internal medicine, dermatology, and urgent care.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A baccalaureate degree is required from all candidates who seek admission to the Master of Physician Assistant program at LLU. All degrees must be from regionally accredited institutions. We also require recent, direct, hands-on, paid patient care experience. All requirements are listed on the back of this page.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Total number of units: 128
- Program length: 24 months
- Class size: 38
- Start date: September

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- CASPA opens May 1
- CASPA closes October 1
- All supplemental applications must be submitted within 15 days of receipt from University Admissions or by December 15, whichever date comes first
- Bachelor's degree must be completed by December 31 of the application year

The Loma Linda University Department of Physician Assistant Sciences educates primary care physician assistants who will provide health care as active members of a professional healthcare team in collaboration with physicians. Loma Linda University physician assistants pride themselves in excellence and compassion in health care for the whole person and quality health care for underserved individuals and communities nationally and globally in accordance with the mission of Loma Linda University and the School of Allied Health Professions. The program consists of didactic and clinical phases that run concurrently for eight quarters over a 24-month period. Graduates from the program are eligible to take the national certification examination.

Admissions Requirements

1. A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution by December 31 of the application year PLUS patient care experience. A minimum of 2000 hours of direct, hands-on, paid patient care experience must be completed by August 31 prior to matriculation. Clinical patient care hours gained from student experiences, shadowing a clinician (PA, MD, DO, NP, etc.), or volunteer hours are not accepted as meeting this requirement. Accepted clinical experiences include accredited, credentialed professions that provide patient assessment, treatment, patient care plans, and diagnostic testing. Applicants must have direct patient care experience working in a clinical setting which requires a high level of critical thinking and responsibility to the patient.

Examples of accepted Clinical Experiences/Professions

Direct patient care experience including, but not limited to:

- Military Medic or Corpsman
- Radiology Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Paramedic/EMT
- Scribe (with active participation in ongoing care)
- Medical Assistant (administrative hours [i.e, front office] are not accepted)
- Nurse (LVN or RN)
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Chiropractor

Clinical experiences that are not accepted include, but are not limited to: volunteer service, medical assistant (administrative duties, billing and coding), massage therapy, personal trainer, in-home services (home care aides, home health aides), pharmacy technician, research without direct patient contact, hours received during training programs (medical school, nursing school, internship, etc.), hours received outside of the United States, and shadowing a medical professional (PA, MD, DO, NP, etc.).

2. College level prerequisite courses

- Human Anatomy and Physiology with an on-campus laboratory component, complete sequence OR separate courses in Human Anatomy with an on-campus laboratory component and Human Physiology with an on-campus laboratory component. Must cover all organ systems. (See Acceptable Prerequisite Course Listing for more information)
- General Chemistry, one-year sequence with an on-campus laboratory component OR a sequence in Inorganic, Organic AND Biochemistry with an on-campus laboratory component (See Acceptable Prerequisite Course Listing for more information)
- General Microbiology with an on-campus laboratory component. Must cover the four medically important areas: bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa (See Acceptable Prerequisite Course Listing for more information)
- General Psychology (See Acceptable Prerequisite Course Listing for more information)
- General Sociology or Cultural Anthropology (See Acceptable Prerequisite Course Listing for more information)
- College-level Algebra (See Acceptable Prerequisite Course Listing for more information)
- English, one-year sequence (language courses are not accepted as meeting this requirement. International students must complete the English writing sequence requirement from an accredited US institution)

For the 2021-2022 CASPA Application Cycle, Loma Linda University PA Sciences will allow for **three** total outstanding prerequisite courses at the **time of application, with a maximum of two science courses outstanding at the time of application**. An outstanding course is defined as any course listed as being in progress when the CASPA application is submitted by the applicant,

even if the course will be completed prior to the applicant submitting his or her supplemental application. All outstanding prerequisites must be completed by the end of Spring quarter of the year of matriculation.

Science courses must be for science majors and include an on-campus or hybrid laboratory component (at least 50% of the lab on campus). It is required that all prerequisite science courses have been taken within the last 10 years.

Applicants, including international, must complete all prerequisite courses through a college or university that is regionally accredited in the United States.

3. Recommended courses

- Statistics, Medical Terminology and Conversational Spanish

4. The following are the groups of applicants who receive preference for admission. Applicants who do not meet these preferences are still considered for admission to the program, and the presence of one or more of these preferences **does not** guarantee admission to the program

- Seventh-day Adventists
- Graduates of Loma Linda University
- Applicants of under-represented populations
- Applicants with a history of meaningful, continuous involvement in community service consistent with the mission and values of LLU
- Applicants with current or previous documented military service

5. An overall GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale AND a science GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Both the overall and science GPA are calculated by CASPA and must meet the minimum requirement at the time of application. We do not recalculate.

6. Three letters of reference, including one from a practicing MD/DO/PA who you have worked under in a direct, hands-on, paid patient care experience. Letter of Recommendation from MD/DO/PA must be typed on official letterhead. This letter cannot be from a friend or relative, and cannot be from a shadowing experience.

Please note: "C minus" grades are not accepted for prerequisite courses.

How to apply

All applications must be completed using the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) available at <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/>. Applications are accepted using the CASPA portal from May 1 to October 1 for the following school year. Once the CASPA application is verified, all applicants will be provided with a link to a supplemental application. All supplemental applications must be submitted within 15 days of receipt from University Admissions or by December 15, whichever date comes first. Interviews are granted to qualified applicants upon invitation by the admissions committee.

International applicants

TOEFL or IELTS (or equivalent English language proficiency examination) scores for applicants whose native language is not English or whose secondary education was received outside the United States (refer to: <https://alliedhealth.llu.edu/admissions/international-students>)

Contact Information

PA Office Phone

(909) 558-7295

Website

www.llu.edu/pa

updated 05/21/21



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY

LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service learning opportunities

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