

Physician Assistant

Master of Physician Assistant

The graduate program in physician assistant studies, located in the department of physician assistant within the College of Health Professions at Wichita State University, is the only one of its kind in Kansas. The program prepares graduates to practice medicine in collaboration with a licensed physician. The functions of a physician assistant include performing diagnostic, therapeutic, preventative and health maintenance services in any setting in which the physician renders care, in order to allow more effective and focused application of the physician's particular knowledge and skills.

The WSU department of physician assistant, accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on the Education of Physician Assistants (ARC-PA), offers a 26-month (full-time, lock-step) graduate course of study which leads to a professional Master of Physician Assistant degree. The 93-credit-hour program is equally divided into two parts: a didactic phase and a clinical/research phase. One class is admitted each summer.

Professional Curriculum

The professional curriculum is divided into two phases: a didactic phase and a clinical/research phase. Each phase lasts 13 months. The didactic phase includes graduate coursework in the basic sciences (anatomy, pharmacology, pathophysiology), clinical medicine, research methods and statistics, epidemiology, behavioral medicine, ethics, preventive medicine and community health, social and legal issues, and clinical skills.

During the clinical/research phase of the program students complete 8 clinical rotations. Focus areas include: family medicine and primary care, pediatrics, prenatal care and women's health, emergency medicine and acute care, general surgery, behavioral health and internal medicine. The WSU PA program enjoys the support of preceptors throughout Kansas. In keeping with the broad range of clinical activities, students have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of clinical rotation sites including at least two rotations in a rural location site. All students will be assigned to clinical rotations outside of the urban areas of Kansas and should therefore expect to spend several months in rural areas of Kansas. Students are expected to pay for transportation, room and board when traveling to clinical rotation sites.

Programs in Physician Assistant

- Master of Physician Assistant (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/graduate/health-professions/health-sciences/physician-assistant/master-physician-assistant>)

Courses in Physician Assistant

- Physician Assistant (PA) (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/graduate/courses/pa>)