

Physician Assistant

Profession web sites: www.paeaonline.org for PA education; www.aapa.org for professional organization

Application web site: Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) is utilized by a majority of programs. Applications cycle opens in April, for entering a PA program in the following year. (portal.caspaonline.org). The application service opens in April each application cycle (i.e., April 2014 for the 2014-15 cycle).

Admission/Entrance exam: Graduate Record Examination (GRE) - www.ets.org/gre/. Some schools may also accept MCAT exam scores.

Transcripts: Official transcripts from ALL institutions attended, including Marquette University, must be sent directly from the institution to CASPA. If you completed study abroad courses that are on a transcript issued by another university, official transcripts from that institution must also be sent to CASPA.

Course prerequisites: Course prerequisites vary by program. Typical prerequisites include biology, chemistry, organic and/or biochemistry, microbiology (with lab), psychology, and medical terminology.

Observation hours/experience: The CASPA application provides a variety of categories in which to document work and volunteer experience. Exceeding the minimum hours required is an excellent way not only to learn about the profession, but also demonstrate your commitment to the profession. Direct, hands-on patient care experience is viewed highly. Other defined categories of experience on the CASPA application include: other health care experience; health care shadowing; research (not for academic credit); community service; other work experience; and awards, honors, and leadership.

Minimum GPA to apply: Many programs have a minimum GPA for all applicants, including Marquette (3.0 overall GPA). Please keep in mind that grades earned in all college level courses must be reported to CASPA, including repeated attempts of the same course. Since CASPA includes repeated attempts in their GPA calculation, the GPA calculated by CASPA may not match your Marquette GPA. For applicants to MU PA with less than two semesters of college course work (i.e., sophomore applicants), grades for the fall semester in which you apply will be included in the review process. For applicants to MU PA with three or more semesters of college course work completed, grades for the fall semester of the application cycle are not included in the review process.

Letters of Reference (LOR): Reference letters on your behalf will be submitted directly by the recommender to CASPA. You will identify these individuals on your CASPA application (including their email address). CASPA will send an email directly to the reference person with a link for them to submit their recommendation.

Interview: Competitive applicants may be invited to participate in an interview process. Interviews may include faculty members, current students of the program, and/or practitioners. Interviews may be used to assess oral communication skills; professional behavior; attitude; knowledge of the profession and/or health care overall; problem-solving skills; etc. Go to your interviews with prepared questions about the school/program that show your interest in what the school has to offer (other than being close to home or low tuition).

Deadlines: CASPA uses a color-coded system to identify the type of deadline required for each program (either e-submission, completed application, or verified application). Verified applications take the longest (up to four weeks), which means your completed application (letters of recommendation and transcripts) needs to be submitted at least a month BEFORE the verified application deadline. **Marquette's deadline for a completed application (including all transcripts, LOR and supplemental) is SEPTEMBER 1.** CASPA will NOT forward your application to schools after the deadlines.

Early decision: Early decision, if available, is a binding option for applicants who have decided that a specific program is their first choice and that they will enroll if accepted.

Data for Accepted Students (Fall 2012 acceptances):

Average UG gpa: 3.3 overall; 3.2 science (on a 4.0 scale)

Average GRE Scores: Verbal 463.12; Quantitative 584.52; Analytical 9.04

