



### PROGRAM OFFERED

#### ♦ M.P.A.

*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 123,000 certified PAs nationally, with over 11,000 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 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 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 37% growth in PA jobs between 2016 & 2026. The PA profession has been ranked multiple times as one of the top 10 careers in the nation over the last several years. 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 mean total income for PAs is \$102,000 nationwide and \$118,000 for California. Median annual compensation for PAs range between \$95,000 for primary care and \$110,000 for specialty practice

### EMPLOYMENT

While PAs practice in over 60 different specialty fields, 27.8% of PAs practice in one of the primary care fields: family/general 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, and dermatology.

### 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
- Priority deadline - submit CASPA and supplemental application by August 1 for early consideration.
- Supplemental applications must be completed within 15 days of the receipt of the CASPA application by the University.
- 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, 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 pre-clinical 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 year of application **PLUS** paid patient care experience. A minimum of 2000 hours of recent direct hands-on paid patient care experience must be completed prior to enrollment. Student clinical hours are not acceptable. Shadowing a PA or volunteer service does not count towards patient care hours but does strengthen an application. Preferred direct patient care experiences are those accredited, credentialed professions that provide: patient assessment, treatment, patient care plans, and diagnostic testing. Preferred applicants will have direct patient care experience working in clinical settings that involve a range of patient responsibility and a high level of critical thinking. Only paid hours are accepted.

### Examples of accepted Clinical Experiences/Professions

Direct patient care experience including, but not limited to:

- Military Medic or Corpsman
  - Radiology Technologist
  - Respiratory Therapist
  - Medical Technologist
  - Paramedic/EMT (waiting/transportation time not included)
  - Scribe (with active participation in ongoing care)
  - Medical Assistant (certified, back office hours only)
  - Other professions not listed above (e.g. phlebotomy, etc.)
  - Nurse (LVN or RN)
  - Physical Therapist
  - Occupational Therapist
  - Chiropractor
- will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are dependent upon the quality of patient interaction.

**Clinical experiences that are not accepted** include, but are not limited to: volunteer service, administrative duties, massage therapy, home care aide, home health aide, pharmacy technician, personal trainer, certified nurse's aide (except with documented high-quality patient interaction), research with no patient contact, hours received during training programs (e.g. medical school, internship), and shadowing a physician or PA.

### 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. (Introductory, X or XL courses are not accepted)
- 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 (three quarters or two semesters; Inorganic can be Introduction to Chemistry or General Chemistry I only. Organic and Biochemistry cannot be Introductory; X or XL courses are not accepted)
- General Microbiology with an on-campus laboratory component. Must cover the four medically important areas: bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa. (Introductory, X or XL courses are not accepted)
- General Psychology (General Psychology, Introduction to Psychology, Human Growth and Development, or Developmental Psychology)
- General Sociology or Cultural Anthropology (General Sociology, Introduction to Sociology, Principles of Sociology, Medical Sociology, Cultural Anthropology or Introduction to Cultural Anthropology)
- College-level Algebra (College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, Calculus or AP Calculus)
- English, one year sequence (language courses not accepted. International students must complete English writing sequence requirement from an accredited US institution)

A maximum of 2 total prerequisite courses may be outstanding on the CASPA application at the time of submission, with only 1 science prerequisite outstanding. 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 a laboratory component. Online courses will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis but must have an on-campus laboratory component in order to be considered. It is strongly recommended that all prerequisite science courses be 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. We grant preference to:

- Seventh-day Adventists
- Graduates of Loma Linda University
- Applicants from 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 or higher and a science GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale is required. Calculations are completed by CASPA and include all coursework completed to date. We do not recalculate.

6. Three letters of recommendation are required. One must be from a practicing MD, DO, or PA. MD/DO/PA letter cannot be from a friend or relative. MD/DO/PA letter must be from a person who has worked with you in your paid patient care role, not shadowing experience.

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

### How to apply

Applications are accepted through Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) between May 1 and October 1 (11:59pm EST) at **www.caspaonline.org**. Verified CASPA applications are sent to the University. Verified applicants will receive an e-mail with the link to the required supplemental application, which must be submitted within 15 days of receipt. Verified CASPA applicants will not be reviewed until the University supplemental is submitted. All supporting documents must be received no later than December 15 (11:59pm PST). 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: <http://www.llu.edu/allied-health/sahp/internationalstudent.page>)

Any student with a score on the TOEFL writing test (TWE) of less than 4 will be required to do remedial work during the program and retake the TOEFL test. The TOEFL score is valid for two years from the test date.

### Contact Information

PA Office  
Website

(909) 558-7295

[www.llu.edu/pa](http://www.llu.edu/pa)

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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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