

# 2026-2027 APPLICATION CYCLE

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Physician Assistant Program  
**ADMISSIONS BOOKLET**

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## VISION

We aspire to be a leader in physician assistant (PA) education whose diverse graduates provide superior healthcare within the communities they serve.

## MISSION

The University of Maryland, Baltimore Graduate School (UMB) and its PA Program promote excellence in education to foster the development of competent, ethical, and compassionate primary care providers. Together we value diversity, lifelong learning, research, and scholarship.

To achieve this mission, we prioritize both academic achievement and professionalism. We expect our students to embody virtues of integrity, honesty, respect, and ethical behavior, which form the foundation for their journey toward becoming exceptional healthcare professionals.

## ACCREDITATION

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the University of Maryland Baltimore Physician Assistant Program sponsored by University of Maryland Baltimore. 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remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws for the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards.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 2029. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

## POSITION STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

At UMB, we embrace and are committed to diversity, and we value inclusive and just communities. We oppose discrimination in all its forms. Equity and Justice are part of the University's core values. In addition to these core values, the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion works to promote and embody the values of collaboration, leadership, and excellence. Please visit [www.umaryland.edu/diversity/](http://www.umaryland.edu/diversity/) for additional information.

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

The Office of Accountability and Compliance is available to advise and assist all students, staff, and faculty with their request for reasonable accommodations. Questions or concerns should be addressed to the that office at [www.umaryland.edu/oac/](http://www.umaryland.edu/oac/).

The University of Maryland Baltimore does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental disability, marital status, protected veteran's status, or age in its programs and activities. Specifically, Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in UMB's programs and activities. UMB will take steps to eliminate prohibited conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

The following persons have been designated to handle or coordinate inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

**For inquiries regarding staff or faculty:**

Sheila G. Blackshear, MS, CAAP  
HRELRA ADA and Compliance, Administrator  
  
University of Maryland, Baltimore  
620 W. Lexington Street, 3rd Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-706-7302 sheila.blackshear@umaryland.edu

**For reporting sexual misconduct or harassment regarding students:**

Tim Koch, JD, PhD  
Executive Director of Civil Rights Resolutions and Title IX Coordinator  
  
University of Maryland, Baltimore  
620 W. Lexington Street, 5th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-706-1852  
titleix@umaryland.edu

**For all other inquiries regarding students or third parties:**

Susan Buskirk, DM, MS  
Vice President and Chief Accountability Officer  
  
University of Maryland, Baltimore  
620 W. Lexington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-706-4937  
sbuskirk@umaryland.edu

Inquiries regarding Title IX may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator (above) or a member of UMB's Title IX Compliance Team. See [www.umaryland.edu/titleix](http://www.umaryland.edu/titleix)

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, including Title IX inquiries, contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202, or call 1-800-421-3481.

## SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

UMB Office of Educational Support and Disability Services (ESDS) Statement: The ESDS coordinates services to assist students with disabilities in obtaining reasonable accommodations through an interactive process involving the student and the school. For additional information, go to [Disability Services](#).

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT CLASS PROFILES

Category	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Age Range	21-40	20-35	21-49
Average Age	24	23	24
Gender	78% Female 22% Male	93% Female 7% Male	87% Female 13% Male
Residency	93% In-State 7% Out-of-State	91% In-State 9% Out-of-State	83% In-State 17% Out-of-State
Education	All have Bachelor's Master's: 1	All have Bachelor's Master's: 2	All have Bachelor's Master's: 3 Doctorate: 2
Major Fields of Undergraduate Study	Biology Kinesiology Neuroscience Psychology Public Health	Biology Health Science Neurobiology Psychology Public Health	Biology Exercise Science Kinesiology Physiology Public Health
Average Cum. GPA	3.65	3.71	3.75
Average Science GPA	3.58 (75 credits)	3.64 (72 credits)	3.69 (75 credits)
Common Patient Contact Experience (PCE)	CNA Medical Assistant Medical Scribe PT Assistant Paramedic/EMT	CNA Medical Assistant Medical Scribe Paramedic/EMT PT Tech	CNA Medical Assistant Patient Care Tech Paramedic/EMT PT Aide/Tech
Average PCE Hours	4,300	3,112	4,999

## PROGRAM COST & FINANCIAL AID

Program costs can be found at [Tuition and Fees](#).

Financial aid information can be found at [Student Financial Services](#).

## COURSE OUTLINE

Curriculum for Prospective Students can be found [here](#).

## CAMPUS DIRECTIONS

UMB School of Graduate Studies  
620 W. Lexington St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Information on traveling to the UMB campus by car, train, light rail, or bus are available [here](#).

Campus maps are available [here](#).

Information about parking garages at or near the UM is available [here](#).

## CONTACT DETAILS

PA Program Website [www.graduate.umaryland.edu/mshs-pa-umb/](http://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/mshs-pa-umb/)

UMB School of Graduate Studies  
PA Admissions Office [PAProgram@umaryland.edu](mailto:PAProgram@umaryland.edu)

PA Program Information Sessions [www.graduate.umaryland.edu/mshs-pa-umb/](http://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/mshs-pa-umb/)

UMB Office of the Registrar [www.umaryland.edu/registrar/](http://www.umaryland.edu/registrar/)

UMB Website [www.umaryland.edu](http://www.umaryland.edu)

Financial Services [www.umaryland.edu/fin](http://www.umaryland.edu/fin)  
Phone: 410-706-7347  
Fax: 410-706-0824  
aidtalk@umaryland.edu

Student Support [www.umaryland.edu/umb-student-affairs/student-support](http://www.umaryland.edu/umb-student-affairs/student-support)

# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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## OVERVIEW

The completed CASPA application deadline for the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) Physician Assistant Program class entering summer, 2027 is **September 1, 2026**. Applicants are encouraged to submit their CASPA applications by July 1, 2026 to ensure the application is completed by the September 1, 2026 deadline. **Only applications that reflect all of the completed program requirements will be reviewed.** Applications that do not reflect all of the listed program requirements will be considered incomplete; applicants still working on the listed program requirements must wait until the next admissions cycle to apply. Please review the applicant checklist prior to clicking “submit” on your CASPA application to be sure it is complete.

Applications are considered complete when the following criteria have been met:

- **A completed application** has been released by CASPA to the UMB's School of Graduate Studies Physician Assistant Admissions Office. A complete application includes all three letters of recommendation, patient contact experience, test scores (if applicable) and all official transcripts confirming degree and all prerequisite courses received on the CASPA application.
- Bachelor's degree or higher from a nationally recognized institution.
- All seven (7) prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of 3.0 (B) or higher and reflected on the completed CASPA application. **The Anatomy & Physiology 1 and 2 prerequisites must be completed within the last seven (7) years of the date the CASPA application is submitted.**
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher as calculated on the CASPA application.
- Cumulative science GPA of 3.0 or higher as calculated on the CASPA application.
- At least 1000 hours of Patient Contact Experience.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Foreign Medical Graduates and International Students: ECE or WES **official course-by-course evaluation** for all higher-level institutions attended submitted to CASPA by deadline date (UMB may request official evaluation later in admission process), and English requirement (TOEFL) met (see the section on Int. Students & Foreign Medical Graduates).

A supplemental application is **NOT** required at the time that the CASPA application is submitted.

Applicants will receive notification regarding application status after a completed CASPA application is reviewed. If all the program requirements have been met, applicants will receive a request to complete the UMB Physician Assistant Supplemental Application via email. There is no fee associated with the supplemental application.

Beginning with the Class of 2025, the Physician Assistant curriculum is a 24-month full-time program. Students should plan their personal matters and financial resources accordingly. Employment while enrolled in the Physician Assistant program is not recommended.

## **CASPA APPLICATION**

All applicants must apply online through CASPA. The 2026-2027 portal opens April 2026. CASPA is a convenient, Web-based application service that allows applicants to apply to the UMB Physician Assistant Program.

Please ensure you have the following reflected on your CASPA application:

- Official transcripts/evaluations that verify all for-credit coursework, all prerequisites and conferred degree.
- Listed patient contact experience. UMB admissions staff may randomly contact listed supervisors to verify hours reported on CASPA application.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- The UMB Physician Assistant Program must receive a complete electronic CASPA application by the September 1, 2026 deadline. You are encouraged to submit all application materials to CASPA by July 1, 2026 to ensure meeting this deadline.
- TOEFL score within 2 years of the date of application submission if your native language is not English.\*

It is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with CASPA to ensure that the application is complete, accurate and reflects the listed program requirements by the application deadline.

\* Official TOEFL scores must be submitted to CASPA by the application deadline.

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can call CASPA at (617) 612-2080. CASPA's Customer Service Representatives are available M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST, or you may email CASPA at [CaspalInfo@caspaonline.org](mailto:CaspalInfo@caspaonline.org).

Please visit the link below for additional information:

[https://help.liaisonedu.com/CASPA\\_Applicant\\_Help\\_Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center)

### **Following the Review of CASPA Applications:**

All completed CASPA applications will be reviewed and notification regarding application status will be sent via email.

## **DEGREE**

Applicants to the UMB PA program must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a nationally recognized institution (please see the section on Foreign Medical Graduates and International Students for more information).

## **CUMULATIVE GPA**

A minimum cumulative (total) GPA of 3.0 is required. The cumulative GPA, as calculated by CASPA, will be used for screening all applications. If CASPA's calculated cumulative GPA is lower than 3.0, the applicant will not be eligible for consideration (the GPA will not be rounded up).

All repeated course grades are counted in the CASPA GPA calculation. For information on how CASPA calculates GPAs, please visit the [CASPA Applicant Help Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center).

## **CUMULATIVE SCIENCE GPA**

A minimum cumulative (total) science GPA of 3.0 is required. The cumulative science GPA, as calculated by CASPA will be used for screening all applications. If CASPA's calculated cumulative science GPA is lower than 3.0, the applicant will not be eligible for consideration (the GPA will not be rounded up).

## **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Letters of recommendation provided to CASPA should be from individuals who can objectively comment on the applicant's performance in an academic and/or professional setting. It is recommended to request references from those who have known the applicant for a minimum of 6 months.

The applicant should advise the writers of the letters of recommendation to return the completed forms to CASPA as soon as possible. Letters from personal or family friends are considered inappropriate and are detrimental to the application.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all three letters of recommendation are received by CASPA or the application will be considered incomplete and ineligible for consideration.

## PATIENT CONTACT EXPERIENCE (PCE)

A minimum of 1000 hours of Patient Contact Experience is required. These hours must be completed before an application is submitted to CASPA. The UMB PA Program defines Patient Contact Experience as follows:

***Provision of services or care by a health care worker in a clinical setting, or an assigned home-based setting, that has a direct influence/benefit on the outcome of the patient. Examples of duties in this role would include: evaluation/assessment/management of a patient, patient education and implementation of a care plan.***

Patient Contact Experience must be reported on the CASPA application and may be randomly checked for verification of hours. Patient Contact Experience cannot be updated once the CASPA application has been completed. Hours that received Academic Credit cannot be counted as PCE.

## REQUIRED PRE-REQUISITES

CASPA applications must reflect course equivalency for the following prerequisites with a minimum grade of B in each course. (B minus or Pass/Fail grades will not be accepted.)

Course	Lab Required	Minimum Total Credits
Anatomy & Physiology 1	Yes	4 cred hrs.
Anatomy & Physiology 2	Yes	4 cred hrs.
General Chemistry 1, General Chemistry 2, Organic Chemistry, or Biochemistry	Yes	4 cred hrs.
Medical Terminology	No	3 cred hrs.
Microbiology	Yes	4 cred hrs.
Intro. to Psychology, Dev. Psychology, or Human Growth and Dev.	No	3 cred hrs.
Elementary Statistics, Statistics in Social & Behavioral Sciences, or Biostatistics	No	3 cred hrs.

### **Important Information Regarding Pre-Requisite Coursework:**

- Applicants are responsible for reviewing the listed prerequisites to ensure equivalency prior to submitting the CASPA application. **Transcript evaluation services are not available.**
- All prerequisite science courses **must** be at least 4 credits and include a lab component.
- The anatomy and physiology courses are required to have been completed within the last seven (7) years of the date the CASPA application is submitted.
- Only prerequisites that are on the completed CASPA application will be considered. **NO** exceptions. Please review the applicant checklist prior to clicking “submit” to be sure it is complete.
  - If an application has been verified, CASPA will not re-verify any updated or new transcripts received after the verification date. Since UMB does not allow any prerequisite coursework to be “in progress”, an applicant must wait to complete their applications until all coursework is included on the official transcripts submitted to CASPA. Please note that if an applicant applies to multiple programs and their application is verified for a program other than UMB, CASPA will not re-verify updated transcripts for any updated coursework that may be required by our program. No transcripts are to be sent directly to UMB.
- We can accept AP scores for Psychology and Statistics. A score of 4 or 5 is acceptable. Scores under 4 are not accepted.
  - If a prerequisite will be satisfied by using an AP score, official scores must be submitted electronically through College Board. UMB School of Graduate Studies college code is **9244**.
  - Scores must be received by the UMB PA Program Admissions office no later than the application deadline of September 1, 2026.
- CLEP scores are not accepted; no exceptions.

## PRE-REQUISITE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Applicants are responsible for reviewing this information to ensure that all pre-requisite requirements have been met prior to applying through CASPA.

### Anatomy & Physiology 1\*

**4 credit hours** - Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term. A study of biological chemistry, cell structure and function, tissues, and the histology, gross anatomy, and physiology of the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems.

Required to be completed within the last 7 years of the date the CASPA application is submitted.

### Anatomy & Physiology 2\*

**4 credit hours** – Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term. A study of the histology, gross anatomy, and physiology of the circulatory, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, endocrine, urinary, and reproductive systems, and early human development.

\*Required to be completed within the last 7 years of the date the CASPA application is submitted.

### General Chemistry 1

**4 credit hours** – Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term. Study atomic theory and periodic relationships, chemical bonding, gases, liquids and solids, stoichiometry, kinetic-molecular theory, solutions, oxidation-reduction, reactions of molecules and ions and nuclear chemistry. Laboratory work includes basic techniques and principles as well as quantitative measurements by titration, colorimetry, and stoichiometry.

OR

### General Chemistry 2

**4 credit hours** – Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term. Examine kinetics; gaseous and aqueous equilibria - including acids, bases, solubility, and complex ions; thermodynamics; electrochemistry; and nuclear chemistry. Study introductory organic chemistry and consider aspects of environmental chemistry. Laboratory work includes qualitative analysis and quantitative measurements.

OR

### Fundamentals of Organic and Biochemistry

**4 credit hours** – Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term. Study an introduction to the chemistry of carbon compounds and of living systems. Nomenclature, structure, properties, and reactions of the principal organic families are studied, and anthropogenic carbon compounds are discussed in relation to health and the environment. The biochemistry

studies the structure, properties, and functions of carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids. Protein synthesis, enzyme regulation and metabolism are included.

**OR**

**General, Organic and Introduction to Biochemistry**

**4 credit hours** – Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term.

Examines general principles and problem solving of inorganic chemistry; structure, bonding, and functional groups of organic chemistry. Includes an introduction to chemical compounds important in living systems. The laboratory work includes basic techniques of quantitative measurements and the application of clinical principles.

**OR**

**Organic Chemistry 1**

**4 credit hours** – Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term.

Study the chemistry of hydrocarbons and their simple derivatives, emphasizing their structures, properties, and mechanisms of reactions. Use general laboratory techniques and procedures in organic chemistry and learn modern methods of analysis, including gas chromatography.

**OR**

**Organic Chemistry 2**

**4 credit hours** – Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term.

Study the chemistry of the families of organic compounds, emphasizing preparations, reactions, and mechanisms of reactions. Learn to apply spectroscopy to determine structure and preview compounds of biological importance. Synthesize representative organic compounds in the laboratory. Use modern methods of analysis, including infrared and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

**Medical Terminology**

**3 credit hours** – Three hours weekly; one term.

Learn medical terminology, including prefixes, suffixes, word roots and medical abbreviations. Utilize concepts presented in a body systems approach that emphasizes key anatomical and physiological terms. Additional topics include pathology, diagnostic procedures, and treatment modalities.

**General Microbiology**

**4 credit hours** – Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory weekly; one term.

Study of the fundamental principles of microbiology, the diversity of microorganisms and the relation of microorganisms to disease and industry. Laboratory work includes the preparation of media, culture methods, microscope examinations and identifications, the control of microorganisms by physical and chemical means and some quantitative techniques.

## **Statistics**

**3 credit hours** – Three hours weekly; one term.

Use meaningful data to explore concepts in probability and statistics including measures of central tendency and dispersion. Develop statistical literacy by studying graphical representations of data, discrete and continuous probability distributions, and sampling techniques and theory. Construct and interpret confidence intervals, find lines of best-fit, and perform hypothesis tests for means, proportions, and independence. Technology use is required throughout the course for statistical analyses.

**OR**

## **Statistics in Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**3 credit hours** – Three hours weekly, one term.

Study basic statistics used in social and behavioral sciences. Covers standard topics in parametric statistics through a two-way analysis of variance. Also covers correlation, linear regression, and non-parametric statistics.

**OR**

## **Biostatistics**

**3 credit hours** – Three hours weekly; one term.

Estimation and hypothesis testing, t tests, one and two way analysis of variance, regression, analysis of frequency data. Emphasize uses and limitations of these methods in biology and the use of statistical analysis software for the analysis of biological data.

## **Introduction to Psychology**

**3 credit hours** – Three hours weekly; one term.

A basic course intended to expose students to major psychological theories and concepts and related current research findings. Topics include learning, physiological bases of behavior, motivation and emotions, human development, personality, and abnormal behavior.

**OR**

## **Dev. Psychology or Human Growth and Dev.**

**3 credit hours** – Three hours weekly; one term.

Examination of current research and principles and theories of human growth and development. Provides an overview of the development of thinking, language, personality, motor behavior and social behavior from infancy through maturity.

## PATIENT CONTACT EXPERIENCE POSITIONS

### ACCEPTABLE

Acupuncturist, if clinical	Gerontology Aide	Optometrist
Anesthesia Tech	Integrative Health Coach	Orthopedic Tech
Applied Behavioral Analyst	Lactation Specialist	Paramedic
Athletic Trainer	Massage Therapist, if clinical	Patient Care Assistant
Cardiovascular Tech	Medical Assistant - clinical	Pharmacist
Caregiver, formal only	Medical Assistant - non-clinical	Pharmacy Tech*
Chiropractor	Medical Laboratory Tech	Phlebotomist/Venipuncture
Clinical Research	Medical Scribe	Physical Therapist
Corpsman	Medical Tech	Physical Therapy Aide
CT Tech	Medicine Aide	Physical Therapist Assistant
Dental Assistant	Mental Health Worker	Psychologist
Dental Hygienist	Natural Pathologists	Radiologic Tech
Diagnostic Medical	Neurophysiology Technologist	Rehab Technician
Sonographer	Nuclear Med Tech	Research/Patient Education, clinical
Dietician	Nursing - RN/LPN/CRNP	Residency, if care plans
EEG Tech	Nursing Aide -	Respiratory Therapist
EKG Tech	PCT/GNA/CNA/PCA	Social Worker/Counselor
EMT	Nursing Tech	Sonographer
Exercise Physiologist	Nutritionist/Registered Dietician	Speech Therapist
Foreign Medical Grad	Occupational Therapist	Surgical Technologist
Forensic Pathologist	Ophthalmic Tech	

### UNACCEPTABLE

Chaplain	Medical Transcriptionist	Shadow
Front Office/Receptionist	Mortuary Science	Student Internships
Health Information Tech	Office Administrator	Vet Assistant
Histotechnologist	Patient Transporter	Vet Tech
Medical Billing/Coding	Personal Trainer	
Medical Records Clerk	Pharmaceutical Rep	

\* Considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact PA Admissions for additional information.

***Please note that this list is not all inclusive and should only be used as a guide.***

# ADMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

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## RECOMMENDED COURSES

We strongly recommend for your success in the program that you take Biochemistry and Developmental Psychology and earn a B or better in each. Courses must be at least 3 credits each.

- Only recommended courses that are on the completed CASPA application will be considered.  
NO exceptions.

## COMMUNITY/MILITARY/VETERANS

The UMB PA Program values service to country, state, and local government as well as the community. Be sure to report this information on the CASPA Application under the Community Service and/or Military sections.

## CONVERSATIONAL FLUENCY

The UMB PA program recognizes and promotes the value of diversity as well as the ability to communicate in other languages. Be sure to report additional spoken languages under the Personal Information section of the CASPA application.

## MARYLAND RESIDENCY & ALUMNI

Applicants who reside in the State of Maryland and/or graduates of the institutions listed below will be given preference when applications are reviewed.

- Bowie State University
- Coppin State University
- Frostburg State University
- Howard University
- Morgan University
- Salisbury University
- Towson University
- University of Baltimore
- University of Maryland, Baltimore
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
- University of Maryland Global Campus
- University of Maryland Center of Environmental Science
- University of the District of Columbia

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

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All foreign-educated applicants must have transcripts of all higher education institutions attended evaluated by World Education Services (WES) or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) prior to submitting the CASPA application. **All foreign transcripts must be evaluated (course-by-course evaluation is required) by one of these organizations listed above; no other evaluation services will be accepted.** Please be advised that this process may take several months and must be submitted with your completed CASPA application by the application deadline of September 1, 2026.

## TOEFL REQUIREMENT

Applicants whose native language or language of the home is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum acceptable TOEFL score for admission is 100 for the internet-based test (IBT). Please note that TOEFL scores are only valid for two years. TOEFL information and registration is available at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org).

Official TOEFL scores must be reported on the CASPA application and be sent to CASPA by the application deadline. **The UMB School of Graduate Studies TOEFL code is 0517.**

### Exemptions from English Language Proficiency Requirement:

Individuals who have received a Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution in the U.S. or a nationally recognized university in one of the countries on the list below do not need to submit an English proficiency exam. Complete, official transcripts and a copy of the diploma from said college/university are required.

Students who are citizens of any of the countries on the list below and whose total education (primary – tertiary) was conducted in English are not required to take an English proficiency exam:

- Antigua
- Australia
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Botswana
- Canada (i.e. not Quebec)
- Cayman Islands
- Dominica
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Grand Turks and Caicos Islands
- Grenada
- Guyana

- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Montserrat
- Namibia
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- South Africa (i.e. not Afrikaans)
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- The Bahamas
- The British Virgin Islands - St. Kitts & Nevis, Anguilla
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uganda
- United Kingdom
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Any individual who does not meet the above criteria, but who believes that s/he should be exempt from the English language proficiency requirement for whatever reason(s), must provide a written appeal to the UMB School of Graduate Studies. The appeal must include a rationale for the request specifically addressing length of stay in the U.S., prior work and educational experiences in the U.S., and any prior English language assessments and/or instruction. A recent CV or resume is also highly recommended. This request must be submitted AND approved by the application deadline of September 1, 2026.

## **DEGREE**

Official course-by-course evaluations must reflect a U.S. equivalency of a bachelor's degree or higher (language must reflect a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or Doctor of Medicine).

## **GPA**

CASPA does not compute a cumulative GPA or cumulative science GPA from WES and ECE evaluations. Therefore, the UMB School of Graduate Studies will manually calculate the GPAs from these documents. The GPA calculations are consistent with the way the GPAs are calculated by CASPA, which includes all repeated coursework (often not calculated in the GPA reflected in the official evaluations).

## **VALID IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTATION FOR NON-US CITIZENS**

Non-U.S. citizen applicants must submit valid immigration documentation to the UMB Office of International Services upon acceptance to the PA program. For assistance regarding immigration documentation needed, please call 410-706-7488.

Please note: Students without a Social Security number may not be permitted at some clinical rotation sites; site availability may delay or inhibit progression in the program. A representative in the UMB Office of International Services may be able to assist international students with F-1 visa status to obtain a social security number through Practical Training; please contact them at 410-706-7488. For additional information, you may check their [website](#).

# SELECTION CRITERIA

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The University of Maryland Baltimore Physician Assistant program's mission is to empower aspiring physician assistants (PAs) to become leaders in health care by cultivating the values of compassion, inclusion, integrity, and dedication to lifelong learning.

In keeping with this mission, the selection criteria used to evaluate each applicant will include, but are not limited to:

- Cumulative GPA
- Cumulative Science GPA
- Letters of Recommendation
- Patient Contact Experience
- Community, Military and/or Civil Service
- Conversational Fluency in Multiple Languages
- Recommended Courses
- Residency and Alumni status
- Interview

Following the interview and committee selection decisions, eligible applicants will receive a letter assigning one of the following categories: Conditional Acceptance, Wait Listed Candidate or Regret.

## **Conditional Acceptance:**

Applicants who have met the academic and admission requirements and have been selected into the program are offered conditional acceptance. Final acceptance into the program is contingent on the following:

- Submission of all official transcripts (and/or evaluation if applicable)
- Satisfactory completion of a criminal background check, and
- Satisfactory completion and submission of vaccination history by the designated deadline dates.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the withdrawal of our conditional acceptance offer. A non-refundable seat deposit is required upon acceptance to the program. This deposit will be applied towards the first semester's tuition.

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

- No admission decisions will be communicated via telephone.
- The decision of the UMB Physician Assistant Admissions Committee is **final**.

# ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK & DRUG SCREENING

All students who are offered admission and/or clinical placement into the UMB PA Program are required to submit to a complete criminal background check and urine drug screen. All student applicants' final acceptance in the program shall be contingent upon satisfactory completion of a criminal background check and of a urine drug screen\*

All letters of acceptance state that the acceptance is conditional and contingent on submission to a criminal background check and urine drug screen—as may be required by the program—that results in satisfactory reports. If an accepted student tests positive for an illegal or un-prescribed drug, the student is denied admission or terminated from the PA program.

Separate, additional criminal background checks and urine drug screens may be required by clinical sites prior to placements. Students with an unsuccessful background check or urine screening who are denied by a clinical site that is required to meet program competencies shall be dismissed from the program and their registrations shall be withdrawn from courses related to the program of study. Successful reports of criminal background checks and urine drug screens do not assure eligibility for specific clinical site placement, program completion, and/or eligibility to sit for professional licensure/board examinations.

Students are reminded that licensing boards for certain health care occupations and professions may deny, suspend, or revoke a license or may deny the individual the opportunity to sit for an examination even if the individual has completed all program course work if it is determined that an applicant has a criminal history or has been convicted of, or pleads guilty, or pleads nolo contendere or the like to a felony or other serious crime.

Successful completion of a health sciences program of study at the University of Maryland Baltimore does not guarantee licensure, the opportunity to sit for a licensure examination, certification or employment in the relevant health care occupation.

Students may be automatically denied admission or, if enrolled, dismissed from the program if they have not been truthful or have provided inaccurate information on the application or on any other form or submission. Students who have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the UMB School of Graduate Studies PA Admissions Office at [paprogram@umaryland.edu](mailto:paprogram@umaryland.edu).

## **CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR), ADVANCED CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT (ACLS), & PEDIATRIC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (PALS)**

Students must maintain American Heart Association BLS CPR certification during their matriculation through the program. ACLS and PALS must be completed prior to the beginning of clinical rotations and remain current throughout the program. These courses are not part of the program curriculum; therefore, payment for and completion of these certifications will be the students' responsibility.

## **VACCINATION COMPLIANCE**

All students who are offered admission and/or clinical placement into the UMB PA Program are required to comply with the Student Health Center's mandatory immunization requirements which includes:

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Hepatitis B
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)
- Influenza (Flu)
- Meningococcal (if living on campus)
- Tuberculosis Screening (TB)

Optional:

- COVID-19

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Students are required to have individual health insurance coverage throughout the duration of the program. Please visit [Student Insurance](#) for more information.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All students must have the ability to transport themselves to all clinical sites and clinical activities.

## **EQUIPMENT NEEDS**

Information on equipment needs is provided during the new student orientation.

# APPLICANT CHECKLIST

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## 2026-2027 CYCLE CHECKLIST

Please make sure that you review this list and do not submit your application to CASPA unless you are able to answer yes to every question.

- I have completed all prerequisite courses with a grade B (3.0) or better and I understand that a B- (minus) grade will not be accepted.
- I have confirmed that the prerequisites courses have been posted with grades on the official transcripts that will be submitted to CASPA.
- I have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.
- I have a cumulative science GPA of at least 3.0.
- I have confirmed that my conferred bachelor's degree (or higher) and graduation date is posted on the official transcript that will be submitted to CASPA.
- I have completed at least 1000 hours of acceptable patient contact experience and it has been documented on my CASPA application.
- If applicable, I have taken the TOEFL and will submit my official results to CASPA. CASPA must receive official scores by application deadline to be considered.
- If I am a foreign-educated applicant, I have had my foreign transcripts evaluated by WES or ECE (must be a course-by-course evaluation) and will submit my official evaluations to CASPA.
- I understand that if I have already applied to a PA Program through CASPA that is not UMB, and my application has been verified for that program, that CASPA will not re-verify any updated transcripts that may include prerequisite coursework required for UMB.

## CASPA APPLICATION PROCESS

Once you submit your CASPA application it will move through the following process. Please note that your application must be considered **COMPLETE** by CASPA by the application deadline of September 1, 2026.

- **In-Progress:** Your application has not yet been submitted or you have not paid the application fee.
- **Received:** Your application has been submitted, but you are missing required documents.
- **Complete:** All required materials were received and your application is in line for verification and is considered complete. Once your application enters this status, it can take up to 10 days to move to the Verified status.
- **Undelivered:** This status indicates that an error was found and your application was returned to you for corrections.
- **Verified:** Your application was processed and, if applicable, your GPA was calculated. You will receive a confirmation notification that your application was verified. Please note that any information that is updated after the verification process will not be re-verified. UMB will only consider verified coursework.

For additional information, please visit the [Checking Your CASPA Notifications and Status](#) section on the CASPA website.

## AM I A QUALIFIED AND COMPETITIVE APPLICANT?

### Are you a qualified applicant?

- Do you have a bachelor's degree or higher from a nationally recognized institution?
  - If you have not completed your bachelor's degree, **do not submit a CASPA application until the degree is reflected on a transcript. NO exceptions.**

For foreign medical graduates a World Evaluation Services (WES) or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) course-by-course evaluation must reflect a minimum of a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate under "U.S. Equivalency"; no other wording is acceptable. If you have international coursework that has not been evaluated by one of these three listed services, you must have

- Do you have the required minimum, cumulative GPA of 3.0?
  - Please note, CASPA includes repeated coursework in their GPA calculations. To calculate your GPA, add all of the quality points on your transcripts and divide them by the total number of credits attempted. The cumulative GPA should include all credit coursework taken, including coursework (as well as repeated courses) taken on the undergraduate, graduate and doctorate level.
  - The CASPA GPA calculations do not include coursework from evaluations or institutions that are not nationally recognized. Evaluations, sent with the CASPA application, are verified, and calculated by UMB PA admission staff using the same method of calculation for the CASPA GPA.
- Do you have the required minimum, cumulative science GPA of 3.0?
  - Please note, CASPA includes repeated coursework in their GPA calculations. To calculate your science GPA, add all of the quality points on your transcripts for science coursework completed and divide them by the total number of science credits attempted. The cumulative science GPA should include all science coursework taken, including coursework (as well as repeated courses) taken on the undergraduate, graduate and doctorate level.
  - The CASPA GPA calculations do not include coursework from evaluations or institutions that are not nationally recognized. Evaluations, sent with the CASPA application, are verified, and calculated by UMB PA admission staff using the same method of calculation for the CASPA GPA.
- Have you completed each required prerequisite with a grade of B (3.0+) or higher?
  - Prerequisites are not transferred in; however, they must be equivalent to the course descriptions listed in the admission requirements. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the basic information listed in the course descriptions is covered for each prerequisite. Please do not send or email transcripts to our office for transcript evaluation.
  - **A&P 1 and 2 prerequisites must be completed within 7 years of the date you submit your CASPA application.** If coursework is older than 7 years it must be retaken with a grade of B (3.0) or higher and reflected on the CASPA application. All the other required prerequisites (Chemistry, Medical Terminology, Microbiology, Statistics and Psychology) do not have a time requirement.
  - Online courses are accepted provided they are equivalent. Science prerequisites that are completed online must include a lab component that covers the same material as listed in the course descriptions.

- Courses **must** appear on the CASPA application with a final grade. Before you request your official transcripts, make sure the final grade is on the transcript. This is the applicant's responsibility. If you have not completed all the prerequisites, you must **wait to submit your CASPA application until the grades are posted on your official transcript. NO exceptions.**
- All prerequisites are required to have a grade of B (3.0) or higher. A grade of B- (minus) will not meet the prerequisite requirement. Pass/Fail grades are not accepted.
- For foreign medical graduates: Prerequisites that were taken internationally must be reflected, with similar course name and number of credits, on the course-by-course evaluation.

- Can you demonstrate English proficiency?
  - If your native language or language of the home is not English, you must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum acceptable TOEFL score for admission is 250 for computer-based tests, 100 for the internet-based tests. Please note that TOEFL scores are only valid for two years. **Official TOEFL scores must be reported on the CASPA application and verified by CASPA by the application deadline.** Applicants who earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a nationally recognized institution in the United States may be eligible to submit a request to waive the TOEFL requirement-See TOEFL requirements in Admissions booklet.
- Do you have three letters of recommendation submitted to CASPA?
  - Three letters of recommendation, preferably from a professor or others who can attest to the quality of your academic performance and scholastic potential. These letters must be submitted to CASPA, not directly to the UMB PA program. It is strongly recommended that applicants use individuals that know them well (minimum of 6 months).
- Do you have a minimum of 1000 hours of Patient Contact Experience (PCE)?
  - The UMB PA program defines Patient Contact Experience as: provision of services or care by a health care worker in a clinical setting, or an assigned home-based setting that has a direct influence and/or benefit on the outcome of the patient. Examples of duties in this role would include: evaluation, assessment, management of a patient, patient education and implementation of a care plan.
  - If an applicant is looking to obtain PCE, one semester courses such as the Patient Care Technician/CNA and EMT can be suggested. Other programs such as Medical Assistant and/or Medical Scribe are also options.

- PA shadowing will not be considered as Patient Contact Experience and volunteering will be considered as Community Service.
- Volunteer patient contact experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Have you completed all the requirements by the application deadline?
  - The UMB PA program must receive a completed CASPA application by **September 1st**.
    - It is strongly recommended that applicants submit their CASPA application by **July 1st** to ensure that the application is verified by CASPA prior to the program application deadline. Once the application has been verified, the UMB PA Admissions office will notify applicants via e-mail that the application has been received and further instructions will be provided.
- CASPA will not re-verify updated transcripts.
  - If an applicant is enrolled in required prerequisite coursework for the UMB PA program, they must wait to apply until they can ensure that all coursework is posted, with the final grade, on the official transcript that is submitted to CASPA.
  - If an applicant has already submitted an application to CASPA for UMB and the application has been verified by CASPA and it is noted that there is prerequisite coursework in progress, CASPA will not re-verify a transcript to reflect any updated coursework.
  - If an applicant submits an application and it has been verified by CASPA for a program other than UMB, CASPA will not re-verify an application to reflect any updated coursework required by UMB.
- The CASPA application must reflect all of the program requirements as complete to be considered qualified and eligible for further consideration.
  - Be sure to **check transcripts to ensure that recent coursework and degrees are reflected** prior to sending transcripts to CASPA and submitting your application. Once a CASPA application has been completed by CASPA it cannot be updated, and we will not accept your application if all coursework and conferred bachelor's degree are not verified.
    - See applicant checklist in Admissions booklet.

### **Are you a competitive applicant?**

- Do you have a competitive science GPA?
- The science GPA of students who have matriculated into our program ranges from 3.4 -3.7. Applicants who wish to be more competitive can take additional natural science courses to increase the science GPA. Visit the CASPA website for a list of CASPA course subjects.
- Do you have a well-written personal statement?
- A personal statement consisting of 300-500 words outlining your goals and objectives in pursuing the physician assistant program and profession is recommended.
- Do you have community, civil or military service?
- The UMB PA Program values service to country, state, and local government as well as the community. Be sure to report this information on the CASPA Application under the Community Service and/or Military sections.
- Do you have conversational fluency in another language in addition to English?
  - The UMB PA program recognizes and promotes the value of diversity as well as the ability to communicate in other languages. Be sure to report additional spoken languages under the Personal Information section of the CASPA application.
- Have you completed the recommended coursework?
  - In addition to the program requirements, the following courses are strongly recommended for your success in the program: Biochemistry and Developmental Psychology with a B or better. Applicants that have completed both of the recommended courses, in addition to meeting the program requirements, may be more competitive.

# FAQs

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## DO I HAVE TO APPLY THROUGH CASPA?

Yes, all applicants must apply through CASPA and the application must be **completed** by September 1st for consideration. UMB PA Admissions Office will send notification via e-mail when the application is received and instructions regarding how to proceed with the admission process.

## DO MY PRE-REQUISITES NEED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

Prerequisite courses must be completed before an application is submitted. All prerequisites must be posted with grades on official transcripts submitted to CASPA.

## DOES MY DEGREE NEED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

You must already hold a bachelor's degree or higher before submitting an application. Conferred degree and graduation date must be posted on official transcripts submitted to CASPA.

## DOES THE TYPE OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE MATTER?

No, any bachelor's degree or higher from a nationally recognized institution is acceptable.

## IF I RETAKE A COURSE, WHICH GRADE WILL COUNT FOR MY GPA?

For cumulative GPA and science GPA (as calculated by CASPA) **ALL** courses will be counted in the GPA. UMB uses the GPA calculated by CASPA.

## DO I STILL NEED TO TAKE THE GRE AND SUBMIT THOSE SCORES TO CASPA?

**No.** Beginning with the 2024 – 2025 CASPA application cycle, we no longer require GRE scores to be submitted with your application.

## CAN I WORK WHILE I AM IN THE UMB PA PROGRAM?

The program is very challenging and students need a time commitment for studying and clinical education. For your success in the program, **we do not recommend** that you work while matriculating in this program.

## **CAN I GET CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS ACADEMIC WORK OR WORK EXPERIENCE?**

No, the UMB PA Program does not grant credit for prior academic or work experience. Prerequisite requirements and work experience are factored into the ranking system used to evaluate applicants. Work experience is verified as needed through the admission and CASPA application process.

## **HOW OFTEN DO YOU ADMIT STUDENTS?**

Once a year in the summer semester. Since the CASPA cycle opens in April, we recommend submitting a CASPA application by July 1st so that a completed CASPA application is received by the UMB School of Graduate Studies by the deadline date of September 1st. Interviews are held in the fall for competitive applicants and selections are made for the new class that begins in the following summer semester of each year.

## **DO YOU OFFER A PART-TIME PA PROGRAM?**

No, our program is a 24-month, full-time program.

## **I AM A FOREIGN EDUCATED APPLICANT; WILL YOU ACCEPT MY FOREIGN TRANSCRIPT?**

After completing the CASPA application, UMB PA Admissions Office School will request official evaluations for all foreign transcripts (for all higher-level institutions attended), evaluated (course by course evaluation) by one of the following organizations:

- World Education Services (WES)
- Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE)

UMB School of Graduate Studies will not evaluate these documents prior to going through this process. No other evaluation services will be accepted.

## **I AM FOREIGN EDUCATED; DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE TOEFL?**

Applicants whose native language or language of the home is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum acceptable TOEFL score for admission is 100 for the internet-based test (IBT). Please note that TOEFL scores are only valid for two years. TOEFL information and registration is available at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org).

## **IF I SEND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION TO CASPA, DO I NEED TO SUBMIT THEM TO UMB AS WELL?**

No, the UMB School of Graduate Studies obtains letters of recommendation from CASPA. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that CASPA receives all three letters of recommendation.

## **I DO NOT HAVE A BACKGROUND IN THE HEALTH CARE FIELD. HOW CAN I OBTAIN PATIENT CONTACT EXPERIENCE?**

A student who does not have patient contact experience can begin to accrue patient contact experience hours as a paid health professional (or nationally certified professional such as an EMT). Student (clinical) hours are not considered under the program's current definition for patient contact experience. Volunteer patient contact experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **WHAT ARE THE PANCE FIRST-TIME PASS RATES?**

Please visit the UMB Physician Assistant Program web page <https://graduate.umaryland.edu/mshs-pa-umb/nccpa-pance-report/>.

## **HOW MANY SEATS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PA PROGRAM?**

There are 60 seats available.

## **HOW MANY APPLICATIONS DOES YOUR PROGRAM TYPICALLY RECEIVE?**

The typical number of applications received is 1400.

## **IF I AM OFFERED A SEAT IN THE PROGRAM, HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?**

Financial aid for the program is completed through the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) Office of Student Financial Assistance.

You can contact them directly at:

- 410-706-7347
- [aidtalk@umaryland.edu](mailto:aidtalk@umaryland.edu)
- [www.umaryland.edu/fin/process/](http://www.umaryland.edu/fin/process/)

## **ARE AP SCORES ACCEPTED TOWARDS THE PA PROGRAM?**

The University of Maryland Baltimore Physician Assistant program does not provide advanced standing. Advanced standing is defined as a waiver of required coursework in the PA curriculum for applicants to the program or a waiver of required coursework included in the PA curriculum for currently enrolled students. Students cannot advance in the curriculum without completing required curriculum components at the sponsoring institution.

## **CAN STUDENTS BE RE-ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAM?**

Students seeking readmission are considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **ARE TRANSFERS ACCEPTED TO THE PROGRAM?**

Transfers will be considered on a rare and individual basis.

The University of Maryland Baltimore School of Graduate Studies Physician Assistant Program reserves the right to revise the admission requirements, selection criteria, administrative procedures, Physician Assistant curriculum, and anything else outlined in this booklet as deemed necessary without prior notification.

# Physician Assistant Program



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



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