

Physician Assistant

Associate in Arts & Sciences – Direct Transfer (DTA)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. They should not be confused with medical assistants, who perform routine clinical and clerical tasks. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive healthcare services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of the healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, and make diagnoses. They also treat minor injuries by suturing, splinting, and casting. PAs record progress notes, instruct and counsel patients, and order or carry out therapy. In 48 States and the District of Columbia, physician assistants may prescribe medications.

Physician assistants work under the supervision of a physician. However, PAs may be the principal care providers in rural or inner city clinics, where a physician is present for only 1 or 2 days each week. In such cases, the PA confers with the supervising physician and other medical professionals as needed and as required by law. PAs also may make house calls or go to hospitals and nursing care facilities to check on patients and report back to the physician.

All States and the District of Columbia have legislation governing the qualifications or practice of physician assistants. All jurisdictions require physician assistants to pass the Physician Assistants National Certifying Examination, administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) and open only to graduates of accredited PA education programs. Only those successfully completing the examination may use the credential "Physician Assistant-Certified." In order to remain certified, PAs must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every 2 years. Every 6 years, they must pass a recertification examination or complete an alternative program combining learning experiences and a take-home examination.

This information is adapted and quoted from www.bls.gov/oco/ocos081.htm [November 2009]

TRAINING PROGRAMS

MEDEX:

In the Pacific Northwest, MEDEX (associated with the University of Washington) provides education and training culminating in a Master's degree for Physician Assistant. The 4 quarter program combines didactic (classroom and lab) and clinical training. To be considered for admission, applicants must have:

- **Baccalaureate Degree** (no major preference)
- 10 quarter (6 semester) credits in Human Anatomy and Physiology (preferred with in the last 5 years) minimum GPA 3.0
- 15 quarter (9 semester) credits in other medically related sciences, i.e. biology, microbiology, chemistry. Minimum GPA 3.0, no lower than B- in each course.
- Overall GPA minimum 3.0 for the last 2 years of BA degree.
- Completion of GRE

The application process requires careful attention and early preparation. Go to the MEDEX website for more information:

MEDEX Northwest
www.depts.washington.edu/medex
Roosevelt Commons Building
4311 11th Avenue NE, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98105-4608
Phone: (206) 616-4001 Fax: (206) 616-3889
Email: medex@uw.edu

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Physicians Assistant programs outside of MEDEX do not require 2 years of full-time medical work experience. They do require more rigorous coursework in Math and Science. See the following websites and talk to an advisor for further information. Residents of Oregon are given preference in admission to these programs.

These programs require a minimum of 40 credits in biology, chemistry, and physics. Biology courses must include 2-3 quarters of Majors' Biology, Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Microbiology. Other prerequisites are at least 2 quarters of General Chemistry, 1 course each in Psychology and Statistics. Some knowledge of Spanish is also preferred.

Oregon Health & Science University
Division of Physician Assistant Education
2730 SW Moody Ave, Mail Code: CL5PA
Portland OR 97201
503.494.3633 Email: paprgm@ohsu.edu
www.ohsu.edu/pa

Master of Physician
Assistant Studies

Pacific University
2043 College Way
Forest Grove OR 97116
<http://www.pacificu.edu/pa> 503-352-7224
Contact: Leah Baldwin, leahbaldwin@pacificu.edu

Master of Science in
Physician Assistant
Studies

- **Clinical Experience: 2 Years:** Minimum 2000 hours paid recent full-time hands-on experience in direct delivery of patient care (usually at least 5-6 years). Examples are nursing, medical assisting, emergency medical technician, paramedic, and military corpsman, community health aide, or physical therapist.

OPTIONS AT EVCC

MEDEX:

If you do not already have 2-7 years of full-time experience in the delivery of health care and current professional credentials, you may consider achieving a credential (certificate or degree) in one of EvCC's programs and then working for two years and completing a baccalaureate degree in order to meet the admission criteria for MEDEX. This should only be done after consultation with MEDEX advisors to determine if it is appropriate.

For example, you may consider EvCC's Nursing program, or the Radiologic Tech program offered in partnership with Bellingham Technical College.

In addition you can pursue courses or an associate degree program that will enable you to enter a university to complete your bachelor's degree.

OTHER CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE

EvCC provides several pathways to careers in healthcare. Please review our curriculum guides in the following areas:

- Nurse Practitioner (DNP programs at UW, WWU and Seattle University). This career has similar duties and responsibilities to PA. Programs may require a BSN degree first, but in some cases any bachelors degree will be meet the prerequisites.
- Pre-Medicine, Pre-Dental
- Pre-Pharmacy
- Pre-Physical Therapy
- Nursing
- Nursing Assistant Certified
- Radiologic Technology
(A Bellingham Tech program/partnership)
- Medical Assisting
- Phlebotomy

Approved by Instructional Council March 2017. DTA checklist effective January 2017.

GETTING STARTED AT EVCC

Our Enrollment Services Office provides information about application, advising, orientation and registration for new and continuing students. New degree-seeking students are required to complete entry advising in the Advising Center prior to first quarter registration. Contact:

- ◆ Enrollment Services, Parks 201, 425-388-9219, admissions@everettcc.edu
- ◆ Advising Center, Rainier 108, 425-388-9339 www.everettcc.edu/advising

PROGRAM ADVISING

Everett Community College does not offer a Physician Assistant program, though you may find that you can complete some courses at EvCC in preparation for such a program elsewhere. We encourage you to consult with an EvCC advisor to discuss options.

- ◆ Jackie Hedgpeth, SHK 123, 425-388-9482, jhedgpeth@everettcc.edu

Associate in Arts and Sciences - DTA

This checklist is targeted at transfer students with an interest in preparing for a career as a **Physician Assistant** through the MEDEX program. Students should meet with an advisor and maintain this checklist while at Everett Community College. The quarter before expected completion, this checklist should be submitted with a diploma application to the Enrollment Services Office. This checklist refers to requirements listed in the curriculum guide titled "Associate in Arts and Sciences – DTA", which lists all the courses which are approved for the various categories of requirements. Note: Though courses in a foreign language are not required in the DTA degree, some universities may require 2 or 3 quarters of foreign language for admission or for graduation.

Student Name: _____ **Advisor Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

COMPLETION of [College Success Course](#)

Where completed/Course Title	Year Completed	Grade
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COMPLETION of Diversity Course

Where completed/Course Title	Year Completed	Grade
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Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Quarter Completed	Grade
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BASIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS (10 credits, at least 5 in English composition)

ENGL& 101 or 101D	English Composition I	5		
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ENGL& 102 or 102D	Composition II	5		
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BASIC QUANTITATIVE SKILLS (5 credits)

MATH 138 or MATH& 141-142	Applied College Algebra or Precalculus I	5		
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HUMANITIES (15 credits from the [DTA approved Humanities List](#). See Note 1.)

SPAN& 121	Spanish I	5		
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SOCIAL SCIENCE (15 credits from the [DTA approved Social Science List](#). See Note 1.)

SOC& 101	Introduction to Sociology	5		
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ANTH& 206D	Cultural Anthropology	5		
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PSYC& 100	Introduction to Psychology	5		
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SCIENCE AND MATH (Minimum 15 credits from the [DTA approved Natural Science List](#), selected with advisor assistance. See Notes 1 and 2.)

CHEM& 121	Introduction to Chemistry	5		
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BIOL& 211	Majors Cellular	5		
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BIOL& 231	Human Anatomy	5		
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BIOL& 232	Human Physiology	5		
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BIOL& 260	Microbiology	5		
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MATH& 146	Introduction to Statistics	5		
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ELECTIVES (Selected with advisor assistance, depending on the university and major planned.)

Minimum 90 credits required, with minimum 2.0 GPA. (See Note 3.)

Note 1: Courses must be from 3 different disciplines. No more than 10 credits in any one discipline may be used in Humanities, Social Science & Science.

Note 2: All science courses require completion of ENGL 98 or placement into ENGL& 101. Chemistry courses require completion of MATH 91 or placement into Math 92. One quarter of college chemistry is required before taking BIOL& 211, 231, 232, 260.

Note 3: Completion of all the recommended courses may result in more than 90 credits being earned for the degree. The advantage is that the completion of these courses will enable you to progress more efficiently in your major at a university. Alternatively, some of the courses may be done at the university instead. Please consult with an advisor to decide the best option for you.

Note 4: Chemistry classes indicated here are the minimal ones required for the PA program. Depending on the student's major for their bachelor degree, they may need the higher level chemistry series. DISCUSS WITH AN ADVISOR before starting science classes.