



**Canisius College Physician Assistant Studies  
Application Checklist**

**This tool is designed to help you ensure you have everything you need to apply to our program. All items you need to apply must be submitted through your application in CASPA. If you have any further questions, please refer to the program website at:**

<https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/physician-assistant>

- Completion of CASPA application in full by the deadline given. Application materials will be reviewed in CASPA only; we will not meet with applicants or review materials ahead of submission.
- Three letters of recommendation on professional letterhead are required. At least one letter of recommendation must be from a health care professional.
- A current resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
- A statement in 300 words or less discussing one of the following:

*We seek to eliminate healthcare disparity and improve the wellbeing of underserved populations by developing competent, compassionate, and mindful clinicians who may not share a similar background as their patients. Tell us about an experience that has broadened your own view of cultural competence and has enhanced your ability to understand those unlike yourself.*

OR

*Addressing disparities in health and health care is important not only from an equity standpoint, but also for improving overall quality of care and population health. Please share a personal experience you feel makes you more qualified to address these health disparities as a physician assistant and why it is important to you*

- Bachelor's degree with minimum 3.0 overall GPA, including the following prerequisite courses:
  - **Anatomy and Physiology I & II (8 credit hours)**-these courses may be 100-level courses if geared toward science majors; should not be introductory-level courses.
  - **General Chemistry I & II (8 credit hours)** - these courses may be 100-level courses if geared toward science majors; should not be introductory-level courses.
  - **Organic Chemistry (4 credit hours)**-this should be at least a 200-level course geared toward science majors

- **Biochemistry (3 credit hours)**- this should be at least a 200-level course geared toward science majors
  - **Microbiology (4 credit hours)**- this should be at least a 200-level course geared toward science majors
  - **Developmental Psychology or equivalent (3 credit hours)**-this should be at least a 200-level course covering some foundation of psychology across the lifespan
  - **Statistics (3 credit hours)**-this can be a 100-level or above course, but should have focus on research statistics
  - **Medical Terminology (1 credit hour)**-this can be an introductory level course or above
- Minimum of 3.0 overall GPA in prerequisite sciences; must be completed no more than five (5) years prior to application. A minimum grade of C must be achieved in each prerequisite course. Grades less than 2.0/C are not accepted for any prerequisite (C minus not accepted).
- Prerequisite courses must be complete or in progress at the time of application. All prerequisite coursework must be completed at an accredited institution within the United States or Canada prior to the start of the program. Exceptions may be made for applicants with a completed medical degree from an international institution. Advanced Placement (AP) credit is not accepted or offered for the required prerequisite courses. Transcripts pertaining to the bachelor's degree received and/or containing all required prerequisites must be submitted with application.
- A minimum of 200 hours of direct patient contact. A heavy emphasis is placed on the quality of the patient contact experience. The program defines quality as hands on responsibility for the patient. Examples of experiences are: shadowing PAs or physicians, student worker positions directly dealing with patients, any credentialed positions (LPN, RN, EMT, etc.). Those that have not met the required hours by time of application must demonstrate a plan to obtain the remaining hours before classes begin if accepted into the program. We strongly encourage applicants to spend at least one day shadowing/observing a clinically practicing Physician Assistant
- A minimum of 100 hours of community service. This list offers some examples of quality community service activities, but is not all-inclusive. If you have a question about whether an activity qualifies as community service for this program, please reach out to the graduate admissions counselors.

We will not communicate with applicants regarding the status of your application. Due to the high volume of applicants, please do the following before contacting the Physician Assistant Studies department or Graduate Admissions:

- Read through the Admissions checklist and requirements on the Canisius Physician Assistant Studies webpage
- Review the Program FAQ