



## SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
IUPUI

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). We are happy to learn of your interest in the proposed Master of Physician Assistant Studies program.

As of September 2010 the proposal for this program has been approved at the University level as well as the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Our next critical step is securing provisional accreditation. We are optimistic that we will have all components in place to ensure a successful provisional accreditation site visit in May 2011. The site visit could change the program and or admission requirements either significantly or not at all.

At this time we are collecting contact information from those who may be interested in beginning this program, proposed for 2012. Please feel free to share your full name, email, and phone number and we will contact you as updates become available.

Below is some information regarding the proposed PA program that we hope you find useful. Please keep in mind that the information is *subject to change based upon the outcome of our accreditation site visit in 2011*.

### **WHAT DOES A PA DO?**

According to the American Academy of Physician Assistant's House of Delegates (2005), "Physician Assistants are health professionals licensed or in the case of those employed by the federal government, credentialed, to practice medicine with physician supervision. Within the Physician-PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. The clinical role of physician assistants includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practice settings in rural and urban areas. Physician assistant practice is **centered on patient care** and may include educational, research, and administrative activities."

The physician assistant is a health care professional licensed to work under the supervision of a licensed physician to perform medical duties from primary care to technically advanced procedures in emergency medicine or within medical specialties. Physician Assistants have the education preparation and experience to perform functions such as taking a patient medical history, performing complete physical examinations, ordering and interpreting laboratory tests, diagnosing and treating medical illnesses, assisting physicians during surgical procedures, performing medical procedures such as suturing and wound care, and prescribing medication.

### **IU PROGRAM INTENTION:**

The program is intended for individuals with prior experience (paid or volunteer) in a health related field and with a commitment to provide health care in underserved and rural communities.

### **LENGTH OF TIME TO COMPLETION/TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:**

Seven (7) consecutive semesters over 27 months / 75 credit hours of didactic courses and 36 credit hours of clinical rotations for a total of 111 credit hours

### **PROPOSED PREREQUISITE COURSES:**

- Biological Sciences with lab (16 credit hours), to include general biology, human anatomy, human physiology, and microbiology
- Chemistry with lab (16 credit hours), to include general chemistry, biochemistry and organic chemistry
- Statistics or biostatistics (3 credit hours) 200 level or higher
- Psychology or sociology (3 credit hours)
- Medical terminology (minimum 2 credit hours)
- Mathematics, college algebra or higher (3 credit hours)
- Health Promotion/Wellness/Nutrition or equivalent (3 credit hours)
- English to include composition, and communication or speech (6 credit hours)

All courses must be completed with a 'C' or higher

All courses must be completed within the last 7 years from a regionally accredited institution

All science courses must be at a level for science majors

**PROPOSED ADMISSION CRITERIA:**

- Bachelor's degree, in any major, from a regionally accredited institution completed prior to the date of enrollment
- Completion of all or no more than one (1) prerequisite course in progress by the application deadline, must be completed with a 'C' or higher
- Minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale
- Three (3) letters of reference, one of which must come from a Health Care Professional
- 500 word personal statement which demonstrates desire to work with underserved populations as identified in program intention/mission
- GRE or MCAT scores taken within the past 5 years
- Application for admission and non-refundable application fee using the CASPA system
- On campus interview
- 500 hours (paid or volunteer) of experience in at least two different health care settings within the past 5 years
- International applicants must meet additional requirements as determined by the IUPUI Office of International Affairs, <http://iapply.iupui.edu/>

**PROPOSED START TERM:**

May 2012

**LOCATION OF PROGRAM:**

The degree will be conferred by the Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) in downtown Indianapolis. Didactic courses will be flexible with mixed modalities: online, distance learning, traditional classroom setting. Clinical rotations will be available in Indianapolis, the surrounding counties, out of state, and internationally.

**CLINICAL ROTATIONS:**

Students will be required to complete eight mandatory clinical rotations including internal medicine, family medicine, psychiatry, emergency medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, women's health, public health, and one elective clinical rotation for a total of nine (9) clinical rotations. The availability of several health and medical facilities in Indianapolis and surrounding counties will increase the access of students to clinical sites and to top health professionals in the State. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in international service learning.

**EMPLOYMENT:**

Employment opportunities for PA's exist in Indiana as well as throughout the United States. Employment is expected to grow 27 percent from 2006 to 2016, much faster than the average for all occupations as health care organizations increasingly employ physician assistants to meet the health workforce needs of rural and inner city clinics. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, physician assistant is ranked as one of the top 20 careers with growth potential. As a respected member of the health care team who works interdependently with his or her supervising physicians, physician assistants secure employment in both primary and specialty care at a variety of practice settings including hospitals, community clinics, private practice, medical groups, Veterans Medical Centers, and other government agencies. In addition to clinical practice, physician assistants may pursue careers in research, public health, health care administration, and teaching in postsecondary institutions.

Thank you again for your interest in the proposed Master of Physician Assistant Studies program. After the first of the year, we suggest you continue to check the 'Department of Health Sciences' link on the IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences homepage for further updates: [www.shrs.iupui.edu](http://www.shrs.iupui.edu).

Cordially,

Dawn Lipker  
Student Enrollment Services Coordinator  
IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
1140 West Michigan Street, Coleman Hall 120  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
[dlipker@iupui.edu](mailto:dlipker@iupui.edu)