

Pre-PA 10/24 Meeting Notes

School: Northeastern University

Program: Physician Assistant Studies (MS)

Speaker: Carol G. Goldberg, Associate Director, Admissions

Overview of PA Programs

- 250 PA programs across the country
- Different prerequisites for most
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Northeastern's PA Program

- 2-year program
 - Formatted in trimesters (classes are taken year-round w/two-week breaks)
 - Didactic classroom work in first year
- Classes taught by adjunct PA's
- 6-7 courses are taken per term
- Simulations used intensely in first year
- Second year is all clinical rotations
- Schedules are individualized to each student
- 9 rotations (5 weeks in length, (±50 hrs/wk, unpaid)
 - Internal med
 - Family prac
 - Ambulatory
 - Women's health
 - Peds
 - Elective
 - Mental health
 - Surgery
 - Some rotations are available in Guatemala, UK, and, soon, Germany
 - Students paired up with practicing PA's and medical school students on team in specific specialty
- At rotation's end, students take an exam and have additional lectures
- 52 students in each entering class

Prerequisites

- 2 semesters of Bio and 1 lab
 - Any biology course, whether it be upper-level or intro-level
 - Course should be specific for biology and life sciences
 - B or better in both lecture and lab
- 2 semesters of Chem and 1 lab
 - Any chemistry course
 - B or better in both lecture and lab
- 1 semester of Anatomy and Physiology lecture
 - head-to-toe coverage of all systems

- B or better
- Statistics
 - In any field
 - Calculus does not count
 - B or better
- All prerequisites need to have been taken within 10 years of applying
- Bachelor's degree in whichever major is accepted
- Science GPA and Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 required
 - Competitive GPA's are 3.4+
- Minimum of 1000 hours of clinical experience
 - Medical assistant, EMT, PCA, medical scribe, home/mental health aid
 - All titles acceptable, as long as interaction with patients can be described in whichever setting
 - Shadowing does not count
 - Preference given over those who have at least 1000 hours, although you may apply with sub-1000 hours

Application

- Must apply through CASPA
- GRE not required or considered
- May still apply with missing prerequisites, such as one class or degree, as long as it is in progress
 - Patient care hours must be done upon applying
- Around 1,500 applicants
 - Factors going into admissions
 - Prerequisites
 - Personal essays
 - References
 - Personal Interview
 - 160-170 initially chosen
 - Last cycle included 3 different interview weekends, with one set being 2 days (Friday, Saturday) in September
 - Friday- class observation for interviewee and graduate speaker
 - Saturday- three one-on-one interviews with admission committee members
 - Committee members are graduates, instructors, or anyone else related to the PA program
- Individuals are accepted, rejected, or offered an alternate position, which may turn into an acceptance after an individual no longer accepts offer of acceptance into program

Pathways

- Traditional
 - First class graduated in 1973
 - 24 months full time, starting in late August and ending in late August
- Dual Degree Program (MS in PA Studies + mPH or MS in Health Informatics)
 - ~5 years old
 - Same prerequisites
 - mPH/MS in HI courses start online in January right after acceptance
 - PA courses begin in late August, mPH/Ms in HI classes continue at nights
 - mPH/MS in HI program tuition is not extra once PA courses begin
 - Included in 52 accepted students

Financial Aid

- Majority comes in the form of loans
- Small amount of academic scholarships offered

Questions may be emailed or brought in person to 202 Robinson
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