



**PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT INFORMATION**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**  
**GENERAL ACADEMIC BUILDING 220**

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Physician Assistants, frequently called PA's, have a broad scope of duties and responsibilities, largely governed by the medical setting in which they work. PA's are regulated by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and work under the supervision of physicians. Texas requires that the PA's supervising physician register with the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and that PA's be licensed.

Most of the physician assistant programs in Texas are approximately three years in length. A master's degree is awarded the student after the successful completion of all course work at the institution which offers the program. Upon graduation the physician assistant is eligible to take the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistant examination.

Duties of PA's working under a primary care physician include: performing appropriate interviews and physical examinations; ordering and screening results of laboratory diagnostic studies; organizing and integrating information derived from the interview, examination and laboratory; assisting with the performance of clinical procedures; instructing and counseling patients regarding preventive health care behaviors; monitoring responses to physician-directed programs of therapy; responding independently to life-threatening situations; facilitating patient access to appropriate health care services; making tentative assessments; making tentative diagnostic and therapeutic plans in such a way that the physician can perceive the medical problem; treating minor cuts and wounds; removing casts and changing dressings. In addition, PA's are employed as first and second assistants in surgery, particularly in cardiovascular and orthopedic surgery.

**Programs usually start in the summer and the application for seven of the Texas schools is through [www.CASPAonline.org](http://www.CASPAonline.org) . Duration of the programs is 24-34 months, full-time.**

**Application Service: CASPA: [www.caspaonline.org](http://www.caspaonline.org)**

**Information for Graduate Record Exam: [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org)**

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## **Physician Assistant Schools in Texas offering the Master's Degree:**

### **Southwestern School of Health Professions**

<http://www8.utsouthwestern.edu/utsw/home/educ/alliedprostud/index.html>

Average GPA for admitted 2009 students: 3.56

### **The University of Texas Medical Branch**

[www.utmb.edu](http://www.utmb.edu)

Average GPA for admitted 2009 students: 3.52

### **University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth**

[www.hsc.unt.edu](http://www.hsc.unt.edu)

Average GPA for admitted 2009 students: 3.53

### **Baylor College of Medicine**

[www.bcm.tmc.edu](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu)

Average GPA for admitted 2009 students: 3.67

### **Texas Tech University Health Science Center**

[www.ttuhscc.edu](http://www.ttuhscc.edu)

Average GPA for admitted 2009 students: unknown

### **University of Texas School of Allied Health Sciences at San Antonio**

[www.uthscsa.edu](http://www.uthscsa.edu)

Average GPA for admitted 2009 students: 3.4

### **The University of Texas Pan American**

[www.panam.edu/dept/pasp](http://www.panam.edu/dept/pasp)

Average GPA for admitted 2009 students: unknown

### **Interservice Physician Assistant Program**

[www.cs.amedd.army.mil](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil)

Average GPA for admitted 2009 students: unknown

## **Professional Associations**

Association of Physician Assistant Programs [www.apap.org](http://www.apap.org)

Texas Academy of Physician Assistants [www.tapa.org](http://www.tapa.org)

Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners [www.tsbme.state.tx.us](http://www.tsbme.state.tx.us)

National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant website,

[www.arc-pa.org](http://www.arc-pa.org), lists 8 accredited physician assistant programs in Texas: Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Interservice Physician Assistant Program at Fort Sam Houston, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Midland, University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio, The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, The University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. All schools except The University of Texas Pan American offer the MS in Physician Assistant Studies upon completion of their program; Pan American offers the BS in Physician Assistant Studies. The Texas Board of Physician Assistant Examiners must license PAs. To be licensed in Texas as a PA one has to be a graduate from an accredited PA program and to pass the national certification examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

### Application

There is a common electronic application for physician assistant programs in Texas. Online application is made to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at <http://portal.caspaonline.org>. Application to the Interservice Physician Assistant Program is made directly to the school. This page revised 02/08 by: Nancy Johnson, Baylor University.

## Requirements for Physician Assistant Schools in Texas

### Master Degree Program – 66-90 hours required

TT = Texas Tech University Health Science Center

UT-HSC-SA = The University of Texas Health Sciences Center San Antonio

### Master Degree Program - Bachelor degree required

BCM = Baylor College of Medicine

UTSW = The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

### Master Degree Programs – Bachelor degree required continued

UTMB = The University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston

UTPA = The University of Texas Pan-American

UNT-HSC = University of North Texas Health Science Center

*Shown below is a composite list of requirements for the physician assistant programs in Texas. Please be aware that program requirements may change without notice and can vary with each school.*

Prerequisites	UNT-HSC	TT	UT-HSC-SA	BCM	UTSW	UTMB	UTPA
BIOL 1710/1730		X	X			X	
BIOL 1720/1740		X	X			X	
BIOL 2301/2311	X	X		X	X	X	X
BIOL 2302/2312	X	X		X	X	X	X
BIOL 2041/2042	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BIOL 3000			X				
BIOL 3800/3810			X				
BIOL 3451 or 4201	X						*X
BIOL 4200 or BIOL 4530/4540						X	*X
BIOL 3451		Recommended			X		*X
CHEM 1410/1430	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CHEM 1420/1440	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CHEM 2370/3210	X		X	X	X	X	**X
CHEM 2380/3220							**X
BIOC 3621 or BIOL 3510	X						
ENGL 1310 & 1320		X		*X			
PSYC 1630	*X	*X	X	*X	X	*X	X
MATH 1100	X				X	X	
MATH 1680	X	X	X	X		X	X
SMHM 1450		X				Recommended	

**See additional requirements on next page**

## **Important Additional Requirements:**

<sup>a</sup> **BCM:** requires only 3 hours of English expository writing; requires 3 additional hours of psychology credit; requires current Basic Life Support Certification from the American Heart Association

<sup>b</sup> **UNT-HSC:** requires 3 additional hours of psychology, sociology, or anthropology credit

<sup>c</sup> **TT:** requires 6 additional hours of social/behavioral science credit; requires 14 hours of elective credit recommended from computer literacy, medical terminology, and communication skills

<sup>d</sup> **UTMB:** requires 3 additional hours of sociology or psychology credit.

\***UTPA:** requires 6 hours of upper level biology from the following courses> Genetics, Cell Biology, Virology/Immunology, Medical Microbiology, Histology, Embryology, or Molecular Biology

\*\***UTPA:** requires 8 hours of chemistry with labs from the following courses> Organic Chemistry I & II or Biochemistry I & II

## **Consult the individual schools' websites often!**

### **Specific information on each of the Master's programs:**

#### ***UT Pan American:***

1. Minimum GPA of 3.0 in the following areas (1) all science coursework & (2) last 60 semester credit hours
2. Minimum of 50 hours shadowing a PA
3. B.S. or B.A. degree required

#### ***UT Southwestern Allied Health School:***

1. GRE (no minimum score) required by October 1
2. B.A. or B.S. degree required
3. 3.0 science and 3.0 overall GPA (minimum)
4. Recommended professional or "hands-on" experience
5. Prerequisite coursework completed by December 31 of year of application.
6. TOEFL required

#### ***UNT Health Science Center – Ft. Worth:***

1. Completion of baccalaureate degree from a U.S. or Canadian accredited college or university
2. A minimum overall GPA of 2.85
3. Two letters of reference
4. GRE required (taken within the last 5 years)
5. 90% of the entering class is reserved for Texas residents
6. Shadowing a PA is not required but highly encouraged
7. Supplemental application

#### ***Texas Tech School of Allied Health Sciences***

1. Minimum 3.2 GPA
2. Complete all science prerequisites within 7 years of application date
3. AP & CLEP credit will not be accepted for any science or social science prerequisite course
4. GRE not required
5. Must have 66 hours of prerequisites to be considered for admission but may be in progress in the spring semester prior to entering the program. All prerequisites must be completed before entering the program.
6. Accepts only 10% of students from out of state.
7. Supplemental application
8. TOEFL required

***Baylor College of Medicine***

1. GPA for those accepted into program in 2006 was 3.56
2. GRE required: combined score of 1,000 or above on the verbal and quantitative, and 3.5 on the analytical components to be competitive with others in the overall applicant pool
3. Supplemental application

***UT Health Science Center at San Antonio***

1. Minimum 2.75 GPA overall, in science prerequisites, in all prerequisites and in final 30 hours
2. Bilingual skills, especially Spanish are considered valuable
3. Must complete a minimum of 90 hours before enrollment
4. Supplemental application
5. TOEFL required

***UTMB-Galveston:***

1. B.A. or B.S. required
2. Completed CASPA application
3. GRE required
4. All course work counted in GPA – even repeated courses
5. Supplemental application

**Helpful web sites:**

Study Guides and Strategies (in > 30 different languages): <http://www.studygs.net/>

Health Politics web site: [www.healthpolitics.org](http://www.healthpolitics.org)

A web site that has information on PA schools in the U.S.A.: [www.allalliedhealthschools.com/find/](http://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/find/)

**Additional Resources -**

**American Academy of Physician Assistants:** [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)

**Physician Assistant webpage:** [www.physicianassistant.org](http://www.physicianassistant.org)

**Physician Scribes – employment in the ER in the DFW & Denton areas:**  
[www.physicianscribes.com](http://www.physicianscribes.com)