

**Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine Physician Assistant Program  
Requirements for Admission**

**Admission requirements regarding prior education or work experience (In compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.13b)**

- Course Prerequisites\*

All prerequisite course grades must be a “C” or higher. However, all students must have a minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.00 or higher. All courses must be completed within the preceding 10 years from the matriculation date (2016-2026). Applicants may have no more than two grades of "C" across all prerequisite courses to be considered eligible. Online courses and labs will be accepted.

All prerequisite coursework must be completed before matriculation into the program. Applicants will be denied if they do not meet the minimum admission requirements.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Minimum # of Credits</b>
General Biology	8 credits
Advanced Biology: Microbiology or Cellular Biology or Molecular Biology or Immunology or Genetics	3 credits
General Chemistry	6 credits
Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry	3 credits
Human Anatomy and Physiology	8 credits
Statistics	3 credits
Psychology	3 credits
Medical Terminology	1 credit

**GPA:**

- Prerequisite GPA: 3.00 or higher
  - If applicants retook a course, the course with the higher grade will be utilized for GPA calculation.
  - If applicants take multiple courses that meet the requirements for a prerequisite, the course(s) with the highest grade(s) will be utilized for GPA calculation.
- Cumulative GPA: 3.00 or higher (as calculated by CASPA)
- A prerequisite and/or cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher is preferred

**Direct Patient Care Experience:**

- 350 hours of direct patient care experience within the last 5 (five) years prior to planned matriculation date (e.g. 2021 - 2026, if applying to start the program in 2026). Roles must involve direct, hands-on patient care, some examples may include:
- Athletic trainer (certified or student)
- Cardiac bypass technician
- Cardiovascular perfusionist
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Dietician
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Clinical Nutritionist
- Community Health Worker with direct patient contact
- Emergency Department Technician
- EMT
- Exercise Physiologist (cardiac rehab)
- Foreign Medical Graduate
- Home Healthcare Aide (not housework or personal assistant)
- Laboratory Assistant with direct patient contact
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Corpsman
- Medical Scribe
- Military Medic
- Nurse (RN or LPN)
- Nurse Midwife
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nursing Assistant
- Occupational Therapist
- Occupational Therapy Aide
- Orthopedic Technician
- Paramedic

- Patient Care Technician
- Phlebotomist
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy Aide
- Prosthetist
- Radiographer/Radiologic Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Speech Therapist
- Surgical Technician (OR Tech)
- Ultrasound Technician

### **Letters of Recommendation:**

#### **1. Science Professor**

- This letter should serve to demonstrate the student's aptitude, behavior, knowledge, conduct, professionalism, and communication skills in an intense learning environment. For example, could be from an instructor of a prerequisite science course, but the program will accept a letter from any science professor the applicant completed coursework with.

#### **• Manager or Supervisor**

- This letter should serve to demonstrate the student's aptitude, behavior, knowledge, conduct, professionalism, and communication skills in a professional/working environment. The letter should be from a direct supervisor familiar with the applicant's work performance. For example, this manager or supervisor could be the applicant's superior from where they obtained their direct patient contact hours, but the program will accept a letter from any supervisor or manager the applicant worked with.

#### **• Applicant's Choice**

- This last letter can be from anyone that the applicant chooses that would further demonstrate the applicant's aptitude, behavior, knowledge, conduct, professionalism, and communication skills. Examples include supervising physicians or physician assistants from their places of employment or from volunteering, non-science professors, coaches, advisors, researchers, etc.

All letters of recommendation must include contact information from the person writing it to allow verification and follow-up by the PA program, if necessary.

No letters of recommendation may come from relatives or close personal friends of the applicant.

The individuals writing the letters of recommendation should know the applicant in more than a passing manner, and letters should address specific competencies like teamwork, problem-solving, or leadership.

### **Community Service:**

- All applicants must include on their CASPA application at least 40 hours of community service or volunteering completed within the last 10 (ten) years from the date of expected matriculation.
- Rationale: Rowan University and the Rowan PA program is deeply invested in serving the community and developing future leaders that will continue to serve their communities. In fulfillment of this shared mission, PA applicants must demonstrate a commitment to community service and volunteering.
- These hours must be separate from any direct patient care/contact hours or shadowing hours. These hours should be separate from any unpaid home or family responsibilities (babysitting, running errands for family/friends, etc.) or part of required activities from undergraduate or graduate coursework. Some examples of community service may include but are not limited to volunteering at food pantries, community clean-up events, assisting and providing time to charities, church or religious groups, or other non-profit organizations, volunteering at community centers, volunteering for unhoused individuals or shelters, volunteering with animal shelters, or in hospitals. There are many ways to volunteer and provide community service, check in your local community or search online to identify how you can give back to your community.

### **Shadowing a Physician Assistant is optional and not required.**

- Shadowing is not required for entry into the Rowan-Virtua SOM PA program. No Preference will be given to students with shadowing experience. The Rowan-Virtua SOM PA Program faculty and staff will not assist with arranging shadowing opportunities, and will not permit the shadowing of PA program faculty.

### **Standardized Testing is optional and not required.**

- No standardized testing is required. No preference is given to any student who has taken any standardized testing. Please note, that if included in the CASPA application, standardized test scores will be visible to the admissions committee but will not influence admissions decisions.

### **Supplemental Application**

The PA school applicants MUST complete a supplemental application to Rowan-Virtua SOM's PA program. As part of that supplemental application students will need to complete several short-answer essay-style questions.

**The PA Program does NOT award or grant “Advanced Placement” as defined by the ARC-PA - A3.13c:** “A waiver of required coursework included in the PA curriculum for applicants to the program and/or a waiver of required coursework included in the PA curriculum for currently enrolled students in the program which results in the student advancing in the curriculum without completing required curriculum components at the sponsoring institution.”

- For example, the PA program will not accept courses taken at an outside institution or another PA program or Medical School to take place of any of the curriculum requirements of the Rowan-Virtua SOM MSPAS degree.
  - Please note there is a difference between “Advanced Placement” as defined by the ARC-PA and “AP credits”.
    - If you as an applicant were awarded AP credits in high school, and your college or university accepted these AP credits, and they appear on your transcript, the PA program will accept AP credits to meet the course prerequisite requirements as listed above.

\*Students cannot use the same course for fulfillment of multiple prerequisites. For example, a student taking a biology-based Biostatistics course cannot use this course to fulfill the statistics requirement and the biology requirement. Another example would be a student taking a Physiology course offered by the biology department and trying to have this one course meet the requirements of both the minimum number of biology credits and the minimum number of Anatomy and Physiology credits.

\*\*If any courses, degree completion or healthcare experience hours are in progress at the time of application, they must be completed by matriculation. Documentation will need to be submitted as requested by the program. Applications incomplete or missing this information may be delayed during the review process. Meeting all minimum requirements does not guarantee being granted an interview or admission to the PA program.