

# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES, MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES (MSPAS)

The Physician Assistant (PA) Program at Slippery Rock University offers a challenging curriculum leading to a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. The program will be the second PA Program in the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education, having achieved Accreditation-Provisional status.

## Accreditation Status

At its **March 2020** meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) placed **the Slippery Rock University Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **Slippery Rock University** on **Accreditation-Probation** status until its next review in **March 2022**.

Probation is a temporary status of accreditation conferred when a program does not meet the Standards and when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Once placed on probation, programs that still fail to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and/or risk having their accreditation withdrawn.

Specific questions regarding the Program and its plans should be directed to the Program Director and/or the appropriate institutional official(s).

Slippery Rock University is approved to offer programs that may lead to licensure/certification in Pennsylvania. SRU does not guarantee that programs which fulfill Pennsylvania licensing requirements will satisfy the criteria of professional licensure boards in other states, as each jurisdiction has unique requirements for licensure/certification eligibility which are subject to change at any time and without notice.

We invite you to review the licensing board contact resource (<https://www.sru.edu/students/student-consumer-information/professional-licensure/>) to seek guidance on the requirements of licensure/certification in your home state or where you would like to practice professionally.

The Physician Assistant Studies 24-month program is a combination of academic and clinical instruction, team instruction, and collaborative outreach taught in unique learning environments. Academically and professionally qualified faculty, clinicians, and experts will provide a strong foundation in evidence-based practice, direct patient/client management, and prevention and wellness services that focus on the life cycle needs of the U.S. population.

The program provides an emphasis on special populations interwoven throughout academic and clinical years, which makes SRU's Physician Assistant Program unique. Successful graduates will be prepared to sit for the national exam. SRU graduates will learn to adapt to the ever-

changing medical profession, while becoming gainfully employed as mid-level medical care providers and filling the medical needs of the region.

The program is delivered over six continuous terms (summer, fall, spring) and includes three semesters of academic work and then three semesters of clerkships (10 internships). Students will also participate in half-day clinical experiences during the academic year and educational experiences during the clinical year.

The overarching objective of the PA Program is to prepare future physician assistants; who demonstrate competencies or ability to acquire competencies in effective and appropriate application of medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, patient care, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement, and systems-based practice; to practice patient-centered care in a team environment, while advancing the profession and helping to meet the medical needs of the region, state, nation, and world.

### NOTE to Slippery Rock University 3+2 Pre-PA Students Entering the Physician Assistant Program

Should 3+2 Physician Assistant students be unsuccessful in completing the MSPAS program and want to complete their original undergraduate degree, it is solely up to the discretion of their undergraduate department chairperson to determine which, if any, physician assistant courses will count toward the completion of their undergraduate degree. In addition, students must complete any unfulfilled requirements of his/her undergraduate major. *Participation in the undergraduate commencement ceremony takes place after the first fall semester of the Physician Assistant Program is successfully completed.*

\* The graduating class of 2019 credit requirement is 111.5 credits.

\* The graduating class of 2020 credit requirement is 105.9 credits due to curricular changes.

## Program Learning Outcomes

- Apply basic science knowledge to the medical sciences.
- Demonstrate competency in clinical procedures performed by Physician Assistants.
- Demonstrate ability to perform a complete history and physical examination.
- Demonstrate ability to diagnose disease and create an appropriate treatment plan.
- Demonstrate the use of Evidence-Based Medicine to effectively diagnose and treat patients.
- Demonstrate cross-cultural and socioeconomic sensitivity in clinical practice settings involving special patient populations.
- Demonstrate effective communication skills in a healthcare setting.
- Demonstrate the ability to collaborate within an interprofessional health care team.
- Demonstrate ethical decision making in the practice of medicine.
- Participate in professional societies the promote PA practice and advancement.

## Related Links

Physician Assistant Studies, MS Program Page (<https://www.sru.edu/academics/graduate-programs/physician-assistant-studies-master-of-science/>)

Physician Assistant Studies Department Page (<https://www.sru.edu/academics/colleges-and-departments/ches/departments/physician-assistant-studies/>)

Professional Licensure/Certification Page (<https://www.sru.edu/students/student-consumer-information/professional-licensure/>)