

Samford University School of Health Professions

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

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Admissions Requirements

Minimum Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the following requirements for admission consideration:

- A baccalaureate degree from an institutionally accredited college or university (degree in any field), or be in the senior year of undergraduate study.
 - A minimum cumulative GPA of **3.0** (4.0 scale) on all undergraduate and graduate coursework completed at an institutionally accredited institution.
 - A minimum **science and non-science GPA of 3.0** (4.0 scale) on all undergraduate and graduate coursework completed at an accredited college or university within the United States.
 - A minimum grade of **C** in all prerequisite coursework completed at an institutionally accredited college or university within the United States.
- GRE scores are required.
 - No minimum score is established; applicants are evaluated competitively.
 - Scores must be submitted to CASPA using **code 2733**.

Prerequisite Coursework

All prerequisite coursework must be completed at an institutionally accredited college or university.

Courses marked with an asterisk are required for health majors.

- Applicants may have up to two prerequisite courses in progress or scheduled for future completion at the time of application submission.
 - Example: Biology I with lab counts as one course.
 - Medical Terminology does **not** count toward the two-course limit.
- **Psychology:** Two of the following three courses (6 semester hours total)
 - General Psychology
 - Abnormal Psychology
 - Developmental Psychology
- **Anatomy and Physiology:** One complete sequence with laboratories (6–8 semester hours)
 - Human Anatomy and Human Physiology with labs, or
 - Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs, or
 - Comparative Anatomy and Mammalian Physiology with labsFull sequence required; substitutions or mixed sequences are not accepted.
- General Biology I and II with labs* (6–8 semester hours)
- **Microbiology with lab*** (3–4 semester hours)
- Chemistry:
 - General Chemistry I and II with labs, **or**
 - Higher-level chemistry (Organic Chemistry I or II with labs) (8–9 semester hours)
Health majors must complete a full sequence
- **Statistics:** Includes statistical tests and analysis (3 semester hours)
- Medical Terminology: 1 semester hour

AP, IB or CLEP credit may be applied to prerequisite requirements if documented on official transcripts and accepted by the applicant's undergraduate institution. For prerequisite coursework completed during the **spring 2020 semester**, pass/fail grading is accepted.

International Coursework and Language Requirements

Coursework completed outside the United States requires an **international credential evaluation** prior to enrollment. Samford accepts evaluations from:

- World Education Services (WES): wes.org
- AACRAO International Education Services (IES): ies.aacrao.org

International applicants, or American citizens whose primary language is not English, must meet **TOEFL requirements** (minimum scores: 550 paper-based, 213 computer-based or 80 internet-based) and complete **24 credit hours as a full-time student** at a U.S. regionally accredited institution.

Eligible international students may be issued an **I-20** upon meeting admission requirements.

Application Process

Application Opens: April 30, 2026

Application Deadline: August 1, 2026

Entry Month: August 2027 (*see Accreditation*)

The following steps outline the application process for the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program. Applicants must submit both:

- An application through [CASPA](#)
- A Samford University Physician Assistant supplemental application

The supplemental application link will be emailed once the CASPA application is submitted. A \$75 supplemental application fee is due upon completion.

CASPA Application Requirements

The CASPA application **must be submitted and completed by August 1**. Applicants should allow **up to four weeks for CASPA verification**. Contact CASPA directly for verification timelines.

- **Official transcripts from every college or university attended** are required and are considered part of the CASPA application.

Applications will not be verified until **all official transcripts** are received by CASPA.

Do not send transcripts to Samford University.

Transcript mailing address:

CASPA Transcript Processing Center

P.O. Box 9108

Watertown, MA 02471

CASPA accepts electronic transcripts only from:

- Credentials Solutions
- Parchment
- National Student Clearinghouse

If electronic services are unavailable, transcripts must be sent by mail. **CASPA does not accept transcripts via email.**

- Applicants must pay the **CASPA initial service fee of \$179** at the time of submission.

Written Components

- **Three letters of recommendation are required.** (No more than **three letters** should be submitted.)
 - Letters must attest to the applicant's **academic ability and/or clinical experience.**

- All letters must be submitted **through CASPA** and must come from one or more of the following:
 - Current or former professor
 - Supervisor
 - Physician Assistant (PA), Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) or Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP)
- A **personal statement** through CASPA addressing the following:
 - Motivation for applying to Samford University's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program
 - Personal and clinical experiences and how they support candidacy for the program
 - Alignment with Samford University's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies mission
 - Academic preparation and readiness for success in the program

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

- Applicants must submit official GRE scores electronically to CASPA, Institution Code 2733, no later than August 1.
- Applicants may self-report unofficial GRE scores in CASPA; however, **self-reported scores do not replace official score submissions.**
- For additional information, visit **ETS**.

Program Policies

- The program follows a **lock-step curriculum**; advanced placement or course waivers are not granted.
- Upon acceptance, students must submit a **nonrefundable \$1,000 enrollment deposit**, applied to the first semester's tuition.
- Exceptions to admission requirements are reviewed on a **case-by-case basis**.

Application Review and Interview Process

The Samford University Physician Assistant program uses a **comprehensive review of all materials submitted through CASPA** to select applicants for interviews.

Interview Selection Criteria

Selection of candidates to be interviewed is based on a competitive review of the following academic and testing criteria:

- Cumulative GPA
- Last 60 hours GPA
- Science GPA
- GRE Verbal score
- GRE Quantitative score
- GRE Analytical Writing score

Applicants may enhance their application by meeting one or more of the following conditions:

- Strong academic performance and GRE scores
- Completion of a graduate degree
- Current Samford University student or Samford University alumni status
- Military service
- NCAA division athletic participation
- Patient care experience

Application Materials Reviewed

Once an applicant is identified for an interview, program faculty conduct a detailed review of the applicant's CASPA materials, including:

- Three letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Samford University Physician Assistant program-specific questions

Interview Process and Evaluation

During the interview process, each candidate completes **two interviews with a faculty member**.

The following areas are assessed:

- Professionalism
- Communication skills
- Leadership qualities
- Knowledge of the physician assistant profession
- The interviewer's overall impression of the candidate

Each of these components is scored using a standardized grading rubric, which is applied consistently to all candidates.

Student Outcome Data

As students graduate from our programs, outcome data will be published regarding:

- [Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination Exam Performance Summary Report](#)
- [Graduation/Completion Rate](#)
- Employment Rate - Average after 6 months
 - Class of 2021 - 94.4%
 - Class of 2022 - 100%
 - Class of 2023 - 100%
 - Class of 2024 - 100%

Accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **Samford University Physician Assistant Studies**

Program sponsored by **Samford University**. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be March 2034. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the [ARC-PA website](#).

Student Resources

- [CHS Physical Examination Form](#)
- [CHS Immunization Form](#)
- [CHS Tuberculosis Form](#)
- [Steps to Receive Financial Aid](#)
- [Recommended Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Plan of Study](#)
- [Student Handbook](#)
- [Textbook Information](#)
- [Tuition & Fees](#)
- [Parking Permit Instructions](#)