THE PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM OF STUDY AT AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Aspiring to become a Physician Assistant (PA) is a challenging and exciting career choice. Your undergraduate pre-professional preparation will be a key element in your overall comprehensive master plan for success.

Admission to PA school is extremely competitive. You should be aware that only between 10% and 13% of applicants are typically accepted. The specific data for AU is detailed below. Students can research the other Georgia and South Carolina programs by following the links below to the specific program of interest. To learn more about Physician Assistant careers visit the American Academy of Physician Assistant (AAPA) website: https://www.aapa.org/

SELECTION OF A MAJOR

Pre-PA is not a degree at AU but a pre-professional intention. PA programs accept applicants with majors in different fields but must have completed the program-specific prerequisite coursework, either through a bachelor’s degree or obtained through post-baccalaureate studies. A student’s science GPA will be evaluated separately from their overall GPA. It should be stressed that the final responsibility for planning the academic program rests with the student and not with an advisor.

PRE-PA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Most PA programs require a minimum amount of Physician Assistant observation (job shadowing) hours in addition to direct patient contact (from 100-500 hours or more) for admission. Job shadowing needs to be under a PA not an MD, or nurse, etc. Students should form strong relationships with faculty members and those with whom they job shadow. These will be the individuals from whom they will request letters of recommendation to PA school.

All of the accredited PA programs in Georgia and South Carolina are Master Level programs, typically 24-28 consecutive months in duration. See the following links to review the admissions criteria for each as they do vary somewhat from program to program. (AU admission criteria attached separately)

Augusta University (AU)
http://www.augusta.edu/alliedhealth/pa/

Emory University
http://med.emory.edu/pa/admissions/index.html

Mercer University
http://author.mercer.edu/mu-chp/admissions/pa-admissions-requirements.cfm

South University
https://www.southuniversity.edu/savannah/Areas-Of-Study/Physician-Assistant/Physician-Assistant-Master-of-Science-MS/Admissions

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)
http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/chp/pa/admissions/requirements.htm

University of South Carolina School of Medicine http://pa.med.sc.edu/

PCOM (Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine has a PA program based in Suwanee, GA http://www.pcom.edu/academics/programs-and-degrees/physician-assistant-studies/

North Greenville University (Pending accreditation 11/2016) http://www.ngu.edu/pa-medicine.php
MANDATORY COURSE PREREQUISITES FOR AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY:

- General Chemistry I and II (Labs required)
- Biology I and II (Labs required)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 (Lab required)
  - [A & P 2 Strongly Recommended but not required]
- General Psychology
- Organic Chemistry I (Lab required)
- Statistics
- Microbiology w/lab
  - [Biology 2500, although some may opt for 3500 because it can count as a major elective. However, they may choose 2500 without fear that it will be valued less by AU PA Admissions]

15 Credits of Guided Electives in any basic science which may include*: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, Organic II, Histology, Biochemistry, Evolution, Human Growth and Development, Medical Terminology, Abnormal Psychology, Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Embryology, Histology, Physics etc.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
Augusta University has applicants who submit letters of recommendation from PA’s or MD’s who are long time family or personal friends. The program discourages applicants from this practice if possible as unbiased references carry significant weight in an applicant’s portfolio.

Link to AU PA website with statistics  http://www.augusta.edu/alliedhealth/pa/admissions.php

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average GPA</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Math/Science GPA</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<td>Average GRE</td>
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<td>Average Age</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Males Accepted</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Females Accepted</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
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<td>39</td>
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<td>Out of state resident</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>4</td>
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Enter 2012 Class of 2014  Enter 2013 Class of 2015  Enter 2014 Class of 2016

- Number of Applicants** | 397 | 434 | 423 |
- Number Accepted | 44 | 43 | 44 |
- Average GPA | 3.54 | 3.61 | 3.6 |
- Average Math/Science GPA | 3.38 | 3.52 | 3.5 |

* As many of the upper level sciences as possible if they are serious about healthcare.
**Information from AU PA Program Admissions

Ruggiero-Wagner Revised F 2017