



Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Program Expected Start Date:

July, 2012

How long has Ohio Dominican had a PA program?

Our inaugural class begins July of 2012

Does the Program offer tours or information sessions?

The program has frequent information sessions. Information as to the next session is posted on the program webpage

Where is the PA Program located?

We are located on the beautiful, 75+ acre wooded campus of Ohio Dominican University. The program will be housed in Saint Albert Hall, which is undergoing design and renovation to ensure students have the most technologically-advanced, critically-designed and student-centered space optimal for learning the PA Profession. Ohio Dominican University is located in the heart of Columbus, Ohio, a big city with a small-town feel. Columbus is the nation's 16th largest city with all the benefits of a large metropolis (shopping, entertainment, diversity, ease of transportation and more) and yet it hasn't lost that small-town, friendly feel. Ohio Dominican University is approximately 10 minutes from downtown Columbus, five minutes from Port Columbus International Airport, and 15 minutes from the most robust shopping and entertainment venue in the state, Easton Town Center.

How long has Ohio Dominican existed?

For more than a century, Ohio Dominican has transformed lives. Ohio Dominican University was chartered in 1911 as the College of St. Mary of the Springs. It was founded as an all-women's school, becoming coeducational in 1964. The college changed its name to Ohio Dominican College on July 1, 1968. Ohio Dominican became a university on July 1, 2001, under an ambitious strategic plan to become

one of the country's preeminent small Catholic universities. Ohio Dominican enjoys a solid reputation based upon the tenets of service to others.

How long is the PA Program course of study?

27 months – 15 didactic and 12 clinical phase.

Are we accredited?

The ARC-PA has granted **Accreditation - Provisional** to the **Ohio Dominican University Physician Assistant Program**, sponsored by Ohio Dominican University.

Accreditation - Provisional is an accreditation status. The status indicates that the plans and resource allocation for the proposed program appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA *Standards*, if fully implemented as planned. Accreditation - Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status and is limited to no more than three years for any program.

How many students does the program take?

We expect to take 40-50 qualified applicants.

How many applications does the program receive?

We do not have an accurate figure as the program has recently joined The Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). In the state of Ohio, PA Programs routinely report 500-750 applications each year. Nationally, there are three applications for every one seat.

Do we participate in CASPA?

Yes. The CASPA portal typically opens in mid-April and closes in March. The link to CASPA is <https://portal.caspaonline.org/>.

GPA/GRE

The minimum grade point average (GPA) is 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, especially the science GPA. We also require recent (within 5 years) scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The official scores must be sent to Ohio Dominican University even though CASPA asks for them. We do accept the MCAT in lieu of the GRE. All test scores are examined on an individual basis in light of the applicant's complete portfolio. Please note, a GPA of 3.0 or higher is no guarantee of admission.

Patient Care Experience

The minimum is 250 hours. This is experience that actually involves contact with patients. Lab experience is not considered patient care experience. The Program also likes to see applicants who have shadowed PAs. Shadowing hours may be included in total patient care experience hours. These hours can be self-reported and subject to audit at the program's discretion.

Does the Program give special preference to certain applicants?

Preference will be given to current Ohio residents, graduates of Ohio Dominican University, past or present members of the armed forces and those with significant health care experience, however none of the preceding is a guarantee for acceptance.

Does the Program have an automatic admission program from?

A future plan for direct admission from ODU is undergoing development, however not at this time. Further, we recognize many highly qualified applicants may need to retake pre-requisites completed in past years, or perhaps are missing pre-requisites. All prerequisite courses are taught at Ohio Dominican. For more information, please contact the admissions office.

How is the curriculum taught at ODU's PA Program?

The didactic phase (70 semester hours) of the program is four semesters beginning in fall. The clinical phase (24 semester hours) of the program begins in January following successful completion of the didactic phase. Ohio Dominican University's PA Program utilizes the specialist model of teaching clinical medicine. It is our belief that those who research, work and teach in a respective field are best suited to teach our students. For example, physiologists teach physiology. Accordingly, those who have expertise in a particular field, such as (but not limited to) cardiologists, surgeons, emergency medicine specialists, nurses, and others with specialized training will teach in the program. All didactic courses (15 months of instruction) will utilize the most appropriate and up-to-date techniques to ensure our students receive the best training possible. These techniques include, but are not limited to, lecture/discussion, small group and problem-based discussion, case-studies and hospital experiences. In fact, beginning the first semester, students will participate in clinical experiences at local institutions and with local practitioners. Plans are developing to have

students participate in local free and low-cost clinics as well. Indeed, students will also have clinical experiences at one of these clinics the first semester of study as well. The clinical phase is 12 months in which students rotate from 4-8 weeks with practitioners in the areas of family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, women's health, behavioral medicine and surgery. Additionally, each student may take three 4-week elective rotations, which may include international sites of study.

What hands-on experiences are available in the program?

In addition to those experiences described above, students will participate in three physical diagnosis courses which include practice in history-taking, and physical diagnosis techniques. Live models for breast and pelvic examinations are part of this course. Clinical skills labs will include Advanced Cardiac Life Support, suturing, casting/splinting, intravenous access, parenteral injections, surgical gowning and scrubbing, and the Objective Standardized Clinical Examination (OSCE). Aggressive plans are ongoing to rotate students through local free and low-cost clinics in order to better fulfill our service to others.

Does the program allow students to waive courses or have advanced standing?

No students may not waive any course within the PA program curriculum, nor does it accept students for advanced standing. The program curriculum is subject to change in order to best meet the needs of the PA Profession and our students.

How can I contact the many organizations involved with Physician Assistants and PA education?

- American Academy of Physician Assistants: <http://www.aapa.org/>
- Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.: <http://www.arc-pa.org/>
- Educational Testing Service: <http://www.ets.org/>
- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants: <http://www.nccpa.net/>
- Ohio Association of Physician Assistants: http://ohiopa.com/aws/OAPA/pt/sp/home_page
- Physician Assistant Education Association: <http://www.paeaonline.org/>