



Policy: Admissions Policy	Applicability: PA Sciences Program Students
Policy Owner: PA Sciences Program	Approved By: Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Effective Date: February 17, 2023	Last Reviewed: March 6, 2024
Next Review: March 6, 2025	Contact: (615)321-2933

PURPOSE: To detail the process by which applications to the Meharry Medical College Physician Assistant Sciences (MMC PAS) Sciences program are screened and selected for review by the Physician Assistant Admission Committee (PAAC).

POLICY: Meharry Medical College's Physician Assistant Sciences Program is committed to using a holistic approach to recruit, accept, educate, and graduating a diverse group of qualified individuals from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

DEFINITIONS:

Delay – Postpone or defer an action or event.

PROCEDURE: Applicants must meet all program application requirements, as well as submit all required documents before the program application deadline in order to be considered for review. The initial screening of application and supporting material is completed by the Chair of the PA and/or the program staff on the PA Admissions Committee (PAAC).

The PAAC Chair and/or program staff will screen all applications to verify all program requirements have been met including:

- U.S. citizen or international student in a legal status to study in the U.S. meeting the English-proficiency requirements.
- Prerequisite courses have been completed, with a minimum grade of "C" prior to submission of the CASPA application
- Applications must be submitted and *verified* by CASPA by August 1st of the year prior to matriculation.
- Anatomy and Physiology must be completed within five (5) calendar years of the submission of the application.
- Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university prior to submission of the application.
- Official transcripts from every university or college attended. International transcripts must be evaluated by one of the following and have the course by course report sent to the MMC PA Program: [International Education Services \(IES\)](#), [World Education Services \(WES\)](#), [Global Credential Evaluators \(GCE\)](#), or [Educational Credential Evaluators \(ECE\)](#).
- Three (3) Letters of reference. From any of the following: supervisor, professor, PA-C, MD/DO, other healthcare professionals and/or academic advisor. Letters of reference must be current and no older than one year at the time of the CASPA submission. References from family members will not be accepted.

After the minimum application criteria have been met, faculty will be assigned to review a selected number of applicants. Each CASPA application will have a total score calculated, resulting from the



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holistic admissions process, and interviews for admission or denial into the PA Sciences Program will be generated.

Applicant Preferences:

- Graduated from a Historically Black College and University (HBCU)
- Attended public high school > 30% free/reduced lunch
- Military veterans with an honorable discharge (must produce a DD214 / DD256 or equivalent)
- Shadowed a PA
- Direct patient care
- Community service/volunteer experience, especially in underserved communities
- First-generation college student
- Received Pell Grant in college
- Resided in a federally designated Medically Underserved Area/Population during high school ([Click here](#))
- Completion of recommended coursework

Incomplete Applications:

Applicants will be able to track the status of their application via CASPA application portal.

Applications that are incomplete at the time of submission or not verified by August 1st will not be reviewed. The applicant is encouraged to reapply during the next application cycle once all requirements for the application are met. The applicant will be required to resubmit all required application materials. The MMC PAS Program does not save any documents submitted by the applicant for any prior application cycles.

Grade Point Average (GPA):

The MMC PAS Program does not have a minimum science or cumulative GPA requirement. However, for Institutional reporting, as well as to report matriculating class averages, both science and cumulative GPAs will be tracked.

Age of Course Work:

Anatomy & Physiology must be complete within five (5) calendar years from the date of the application submission to the MMC PAS Program.

Prerequisites:

The following prerequisites are required and must be completed with a "C" or better:

1. Medical Terminology (1 credit hour)
2. General or Inorganic Chemistry I & II, with lab (8 credit hours)
3. General biology I & II (6 credit hours)



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4. Human Anatomy or Anatomy and Physiology I, with lab (4 credit hours)
5. Human Physiology or Anatomy and Physiology II, with lab (4 credit hours)
6. General Psychology (3 credit hours). Will also accept abnormal or Developmental Psychology
7. Advanced Placement (AP) high school course credit will be given for prerequisite courses, if accepted by the college or university.

The following coursework is highly recommended and a preference is given to applicants for each course complete with a "C" or better:

1. Microbiology (3 credit hours)
2. Immunology (3 credit hours)
3. Genetics (3 credit hours)
4. Biochemistry (3 credit hours)
5. Organic Chemistry I, with lab (4 credit hours)
6. Organic Chemistry II, with lab (4 credit hours)
7. Statistics (3 credit hours)

All coursework, required or highly recommended for admission, must be completed prior to the submission of the application in CASPA.

English-Proficiency Requirements

All applicants born outside the United States are required to provide a TOEFL score of 100 or better on the internet-based test or secure a TOEFL waiver by the application deadline (TOEFL Code 1458).

- Waivers are automatically granted for applicants with a high school diploma, bachelor's degree, or graduate degree from an accredited U.S. Institution.

Letters of Recommendation:

MMC PAS Program requires three letters of recommendation to be submitted with the application via CASPA. The letters of reference can be from any of the following:

1. Supervisor
2. Professor/Instructor



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3. PA-C
4. MD/DO
5. Other healthcare professionals,
6. Academic Advisor

Letters of reference must be current, no older than one year old at the time of CASPA submission. References from family will not be accepted.

Advanced Placement/Transfer Students:

All MMC PAS Program courses must be successfully completed in the curriculum and no advanced placement options are offered. The Program does not accept transfer students from other PA Programs.

Delayed or Deferred Admissions:

The MMC PAS Program does not offer delayed matriculation/deferred admission. However, the PAAC will evaluate special circumstances on a case-by-case basis. The admitted student who fails to matriculate for the class selected must reapply for admittance. Past success of admission to the Program does not confer the likelihood of admission with future applications.

