Physician assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of physicians, and are referred to as physician extenders and midlevel practitioners. Their practice includes all elements of patient care including taking medical histories, completing examinations, ordering diagnostic tests, and providing medical care including prescribing medications. Physician assistants may care for a wide variety of patients, assist in surgery, or specialize in a wide variety of practice areas in conjunction with their supervising physician.

Program Characteristics

> 29-month graduate program comprised of 124 credit hours.

> A new cohort of 30 students is accepted annually through a competitive application process. Coursework begins in the summer.

> Students can enroll after earning a bachelor's degree, successfully completing specific prerequisite classes, and gaining at least 500 hours of healthcare experience.

> Based on projected needs in rural states, primary care is an emphasis of the program.

> Graduates will be eligible to seek initial licensure in all 50 states once they have graduated from SAU's accredited PA program and passed the NCCPA exam (PANCE). In some cases, jurisdictions may require current NCCPA certification, as well as other documentation or fees when applying. For more information about such licensure application requirements, please visit the respective state licensing websites.

Regular/CASPA Admissions Process
Apply online using the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at caspa.liaisoncas.com. Supplemental materials will be submitted directly to the MPAS office.

Admissions Requirements

> Earn a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, in major of choice.

> Complete online CASPA application including personal statement and references.

> Earn a "C" or higher in all prerequisite classes. Required course work graded pass/fail or credit obtained by CLEP exam or Advanced Placement (AP) will not be accepted.

> Earn a minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA on 4.0 scale.

> Submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores within five calendar years prior to the term of intended enrollment. Official scores must be verified through CASPA by November 1.

> Submit completed SAU Supplemental Application.

> Document at least 500 hours of health care experience with direct patient contact.

> Document at least 16 hours of shadowing a physician assistant.

> Complete a campus interview.

> Applicants whose native language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A passing score of 600 (written), 250 (computerized), or 100 (internet) is required to be eligible for admission to the program. Results should be sent directly from ETS to St. Ambrose University. The institutional code is 6617.

> Applicants with coursework or a degree from a college or university outside the United States must submit an official Credential Evaluation from World Education Services (wes.org).

> Individuals who are not US citizens or permanent legal residents are not eligible for admission into the MPAS program.

Early Admission/High School Senior Admissions Process
Early admit is for high school seniors planning to enroll at St. Ambrose University for their undergraduate education. To apply for Early Admit, a high school senior must:

> Be admitted to the undergraduate SAU program.

> Achieve a minimum ACT composite score of 28, with no section score below 23, or a minimum SAT composite score of 1310.

> Attain a minimum of 3.70/4.0 unweighted high school GPA.

> Complete two semesters of each: chemistry, biology, and physics; be enrolled in or have completed math through calculus. Students are encouraged to take the highest level of course offered (AP, honors, etc.).

> Shadow a physician assistant for at least eight hours.

(continued)

> Obtain two letters of recommendation with at least one from a science teacher.

> Complete an interview.

See the link on the MPAS website to apply for Early Admit. Applications due by December 1 of the fall prior to undergraduate matriculation. We interview qualified applicants in January, and decisions for admission are released by February 15. Early Admit students must meet the following requirements as undergraduates to remain eligible for matriculation to the MPAS program:

> Document at least 8 hours of shadowing a physician assistant.

> Maintain an overall GPA of 3.50. This requirement will be calculated after their 2nd semester at SAU and each subsequent semester.

> Meet all prerequisite class requirements needed for regular admission to the MPAS program, with all core science courses taken at SAU.

> Complete 500 healthcare hours prior to matriculation.

> Cumulative GRE score of 275 or higher prior to matriculation.

College Prerequisite Classes

> 15–16 credit hours in biological sciences with labs covering general biology (4 cr), human anatomy (4 cr), human physiology (4 cr) and microbiology (3–4 cr). Anatomy and physiology classes may be taken separately or together if part of a two-course section.

> 14–16 credit hours in chemistry with labs to include general (inorganic) chemistry (8 cr, 2 semester sequence), organic chemistry (3–4 cr, lab recommended if available) and biochemistry (3–4 cr, lab recommended if available).

> 3 credit hours in statistics or biostatistics. Additional mathematics class may be needed as a prerequisite for science and statistics.

> 6 credit hours in psychology/sociology – applicants may have one psychology and one sociology course or two psychology courses.

> 6 credit hours in English/Writing – applicants may have English composition or writing intensive courses.

> Recommended courses: oral communication and biomedical ethics.

Program Goals

> Maintain an accredited MPAS program.

> Maintain a level of PANCE pass rate above the national average.

> Meet primary care workforce needs, especially in rural and underserved populations.

> Demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism.

> Work effectively with other members of the healthcare team.

> Engage in service or assume a leadership role within the profession and the community.

> Recruit and retain qualified applicants.

Accreditation The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the St. Ambrose University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by St. Ambrose University. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARCPA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from 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 2029 March. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-st-ambrose-university/.

State of the Art Facilities

MPAS program offices and classrooms are located about six blocks west of the main SAU campus. The MPAS program shares space with the university's Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Public Health programs, in a center that includes state-of-the-art classrooms; labs that simulate home health, hospital and outpatient clinic environments; a computer lab; library; and a student commons. This environment gives students hands-on-experience in classrooms that replicate the places where they'll be working, and helps facilitate interdisciplinary learning among health care professionals to better prepare them for optimal patient care.

For Further Information

Master of Physician Assistant Studies. 563-333-5827
St. Ambrose University
Center for Health Sciences Education
1320 W. Lombard Street, Davenport, IA 52804
www.sau.edu/MPAS
PA@sau.edu

The material presented here is for informational purposes and does not substitute for the catalog. Consult the official university catalog for complete program requirements.

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