With the rising demand for health care providers, there is a growing need for physician assistants. PAs provide access to quality health care and are licensed to diagnose and treat illness and disease and to provide medication for patients.

There are many reasons students choose a career as a physician assistant. PA programs typically require two years of graduate schooling, and PAs can treat patients with significant autonomy. PAs can increase access to health care in rural and under-served communities that have an increasing need for health care providers.

Applying to physician assistant programs

In addition to doing well academically, especially in science courses, students should have strong clinical experience. Successful candidates demonstrate a strong motivation for the field, interact well with others and are compassionate and service-oriented.

Gain experience

► Job shadow a physician assistant.
► Apply for internships in a health care facility that has physician assistants.
► Seek opportunities for research experience.
► Earn relevant certifications like CNA, EMT, MA, medical scribe or phlebotomy.

Find out more

The American Academy of Physician Assistants provides resources for students considering becoming a physician assistant as a career.

► Visit aapa.org for more information.

Core prerequisites checklist for many physician assistant programs:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Organic chemistry
- Anatomy and physiology
- Physics
- Microbiology
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Calculus
- Economics
- Statistics
- Composition
- Literature
- Communication
- Liberal arts electives (per school requirements)

These additional courses may be required by select schools:

- Biochemistry
- Genetics
- Lifespan/developmental psychology
- Medical terminology
- Ethics

Prerequisites vary by school. Please refer to your preferred school’s website for detailed requirement information.

Physician assistant career options

► Physicians’ office
► Medical clinics
► Hospitals
► Clinical trial researchers
► Educators
► Epidemiologists
► Public health directors

PA programs in South Carolina

► University of South Carolina
► Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)
► Francis Marion University
► Charleston Southern University
► North Greenville University
► Presbyterian College

To learn more, connect with Clemson’s future physician assistants organization

Instagram: @paws4pa

Or contact Health Professions Advising
Email: cuhpa@clemson.edu
Physician assistant matriculation profile

**Projected growth in employment 2021–31:** 28%

**Accepted undergraduate students by major**

- College of Science
- College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences
- College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

**Average acceptance rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National average</th>
<th>Clemson average</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>64%</td>
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Clemson average is higher than the national average.

**Average GPA** of accepted Clemson students: 3.73

**Average overall GRE** of accepted Clemson students: 306

**Average writing GRE** of accepted Clemson students: 4

**$125,270 average physician assistant salary**


**Students most frequently attend these schools after Clemson:**

- Medical University of South Carolina
- North Greenville University
- Gardner-Webb University
- Wingate University

**Projected growth in employment 2021–31:** 28%

**Top employment opportunities for physician assistants:**

- Physician offices
- Hospitals
- Outpatient care centers
- Colleges, universities and professional schools

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Clemson University