



DEGREE 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 148,000 certified PAs nationally, with over 11,000 in California alone. PAs provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventative health care services as members of the healthcare team.

PAs conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, counsel on health care issues, and assist in surgery. They also treat injuries, record progress notes, instruct and counsel patients, and order or carry out therapy. 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 inter-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 estimates a 31% growth in PA jobs between 2020 and 2030. The PA profession has been ranked multiple times as one of the top five 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.

EARNINGS

The most recent PA Census reports the mean total income for PAs is \$110,000 nationwide and \$130,000 for California. Median annual compensation for PAs range between \$110,000 for primary care and \$111,000 for specialty practice.

EMPLOYMENT

While PAs practice in over 60 different specialty fields, 24.4% of PAs practice in primary care fields: family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. Other prevalent specialties for PAs include general surgery/surgical subspecialties, emergency medicine, internal medicine subspecialties, dermatology, urgent care, and obstetrics/gynecology.

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 an accredited institution. We also require direct, hands-on, paid patient care experience. All requirements are listed on the back of this page.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Total number of units: 131
- Program length: 24 months
- Class size: 50
- 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
- Baccalaureate degree must be completed by December 31 of the application year

The Loma Linda University Department of Physician Assistant Sciences educates primary care PAs who provide health care as active members of an interprofessional healthcare team in collaboration with Physicians. Loma Linda University PAs pride themselves in excellent and compassionate whole person care. In accordance with the mission of Loma Linda University and the School of Allied Health Professions, this includes healthcare for the underserved community, both nationally and globally. The program consists of didactic and clinical phases that run for eight quarters over a 24-month period. Graduates from the program are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Please review LLU's Find a Program website [page](#) for the most up-to-date information on the cost of attendance or scan the QR code below.



GENERAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

1. Baccalaureate Degree

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, completed by December 31 of the year of application
- Any baccalaureate degree is acceptable, but a strong science background is encouraged

2. Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement

- Overall GPA 3.0 on a 4.0 scale AND Science GPA 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Both overall and science GPAs are calculated by CASPA and must meet the minimum requirement at the time of application
- Outstanding and/or unverified coursework is not calculated into GPA by CASPA

3. International Applicants

- Grades received for courses taken at non-U.S. institutions are not considered in initial GPA calculation by CASPA. A secondary evaluation service is required in the evaluation of an International Applicant's GPA
- For more information, please refer to the International Applicant page (<https://alliedhealth.llu.edu/academics/physician-assistant/admissions-physician-assistant/international-applicant>)

4. Prerequisite Coursework

General Information

- For the current CASPA Application Cycle, Loma Linda University Department of PA Sciences will allow for two total outstanding prerequisite courses at the time of application, with a maximum of one science course 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 their supplemental application
- All outstanding prerequisite coursework must be completed by the end of the Spring quarter of the year of matriculation
- Science prerequisite courses must be for science majors
- The program is currently not accepting any science courses with online labs. The only exception is for courses completed between Spring 2020 and Fall 2022
- All prerequisite science courses must be taken within the last 10 years at time of application
- Applicants must complete all prerequisite coursework at an accredited institution in the United States
- Recommended Coursework: Statistics, Medical Terminology, and Conversational Spanish
- All prerequisite courses must contain a letter grade; Pass/Fail, Credit/ No Credit, Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory grades will not be accepted
- "C minus" grades and below are not accepted for prerequisite courses

Required Coursework

- Human Anatomy and Physiology: must contain a laboratory component. Coursework can be a complete sequence OR separate courses in Human Anatomy and Human Physiology. Must cover all organ systems
- Chemistry:
 - General Chemistry: a one-year sequence, must contain a laboratory component
 - OR
 - Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Biochemistry: a minimum one-year sequence, of which all three courses must contain a laboratory component
- General Microbiology: must contain a laboratory component. Coursework must cover the following four areas: bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa
- General Psychology: must be general and cover topics across the lifespan
- General Sociology or Cultural Anthropology: must be general and cover multiple groups of interest
- College-level Algebra: must be college-level or higher. Statistics courses, although recommended, do not satisfy this prerequisite
- English Composition: a one-year sequence. English as a Second Language (ESL) courses do not satisfy this prerequisite

5. Patient Care Experience (PCE)

- Documented paid patient care experience of 2,000 hours minimum is required by August 1 of the year of matriculation
- Applicants must have direct, hands-on patient care experience working in a clinical setting which requires a high level of critical thinking and responsibility to the patient. Only paid hours are acceptable.
- While patient care hours gained from student experiences, shadowing, and volunteer hours are not accepted as meeting the PCE hour requirement, they

are strongly recommended

- For more information on this requirement, please refer to the Physician Assistant Admission Requirements page

Examples of accepted Clinical Experiences/Professions

- Military Medic or Corpsman
- Radiology Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Paramedic/EMT
- Nurse (LVN or RN)
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Chiropractor
- Scribe
- Back Office Medical Assistant

Examples of non-accepted Clinical Experiences/Professions

- Medical Assistant
 - Administrative duties (e.g., front office)
 - Billing and Coding
- Massage Therapist
- Personal Trainer
- In-Home Services
 - Home Care Aide
 - Home Health Aide
- Pharmacy Technician, Optometry Assistant, Podiatry Assistant, and Dental Assistant
- Research position without direct patient contact
- Hours completed during the following experiences: student clinicals, externships, internships, foreign medical positions, shadowing, and volunteer experiences

6. Letters of Recommendation

- Three letters of recommendation, 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 or volunteer experience

7. How to Apply

- All applications must be completed using the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA, refer to: <https://caspa.liasoncas.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 by invitation only

Student Healthcare Requirements

- Please review the New Students—Health Requirements. <https://llu.edu/campus-spiritual-life/student-health-service/new-students-health-requirements>



8. Admissions Preferences

- The following are the groups of applicants who receive admissions preferences:
 - Seventh-day Adventists
 - Graduates of Loma Linda University
 - LLUH Employee
 - Applicants with documented military service
 - Resident of San Bernardino or Riverside County
 - Applicants with a history of meaningful, continuous involvement in community service
- Applicants who do not meet these admissions preferences are still considered for admission to the program
- The presence of one or more of these preferences **does not guarantee admission to the program**

Contact Information:



SCAN TO SAVE CONTACT

Reviewed 01/22/2026



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, and 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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