

Barry University

College of Health Professions and Medical Sciences Physician Assistant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Our most competitive applicants typically possess the following characteristics:

- An average Overall and Science GPA of 3.4-3.5
- Over 1,000 hours of hands-on patient care experience

How many locations do you have for your program? **We have two locations for our program: Miami and St. Petersburg, FL.**

How many seats do you offer for each location? **We offer a total of 100 seats for our program: 76 to Miami and 24 to St. Petersburg, respectively.**

Is there a supplemental application? **No, there is no supplemental application.**

Do you favor a degree from a University or a Community College? **No, we do not.**

What kind of degree (discipline) do you require? **We do not require a specific degree discipline.**

Is there a specific degree you recommend? **We highly recommend a science discipline.**

Is one campus more competitive than the other? **Both locations are considered one program. One campus is not more competitive than another.**

Can my application be reviewed and considered at a different location if I am not accepted to the location I applied to? **No, it cannot.**

Can I apply to more than one campus? **You can only apply and be considered for one location.**

Is your program rolling admissions? **Yes.**

When is the best time to apply? **The Admissions Committee recommends applicants apply only when their application is as complete and competitive as possible, meaning that you have met all areas of our competitive statistics (provided above).**

When is the earliest you can apply? **Our application becomes available on the CASPA portal in April of every year. It is our recommendation that applicants apply as early as possible, no later than September.**

When is your program's deadline? **Though we recommend applicants apply no later than September, all applications verified by December 1st are considered.**

Does my degree need to be complete before I submit my application, or can I apply while finishing my degree? **Degrees can still be in progress at the time you submit your application.**

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How many PREREQUISITES can I apply with planned or in progress? Applicants are required to have all prerequisite coursework (including labs) completed prior to submission. Any applications submitted with pending/unverified prerequisites will not be considered.

Do you have a year limit on your prerequisites? There is a ten (10) year limit from the year of matriculation on our prerequisite coursework.

How many letters of recommendation do you require and from whom? We require three letters of recommendation. They can be from a professor, current employer, and/or an observer in a clinical setting (ex: PA, MD, RN, etc.). A letter from a physician associate is strongly recommended.

Does the PA Program require the GRE? We are no longer requiring the GRE. All applicants are required to take the PA-CAT and have their scores reported to Barry University.

Is the PA-CAT required? Yes, the PA-CAT is required.

How do I report my PA-cat scores? To release your PA-CAT scores, go to pa-cat.com and log in to your Candidate Portal. In your account, click on Programs and select “Barry University PA Program” from the dropdown menu. Available scores are released immediately. Applications without reported PA-CAT scores will remain in pending status until they are received.

Is the CASPER required? The CASPER is currently strongly recommended.

What are your requirements for International students? International students are required to fulfill all of the necessary admissions requirements provided (prerequisites & PA-CAT exam), along with attending an institution within the U.S. for one year (complete 24 credits) prior to applying and taking the TOEFL exam. In addition, all foreign evaluations **must** provide a GPA and be submitted to the CASPA portal.

Does your program offer Advanced Placement? There is no advanced placement at Barry PA Program.

Once admitted, can I defer my seat for a year? No, matriculation may not be deferred. Students are accepted for the year they apply.

Do you have specific course requirements for prerequisites?

Our required prerequisites are as follows:

- General/Inorganic Chemistry – 6 credits (2 courses)
- Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry – 3 credits (1 course)
- Human Anatomy & Physiology – 8 credits (2 courses with labs). Kinesiology, Environmental Engineering, and Exercise Science will not be accepted. Either Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II with labs will be accepted OR Human Anatomy with lab and Human Physiology with lab will be accepted (a combination will not be considered)
- Microbiology – 4 credits (1 course with lab)

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- Additional Biological Science – 3 credits (1 course). Acceptable courses are: General Biology, Zoology, Human Genetics, Histology, or Cell/Molecular Biology
- Behavioral Sciences – 6 credits (2 courses) in any of the following: Psychology, Sociology, or Human Growth & Development. Unfortunately, Anthropology and Criminology courses are not accepted

Does the program consider college AP and/or CLEP courses toward the prerequisites? **We accept AP and CLEP credits as long as they appear on an official transcript from an accredited college. To be considered, verified applications must indicate the completed subject, meet the required timeframe, and satisfy the minimum credit requirements.**

Do you accept online prerequisite courses? **Our program does accept online courses through accredited institutions.**

Do you require a specific level in a prerequisite course (for example, introductory biology versus advanced biology)? **No.**

Is there a required number for patient care hours? **We do not have a requirement for patient care hours; however, we highly recommend approximately 1000 hours of direct patient care experience.**

Do you have examples of what is considered competitive direct patient care experience? **We always recommend that applicants gain some form of licensing and work in the field prior to submitting an application. Most applicants become Paramedics, EMTs, CNAs, and MAs. Some become scribes, phlebotomists, surgery technicians, athletic trainers, and physical therapists. Mission work and volunteer work are also considered.**

Do you require Medical Terminology? **Medical terminology is not required for admissions but is for matriculation.**

Do you offer financial aid? **Financial Aid is offered and reviewed by the graduate financial aid office once offered a seat.**

How much does the program cost? **A breakdown of our cost of attendance is provided on the website under Financial Aid.**

Does your program allow applicants to reapply in future cycles? **Yes. However, reapplicants are expected to show improvement in their application in future cycles. Making improvements shows the Admissions Committee your dedication to the PA profession.**

Is the program full-time or part-time? **The program is full-time.**

Do you offer a part-time option? **There is no part-time option.**

Can I work as a student? **You can expect to be in class Monday – Friday anywhere from 8 AM – 6 PM and later on days where labs are scheduled (approximately until 9 PM). For that reason, students are strongly discouraged from working while they are enrolled in the**

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program. The curriculum is very demanding and time-consuming. It would prove difficult to hold external employment simultaneously and do well in the program, particularly during your clinical rotation year, when your location and hours will vary greatly.

How do you calculate a GPA for the application? Our program only considers the overall and science GPA breakdowns provided by CASPA when applications are verified. For specifics on their calculations, please contact their Customer Service.

Can my GPA be recalculated if I submit summer classes directly to the school after CASPA has verified my application? No, we can only use the GPA breakdowns provided on your verified application.

When do I have to take the PA-CAT? It is recommended that the PA-CAT exam be taken and sent to our institution before applying. Applications cannot be processed without the official scores in our system. PA-CAT Scores must be submitted no later than 30 business days after receipt of notification from the Admissions office.

Do you provide housing? No. Barry University offers limited graduate housing at the Miami location.

Do you have a dress code? Yes. All students must dress in casual business attire during the didactic year. On certain days, you will be required to wear scrubs and your white coat. The clinical year requires a different dress code. For additional information, please see the didactic and clinical year manuals.

How is the program's curriculum structured? The Program is 28 months. The curriculum and program format are the same at all of the locations with the use of interactive video conferencing. The first year is didactic education. The second year consists of eight clinical rotations. The last four months is advanced didactic, where final preparation for the PANCE exam is completed.

Do you have a cadaver lab? No. The Program has determined that the best imaging for Anatomy is using modern software. It is the trend in anatomy education to move away from cadavers, which may expose students to chemicals. The anatomy course curriculum currently employs online, three-dimensional, layered images that are accessible on most devices. This may be supplemented with scheduled time with a full-sized Anatomage table with layered images.

How many and what kind of rotations do you have? There are eight six-week rotations: Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine/Geriatrics, Prenatal Care & Women's Health, Pediatrics, Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine, Surgery, and an Elective rotation.

Where are your rotations completed? We have affiliations with local hospitals, clinics, health departments, and private offices in each campus location. Students will have rotations in a variety of settings.

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How many rotations can I do out of state? /how many can I do from home? **Students in good academic standing with the program are permitted to complete limited rotations out of state.**

Do I have to create my rotations? **No, the program provides your rotations.**

Is there a maximum distance that students are assigned to clinical sites? **No.**

Is there any kind of special consideration given within the Admissions process? **As part of an agreement with the University Partnership Center at St. Petersburg College, up to four students per year who graduated from St. Petersburg College and who are admitted into the program in St. Petersburg will receive a tuition discount of 20%. The Program admissions process also favors applicants with higher GPAs, PA-CAT scores, patient care experience, and work experience. We favor individuals who are likely to extend care to the underserved by crediting military and other service, leadership, mission congruence, diversity, disadvantaged status, and fluency in multiple languages.**

Do you have job placement assistance for graduating students? **We do not have a formal job placement program. However, we do have job opportunities posted on our website on a regular basis, and some of our students receive offers while on clinical rotations.**

If I have an advanced degree, do I still need to take the PA-CAT? **Yes, the PA-CAT Exam is required for all applicants.**

Is attendance required? **Yes**