M.S. Physician Assistant Program

Program description
The program is a three-year collegiate-based program with two routes of entry. Students may be admitted directly into the professional program after earning a baccalaureate degree and completing the prerequisite coursework or students may enter the BA/MS degree program articulated with Rutgers and affiliated universities. This program includes three years of undergraduate liberal arts and basic science education followed by three years of professional physician assistant education. Students who are accepted into the professional program begin this phase at the beginning of their senior year. At the end of the senior year these students receive a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree conferred by the affiliated university. After completion of the remaining two years of the Physician Assistant Program graduates receive a Master of Science degree awarded by Rutgers. Direct entry students are awarded a Masters degree by Rutgers. Graduates are eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.

In addition, The Rutgers, School of Health-Related Professions (SHRP) offers a MS/MPH program. This program is offered by the Physician Assistant Program in conjunction with the Rutgers School of Public health leading to a Master of Science and a Master of Public Health. The program allows physician assistant students to complete both their graduate Physician Assistant studies and MPH degree in four years (including summers). Application to this program is limited to students who have already been accepted to the Physician Assistant Program and have taken the GRE. Students accepted into this dual degree track would attend the Physician Assistant Program part time for two years while attending the MPH Program part time. Students may begin this Program in the summer prior to beginning the Physician Assistant Program or in the first fall semester. During the third and fourth years of the Program, the student will attend the Physician Assistant Program full time and complete their fieldwork for the MS and MPH. Students may choose to study in one of the following divisions in the School of Public Health: Health Education and Behavioral Science; Environmental and Occupational Health; or Health Systems and Policy.
For more information about our MS/MPH Program, please contact the PA Program Office at (732) 235-4445.

**Description of Profession**
The physician assistant, working under physician supervision, takes patient histories; performs physical examinations; performs and interprets diagnostic procedures and laboratory work; and provides medical treatment in private homes, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and private practitioners’ offices.

Intelligence, the ability to relate to people, good judgment in emergency situations, and a genuine desire to help others are among the necessary qualities of a physician assistant. In light of the public’s ever-increasing demand for high quality health care and the accepted concept of team medicine, the physician assistant can expect to find many challenging and varied employment opportunities, a high degree of professional mobility, and ample opportunity for advancement.

**Full-time and Part-time status**
The PA program is predominantly full-time; a part-time daytime curriculum is also offered for the first two years of a total of four years.

**Department Faculty**
Please see the department faculty under [Primary Care](#) Department/view Piscataway campus.

**Primary Campus Location**
The program is based in the Piscataway campus.

**Curriculum**
See database for [program requirements](#) and course descriptions and select your program.

Accreditation Status
Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA)
1000 North Oak Ave.
Marshfield, Wisconsin 5449-5788

**Phone:** (715) 389-3785  
**Contact:** John E. McCarty
Date of accreditation: September 2009.

Admissions requirements
Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree or be attending one of our affiliated Universities. The applicant must have completed the following prerequisite coursework with a grade of “c” or better: two semesters of general biology with laboratory; two semesters of general chemistry with laboratory; one semester of organic chemistry; one semester of pre-calculus; two semesters of English (one semester must be composition); and one semester of general psychology.

The PA Program participates in CASPA (https://portal.caspaonline.org/). The CASPA process DOES NOT APPLY TO BS/MS applicants. All applications with supporting documents must be submitted to CASPA by the PA Program deadline of October 1st prior to the academic year for which the application is made.

Applicants must submit the following credentials:

- official transcript(s);
- three letters of recommendation, including academic reference, character evaluation, and, if possible, employment evaluation
- supplemental application

Interviews will be required of those applicants being considered for admission. Competition for available spaces in the Program is very keen. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee an invitation for an interview.

Additional Offerings
The Program offers a four year program leading to Master of Public Health and Master of Science
Additional programmatic information is available on-line.

For more information
For more specific information contact the program at:
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
RBHS - School of Health Related Professions
Physician Assistant Program
Ruth Fixelle, EdM, PA-C – Program Director or
Jill Reichman, MPH, PA-C – Associate Program Director
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
675 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854-5635

Phone: (732) 235-4445  E-mail: fixellru@shrp.rutgers.edu