

Admissions requirements for students seeking matriculation to Loma Linda University*

**Italicized statements are directly from LLU admissions sources. If considering other institutions, be in contact with Pre-Health Advising as early as possible.*

Degree:

- ❖ A bachelor's degree is required to attend LLU's PA program and it must be completed by Dec. 31 of the application year.

Units:

- ❖ **Number:** Satisfied by bachelor's degree.
- ❖ **GPA:** A minimum GPA, both overall and science, of 3.0 is required for prerequisite coursework. To be competitive, it should be at 3.3 or above. The average is usually 3.67.
- ❖ **Institution:** *All prerequisite courses and degrees must be from accredited educational institutions. Upon application, science courses must have been completed within the last 10 years. Preference is granted to SDA applicants of underrepresented populations and those with documented community service.*
- ❖ **AP & CLEP:** Do not satisfy science prerequisites. Can satisfy non-science prerequisites if fulfilling degree requirements. CLEP is not accepted as fulfilling the College Writing sequence. Online science courses and must have an on-campus component to be accepted and are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- ❖ **Completion:** *Bachelor's degree must be completed by Dec. 31 to be eligible to start the following September. A maximum of two courses can be in progress and must be completed by Spring.*

Experience:

- ❖ *2,000 hours of hands-on patient care in healthcare-related disciplines are required. The hours may be obtained before, during or after the completion of your bachelor's degree. Student clinical hours are not acceptable.*

Application:

- ❖ **Service:** Applications are processed through CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants). To apply, go to caspaonline.org.
- ❖ **Deadline:** Applications for the following year are accepted starting June 1 and due Nov. 1. One may still apply while completing 2,000 hours of experience.
- ❖ **Tests:** None required.
- ❖ **Recommendation Letters:** 3 recommendations are required from persons other than family members: *I must be from a practicing physician or PA (not a friend or relative). This letter is preferable from a work colleague and not from shadowing experience. The other 2 from work-, church/community-, or school-related leaders/officials.*

Coursework

Prerequisite Courses		Recommended Coursework
General Education: ➤ Communication College Writing __ ENGL 111 __ ENGL 112 __ ENGL 113 OR Freshman Seminar in Writing __ ENGL 124 ➤ Mathematics __ MATH 121 College Algebra Social Sciences: ➤ Psychology __ PSYC 104 General Psychology OR __ ANTH 315	➤ Sociology __ SOCI 104 General Sociology Natural Sciences: ➤ Human Anatomy & Physiology __ BIOL 131 & Lab __ BIOL 132 & Lab OR __ BIOL 446 & Lab Gross Anatomy ➤ Chemistry* __ CHEM 111 & Lab __ CHEM 112 & Lab __ CHEM 113 & Lab ➤ Microbiology __ BIOL 185 Basic Medical Microbiology	__ MATH 155 Intro to Statistics __ BIOL 302 Genetics (Required for Western University) __ COMM 104 Fundamentals of Speech __ CPTG 104 Intro to Computing __ Medical Terminology *LLU accepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Chemistry sequence. However, other programs only accept General Chemistry.

Preferred direct patient care experiences are those accredited, credentialed professions that provide patient assessment, treatment, patient care plans and diagnostic testing. Preferred applicants will have direct patient care experience working in clinical settings that involve a range of patient responsibility and a high level of critical thinking.

Taken from Curriculum guide: LLU Physician Assistant

Career opportunities and related occupations:

❖ Physician Assistants (PAs) have become a valuable and essential part of the health care team. While working under the supervision of a physician, PAs provide diagnostic, therapeutic, preventative and health maintenance services. They work primarily as primary care providers but are not limited to this area. They can work in any specialty and are trained to handle medical emergencies. They can also serve as first or second assistants in surgery, and provide both pre- and post-operative care. Physician assistants can relieve physicians of several general duties including taking medical histories, ordering and analyzing lab tests, while maintaining the same quality of care for all the patients.

Educational qualifications:

❖ Students may enroll in a 2-year master's degree physician's assistant program at an accredited college or university, or a combined bachelor's degree – graduate certificate program. For the master's program, the first year focuses on medically related courses such as pharmacology, physiology, anatomy, microbiology, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology. The second year emphasizes clinical experience in primary care or specialties within medicine. To work in a hospital or private practice, candidates must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).

Job opportunities:

❖ Jobs in the field of physician assistant are expected to grow by 50% through the year 2014.

Salary:

❖ The national average income is \$71,070 and California's average income is \$83,760. For the most updated information on salaries visit: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm>.

For more information:

Websites	Loma Linda University	Professional Organization(s)
La Sierra University: www.lasierra.edu/prehealth Loma Linda University: www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/pa/	Dept. of Physician Assistant Sciences School of Allied Health Professions Nichol Hall 2033 Loma Linda, A 92350 Phone: 909-558-7295 E-mail: sahp.pa@llu.edu	National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants www.nccpa.net Physician Assistant Education Association www.paeaonline.org

Pre-Health Professions is dedicated to providing quality service to La Sierra University students, faculty and staff. Our primary goal is to address your pre-professional needs. To schedule an appointment, please call 951.785.2490. We endeavor to answer all of your questions about careers in the health field; no question is too small for our attention.

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