

MEETING WITH FACULTY ABOUT THE APPLICATION AND/OR PROGRAM

Can I meet with a PA program faculty member to:

- review my application, transcripts, coursework or competitiveness?
- determine whether my courses satisfy prerequisite requirements?
- evaluate prerequisite equivalencies or substitutions?
- confirm whether my patient care experience satisfies program requirements?
- discuss why I was not offered an interview or admitted into the program?

No. Due to application volume, the Physician Assistant Program does not provide individualized application reviews, transcript evaluations, prerequisite determinations, course equivalency reviews, patient care experience evaluations, or competitiveness assessments.

Applicants are responsible for reviewing the published Admission Requirements, Admissions FAQ, and Prerequisite Guide and determining whether they meet eligibility requirements. Applicants should evaluate prerequisite coursework based on the course title, catalog description, credit value, subject matter, and laboratory component (when applicable).

Final determination of admission eligibility, prerequisite fulfillment, course equivalency, and patient care experience is made solely by the Admissions Committee during application review.

The program cannot respond to questions such as:

- "Will my Biology course count?"
- "Can you review my transcript?"
- "Does my chemistry sequence satisfy the requirement?"
- "Will my patient care experience qualify?"
- "Am I a competitive applicant?"
- "Can I send you my syllabus or course description for review?"
- "My course is not listed in the Prerequisite Guide. Will it count?"

Submission of an application does not indicate that admission requirements have been satisfied and does not guarantee application review, interview invitation, or admission.

If your question is addressed in the [Admission Requirements](#), [Admissions FAQ](#), or [Prerequisite Guide](#), you will be referred to those published resources.

What is the Prerequisite Guide?

The Prerequisite Guide provides additional information regarding prerequisite requirements, acceptable substitutions, laboratory requirements, AP credit, online coursework, mathematics requirements, and other

prerequisite policies. Applicants should review the Prerequisite Guide before contacting the program with prerequisite-related questions.

My course is not listed in the FAQ or Prerequisite Guide. Will it count?

The program does not evaluate individual courses or provide course equivalency determinations.

Applicants are responsible for determining whether completed coursework satisfies prerequisite requirements by reviewing the course title, catalog description, credit value, subject matter, and laboratory component (when applicable).

If a course is not specifically listed in the FAQ or Prerequisite Guide, applicants should determine whether the course substantially matches the published prerequisite requirements.

Final determination of prerequisite eligibility is made by the Admissions Committee during application review. Submission of an application does not indicate that prerequisite requirements have been satisfied. The presence of a similar course title, laboratory component, or overlapping content does not automatically satisfy a prerequisite requirement.

Where can I learn more about the program and admissions requirements?

The program offers *Information Sessions* and *Graduate Open House* events for prospective applicants to learn more about the program, admission requirements, and application process.

Dates and a registration link for *Information Sessions* are emailed to applicants through the applicant portal at grad.stjohns.edu/status. Applicants who have not been verified by CASPA will not have access to the portal. Applicants may also contact the Office of Graduate Admission at gradhelp@stjohns.edu regarding upcoming events.

What is a competitive applicant?

Admission to the St. John's University Physician Assistant Program is competitive. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee an interview invitation or admission. Applications are reviewed holistically and in comparison to the overall applicant pool for a given admission cycle. The program's published admissions preferences include a competitive science GPA and no more than one repeated prerequisite course used to achieve the minimum required grade. The program does not provide individualized assessments of applicant competitiveness.

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM: APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND APPLICATION FEES

How do I apply to the St. John's University PA program?

Applicants must apply through CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistant Programs). [Click here to apply](#). Applications submitted directly to the University or PA Program are not accepted.

What are the program's CASPA application timelines and deadlines?

The CASPA application opens annually on **April 30**.

The final CASPA application deadline for St. John's University is **October 1 at 11:59 p.m. (ET)**.

This is a CASPA Green (Verified) deadline, meaning applications must be both *submitted and verified* by CASPA by the deadline to be eligible for review.

Applicants may submit their CASPA application up to the October 1 deadline; however, applications that are submitted but not verified by CASPA by October 1 are not eligible for review.

CASPA verification may take 10 business days or longer, particularly during peak application periods.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all application materials well in advance of the deadline.

Applicants are responsible for monitoring the status of their CASPA application and ensuring that all required materials are received and verified by CASPA before the deadline.

Can I apply to other PA programs through CASPA?

Yes. CASPA permits applicants to apply to multiple programs. Admission decisions are made independently by each institution.

Do I need to pay an application fee to CASPA?

Yes. CASPA application fees are paid directly to CASPA and vary based on the number of programs selected. Please refer to the CASPA website for current fee information.

Is there a program supplemental application or fee?

There is no program supplemental application.

Once your CASPA application has been verified and received by St. John's University, you will receive instructions to access the applicant portal and submit the required **non-refundable \$100 supplemental fee**. Applications are not eligible for review until the supplemental fee has been paid.

PROGRAM ADMISSION CRITERIA AND PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK

What are the admission criteria and prerequisites for the St. John's University PA program?

Applicants must meet all published admission requirements to be eligible for consideration. Admission requirements are listed under the [Program Admission Requirements](#) section and apply to all applicants.

What degree is required for program admission?

A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution is required. A bachelor's degree in any discipline is acceptable provided all PA program prerequisite coursework has been completed.

An associate degree does not satisfy the minimum degree requirement.

What are the minimum GPA requirements?

Applicants must have:

- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- A minimum cumulative science GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

CASPA applications that do not meet these minimum GPA requirements are not eligible for review.

How are GPA calculations determined? Is graduate coursework considered for GPA determination?

Overall and science GPA calculations are based on CASPA-verified coursework and include undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate coursework, when applicable.

Science GPA is calculated by CASPA according to CASPA course subject classifications. Applicants should refer to the CASPA website for additional information regarding science GPA calculations.

Will the program recalculate my GPA?

The program generally relies upon CASPA-calculated GPA values.

For accepted applicants with coursework or degree requirements in progress at the time of admission, GPA will be recalculated upon receipt of final transcripts to confirm continued compliance with minimum admission requirements.

Is there a time limit on prerequisite coursework? Is my pre-requisite too old?

My course was completed 10 years and 2 months ago. Can you make an exception?

Each prerequisite course must have been completed within ten (10) years of the date the CASPA application is submitted. For example, an applicant submitting CASPA on June 1, 2026, may use prerequisite coursework completed between June 1, 2016 and June 1, 2026. Prerequisite coursework completed more than ten years before the CASPA submission date **will not be accepted and must be repeated**. The prerequisite recency requirement applies uniformly to all applicants and to each prerequisite course individually. No exceptions can be made.

Are repeated prerequisite courses accepted?

Can I repeat a prerequisite course to improve my grade?

Yes. Repeated prerequisite courses are accepted.

For admissions purposes, only prerequisite courses repeated to achieve the minimum required grade of C or higher are considered repeated prerequisite courses. Repeating a prerequisite course after earning a grade of C or higher solely to improve the grade does not count toward this admissions preference.

The Program publishes an admissions preference for applicants who require no more than one repeat of a prerequisite course to achieve the minimum required grade of C or higher. Applicants who require two or more repeats of the *same* prerequisite course (e.g., taking General Biology I three times before earning a grade of C or higher) or who require repeats in multiple prerequisite courses do not meet this admissions preference. All attempts of prerequisite courses remain included in the calculation of prerequisite and cumulative GPAs.

Biology I: D → C = ✓ Meets preference (one repeat)

Biology I: F → D → C = ✗ Does not meet preference (two repeats of the same course)

Biology I: D → C and Chemistry I: D → C = ✗ Does not meet preference (repeats in multiple prerequisite courses)

Does the program accept transfer students or advanced standing?

The program does not grant advanced standing, transfer credit, credit for prior experiential learning, or credit earned in another physician assistant program. Applicants previously enrolled in another institution or professional program may apply to the St. John's University Physician Assistant Program. All admitted students must complete the full St. John's University Physician Assistant Program curriculum.

PENDING PREREQUISITES, DEGREE CONFERRAL AND COURSES IN PROGRESS

Can I apply if my bachelor's degree is still in progress?

Can I apply if prerequisite courses are still in progress?

Yes. Applicants may apply with a degree and up to three (3) outstanding prerequisite courses in progress at the time of CASPA application submission. Applicants may have no more than three (3) outstanding prerequisite courses. Official transcripts demonstrating completion of all prerequisite coursework and/or degree conferral must be received by **July 1 prior to matriculation**.

All prerequisite courses in progress or planned must be self-reported in the original CASPA verified application. Courses not included will not be considered, and applicants without required prerequisite courses will not be considered.

When must outstanding prerequisites be completed?**When must final transcripts be submitted?**

All prerequisite coursework must be completed by the end of the spring semester immediately preceding matriculation. Official transcripts demonstrating completion of all prerequisite coursework and/or degree conferral must be received by **July 1 prior to matriculation**.

How do I submit updated transcripts?

CASPA does not transmit coursework updates after application verification.

Applicants with coursework or degree requirements in progress must submit updated official transcripts directly through the St. John's University at gradhelp@stjohns.edu.

What happens if my final GPA falls below the minimum requirement?

Applicants admitted with coursework or degree requirements in progress remain subject to verification of minimum admission requirements. Upon receipt of final transcripts, cumulative and science GPA will be recalculated and must continue to meet the minimum required GPA of 3.0 for admission to the program.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**How many letters of recommendation are required?****Can I apply before all of my letters of recommendation have been submitted?**

Three (3) letters of recommendation are required and must be submitted through CASPA.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all required letters of recommendation are received through CASPA by the application deadline. Applications missing required recommendation letters are incomplete and are not eligible for review.

Who should write my letters of recommendation?

One required letter of recommendation must be submitted by a healthcare professional or supervisor and will be used to verify the applicant's Patient Care Experience (PCE). This letter must clearly state:

- The applicant's role/title
- Dates of employment or service
- Total Patient Care Experience hours

The program reserves the right to request additional documentation or verification of Patient Care Experience at any time during the admissions process and prior to matriculation.

For the remaining letters, recommenders may include:

- Academic instructors
- Occupational supervisors
- Volunteer supervisors
- Shadowing supervisors

What if my employer does not permit submission of recommendation letters through CASPA?

The preferred method of patient care experience verification is through a CASPA recommendation.

If an employer or institution prohibits participation in CASPA's recommendation process, the healthcare supervisor may submit verification directly to the Office of Graduate Admission. The verification must be sent directly from the supervisor or organization and include:

- Applicant role/title
- Dates of employment or service
- Total patient care experience hours
- Description of duties

The program reserves the right to request additional documentation or verification prior to matriculation.

Are character references accepted?

No. Character references from friends, family members, religious representative (non-academic), personal acquaintances, or other non-professional references are not accepted.

Can more than one letter be used to verify Patient Care Experience hours?

Yes. CASPA permits applicants to submit up to five letters of recommendation. Multiple letters may be used when necessary to verify the required Patient Care Experience hours.

PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE

Is Patient Care Experience (PCE) required? How many hours are required?

Yes. A **minimum of 200 hours** of documented Patient Care Experience (PCE) is required at the time of CASPA application submission. Patient Care Experience must involve direct, hands-on patient care with responsibility for patient assessment, treatment, and/or monitoring within a structured healthcare setting.

What types of Patient Care Experience (PCE) are acceptable?

Applicable volunteer or paid experiences include, but are not limited to:

- Scribe
- Paramedic/EMT
- Dietitian/Nutritionist
- Athletic Trainer
- Medical Assistant (MA)
- Patient Care Assistant (PCA)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Respiratory Therapist
- EKG Technician
- Emergency Room Technician

- Ophthalmology Technician
- Radiology Technician
- Psychologist/Therapist
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Physical Therapy Aide
- Chiropractor
- Dental Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician

Final determination of Patient Care Experience eligibility is made solely by the Admissions Committee during application review.

Must the minimum 200 hours be completed at the time of application submission?

Yes. Applicants must have a minimum of 200 verified Patient Care Experience hours at the time of CASPA application submission. Applicants who do not meet the minimum Patient Care Experience requirement at the time of application are not eligible for consideration.

Can I submit additional Patient Care Experience hours after submitting my application?

No. Additional Patient Care Experience hours accumulated after CASPA application submission are not considered by the Admissions Committee during application review. Applicants must meet the minimum requirement of 200 verified Patient Care Experience hours at the time of application submission.

What experiences do not satisfy the Patient Care Experience requirement?

Patient Care Experience (PCE) is defined as direct clinical care involving patient assessment within a structured healthcare setting. Roles focused primarily on activities of daily living, personal care, companionship, transportation, housekeeping, or other non-clinical support services do not satisfy the Patient Care Experience requirement.

Home Health Aide (HHA) and Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) positions are categorized as Healthcare Experience (HCE) and do not fulfill the Patient Care Experience requirement. Shadowing experiences do not fulfill the Patient Care Experience requirement and may not be counted toward the minimum 200-hour requirement.

Can internship, practicum, or course-credit experiences count toward Patient Care Experience?

Possibly. Internship, practicum, or course-credit experiences may be considered toward Patient Care Experience requirements if the experience involves direct patient care and otherwise satisfies the program's published definition of Patient Care Experience. Final determination of Patient Care Experience eligibility is made by the Admissions Committee during application review.

Are shadowing hours required?

No. Shadowing hours are not required for admission. Although shadowing experiences may strengthen an application, they do not satisfy or contribute toward the minimum 200-hour Patient Care Experience requirement.

How is Patient Care Experience verified?

Three letters of recommendation are required as part of the CASPA application. One required letter of recommendation must be submitted by a healthcare professional or supervisor and must verify the applicant's Patient Care Experience. The letter should include:

- Applicant role/title
- Dates of employment or service
- Total Patient Care Experience hours

CASPA permits applicants to submit up to five letters of recommendation. Multiple letters may be used when necessary to verify the required Patient Care Experience hours. Additional verification of Patient Care Experience may be required prior to matriculation.

AFTER APPLICATION SUBMISSION: THE PORTAL AND SUBMITTING UPDATES**What happens after my CASPA application is verified and received by St. John's University?**

Once your CASPA application has been verified and received by St. John's University, the Office of Graduate Admission will send a welcome message from gradhelp@stjohns.edu with instructions for activating your applicant portal and submitting the required supplemental fee. Applications are not eligible for review until the supplemental fee has been paid. If you do not receive this email by **September 15**, please contact gradhelp@stjohns.edu.

What is the applicant portal? How do I create an account?

The applicant portal is the primary method of communication between applicants, the Office of Graduate Admission, and the Physician Assistant Program.

Applicants use the portal to:

- View application status
- Receive interview invitations
- Schedule and confirm interview appointments
- Receive admission decisions
- Submit required application updates and documents

Portal activation instructions and credentials are provided via the welcome email by the Office of Graduate Admission after CASPA verification.

How do I check the status of my application?

Applicants should monitor their applicant portal regularly for updates regarding application status, interview invitations, and admission decisions. Questions regarding application status may be directed to gradhelp@stjohns.edu.

How long will it take to receive a decision after applying?**How long will it take for me to get a response after my application is submitted?**

Response times vary by application cycle. The application cycle opens in April and closes on October 1. Interviews are conducted throughout the admissions cycle, and admission decisions are released on a rolling basis.

Can I submit updates to my application after my CASPA application has been verified?**How do I submit updates to courses in progress or updated transcripts?**

CASPA does not transmit application updates after verification. Applicants with coursework or degree requirements in progress must submit updated official transcripts directly through the applicant portal. Official transcripts demonstrating completion of prerequisite coursework and/or degree conferral must be submitted according to published admission requirements.

Questions regarding transcript submission may be directed to gradhelp@stjohns.edu.

Other application updates (including additional patient care experience, employment, volunteer activities, certifications, awards, publications, or revised personal statements) are **not considered after CASPA application verification**. Applicants are encouraged to submit the strongest possible application before applying.

I forgot my portal login information. What should I do?

Applicants experiencing difficulties accessing the applicant portal should contact:

- Information Technology: 718-990-5000
- Office of Graduate Admission at gradhelp@stjohns.edu

PROGRAM INTERVIEW**When are interviews conducted?****How will I be notified if I am selected for an interview?**

Interviews are conducted on a rolling basis throughout the admissions cycle following review of completed applications. Interview invitations are issued as applications are reviewed. The applicant portal is the primary method of communication between applicants and the program.

Applicants selected for an interview will receive an interview invitation through the applicant portal and a notification to the email address associated with their portal account. Applicants are responsible for maintaining a current and accurate email address throughout the admissions cycle. Interview invitations include instructions for scheduling an interview date and time.

What if I am unavailable on the interview dates offered?

Applicants should select an available interview date through the applicant portal. If none of the available interview dates can be accommodated, applicants should contact Gertrude Simone at simoneg@stjohns.edu. Alternate interview dates may be available at the program's discretion.

Are interviews conducted in person or virtually?

The program offers both in-person and virtual interview options based on availability. Interview format is equitable and does not affect admission decisions.

Am I guaranteed an interview if I meet the minimum admission requirements?

No. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee an interview invitation. Admission to the St. John's University Physician Assistant Program is highly competitive. Each entering cohort is limited to 75 students, and interview invitations are extended based on a holistic review of completed applications, taking into consideration the overall applicant pool and the Admissions Committee's evaluation of each applicant.

Does completing an interview guarantee admission?

No. Completion of an interview does not guarantee admission to the program. Admission offers are made following review of all application materials and interview performance and are based on the overall competitiveness of the applicant pool.

What happens after my interview?

Following completion of the interview process, the Admissions Committee conducts a holistic review of each applicant's complete application. Admission decisions are released on a rolling basis through the applicant portal. Applicants may receive an offer of admission, placement on the waitlist, or notice that they were not selected for admission. Response times vary throughout the admissions cycle.

What if I do not receive an interview invitation?

Applicants who do not receive an interview invitation may reapply in a future admission cycle. Questions regarding application status may be directed to gradhelp@stjohns.edu.

ADMISSIONS DECISIONS, WAITLIST AND REAPPLICATION

Can I reapply if I am not invited to interview or not admitted?

Yes. Applicants who are not invited to interview, are not admitted, decline admission, or wish to apply again in a future admission cycle may reapply through CASPA. Each admission cycle is evaluated independently. Applicants must submit a new CASPA application and satisfy all admission requirements and policies in effect for the cycle in which they apply.

Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee an interview invitation or admission. Applications are reviewed competitively in comparison to the overall applicant pool for a given admission cycle.

I received an offer of admission. What do I do next?

Applicants who accept an offer of admission must confirm their seat in the class by submitting a **non-refundable enrollment deposit of \$1,500 through the applicant admissions portal**. The deposit amount is subject to change and will be applied toward first-semester tuition. Additional matriculation information, including Didactic Orientation details, will be provided in early August prior to the start of the program.

My offer of admission is contingent upon completion of requirements. What does that mean?

Applicants who are admitted with prerequisite coursework and/or degree requirements in progress must successfully complete all outstanding admission requirements before matriculation.

Conditions of admission may include:

- Completion of all prerequisite coursework (prerequisite course final grades must be "C" or better)
- Completion of a bachelor's degree
- Submission of final official transcripts by July 1 deadline
- Maintenance of the minimum required cumulative and science GPA
- Receipt of all required admission documentation

Failure to satisfy all admission contingencies may result in revocation of the admission offer.

Can I defer my admission?

No. The St. John's University Physician Assistant Program does not permit admission deferrals. Applicants who decline admission and wish to attend in a future cycle must reapply through CASPA.

I accepted a position on the waitlist. When can I receive an update?

Applicants who accept a position on the waitlist may receive limited status updates. Candidates on the waitlist may be offered admission through the first week of classes, as seats become available. Waitlist offers are made at the discretion of the Admissions Committee following a holistic review of the applicant pool and the needs of the incoming class. Applicants selected for admission from the waitlist will receive both an email through the applicant admissions portal and a telephone call from the PA Program.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS AND STANDARDIZED TESTING

I am an international applicant and/or English is not my first language. What are the requirements?

International applicants must satisfy all University and Physician Assistant Program admission requirements. Applicants whose first language is not English must submit satisfactory TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, Cambridge, or Duolingo examination scores directly to the Office of Graduate Admission. The University's testing code is 2799. Please refer to the Office of Graduate Admission for current minimum score requirements.

I completed coursework or earned a degree outside of the United States. Will it be accepted?

Applicants with coursework or degrees completed outside of the United States must obtain a course-by-course foreign transcript evaluation from a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member organization.

World Education Services (WES) is one example of a NACES-approved evaluation service.

Additional information may be found at:

NACES: <https://www.naces.org/>

WES: <https://www.wes.org/>

Evaluations should be sent directly to gradhelp@stjohns.edu.

Is the GRE, MCAT, or PA-CAT required?

No. The Physician Assistant Program does not require, review, or consider GRE, MCAT, or PA-CAT scores as part of the admissions process.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND CURRICULUM

Does the program offer part-time enrollment?

No. The St. John's University Physician Assistant Program is a full-time program. Part-time enrollment is not available.

Are classes offered in-person or online?

The curriculum is delivered in person. There are no online courses in the Program curriculum.

Are students responsible for finding their own clinical rotations?

No. Students are not responsible for identifying, securing, or soliciting clinical sites or preceptors. The Clinical Coordinator is responsible for selecting, scheduling, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating all clinical rotation sites and preceptors. Clinical placements are based on site availability and program needs. The program cannot guarantee that clinical rotation sites will be located near a student's residence.

What degree is awarded upon graduation?

Students who successfully complete all program requirements earn a Master of Science (M.S.) degree.

Graduation from an ARC-PA accredited Physician Assistant program and conferral of the degree are required for eligibility to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).

Can I work while enrolled in the Physician Assistant Program?

Students are strongly discouraged from maintaining employment while enrolled in the Physician Assistant Program due to the rigorous academic and clinical demands of the curriculum. Program responsibilities are not negotiable and will not be modified to accommodate work schedules or employment obligations.

Students are not permitted to work for the Physician Assistant Program, except as tutors through the University's Academic Success Center. In accordance with accreditation standards, Physician Assistant students may not substitute for or function as instructional faculty, clinical staff, or administrative staff at any time.