



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DIRECT ADMIT PATHWAY

Pioneer your pathway into the Physician Assistant profession

High-achieving high school students can apply for the direct admit pathway into the prestigious Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies graduate program at Marietta College. Students who are accepted as freshmen into the Physician Assistant Direct Admit Pathway must successfully fulfill all undergraduate requirements. When the requirements are all met, the student is guaranteed a seat in the Marietta College Physician Assistant Program.

High school students who qualify (requirements on page 2) and are selected for the PA Direct Admit Pathway will stay connected to the program throughout their undergraduate career. They are assigned a Pre-PA advisor and interact with the program activities on campus.

Interview Tips:

Come prepared with questions about the program to ask the interview committee. Dress professionally and practice your interviewing skills before you arrive. Know what makes you a unique and interesting person who deserves a spot in the program. Be ready with some stories/action-based examples that show these traits about yourself.

“My direct admit interview was professional but not super intense. I had done some basic interview practice but took a deep breath and answered honestly. I felt the faculty and staff wanted me to succeed and to get to know me during the interview. I am excited to be surrounded by good people dedicated to medicine as I further my education.”

— Natalie Chase, Direct Admit, class of 2025

Sample shadowing and patient care hours for high school students:

- Private practice office
- Hospice volunteer
- Caretaker at in-home healthcare organization

For more information about Marietta’s Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies graduate program, please visit www.marietta.edu/pa-program.

Common majors for Direct Admit Pathway students:

Health Science
Biology
Biochemistry
(Sample minors)
Psychology
Leadership
Health Communication

Favorite classes:

Human Anatomy (BIOL 212)
Advanced Human Anatomy (BIOL 401)
Microbiology (BIOL 202)
Psychopathology (PSYC 350)
Community Healthcare (HSCI 201)
Chemistry (CHEM 131/133)
Applied Nutrition (SPTM 285)

This is the time. This is the place.

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Marietta College Pre-requisite Classes:

- Upper-Level Human or Mammalian Biology*
- General Chemistry I with Lab*
- General Chemistry II with Lab*
- Organic Chemistry with Lab*
- Microbiology with Lab*
- Human Anatomy with Lab*
- Human Physiology*
- General Psychology*
- Upper-Level Psychology with emphasis on abnormal and/or developmental psychology*
- Statistics*

*Or comparable course as determined by the Admissions Committee.

The following courses are not required pre-requisites but are excellent additional classes to strengthen an application:

- Genetics
- Immunology
- Virology
- Biochemistry
- Histology
- Pathophysiology
- Toxicology

To be considered for the Physician Assistant Direct Admit Pathway at Marietta College students must meet rigorous standards as a high school student and throughout their college career at Marietta College.

Criteria for the Physician Assistant Direct Admit Pathway:

High School Requirements:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 grade scale:
 - Four credits of math
 - Four credits of English
 - Four credits of science that must include biology and chemistry
- Minimum ACT score of 28 or SAT score of 1320
- Minimum of eight (8) hours of shadowing experience with a practicing physician assistant
- Two Short Essay Responses
 1. Submit an approximate 250-word essay based on your shadowing experience explaining the physician assistant role and responsibilities in healthcare.
 2. Submit an approximate 250-word essay describing how the physician assistant role and responsibilities align with your future plans and the mission of the program.
- Two letters of recommendation
 - One from a science teacher; second from a healthcare professional
- In-person interview with the Marietta College Physician Assistant Program Director and faculty
- Meet the technical standards of the Physician Assistant Program (www.marietta.edu/pa-technical-standards)

Marietta College Requirements:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 grade scale with no course withdrawals for academic reasons
- Pre-requisite GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 grade scale:
 - All pre-requisite courses must be taken at Marietta College
 - Earn a grade of "C" or better in all pre-requisite course work
 - No pre-requisite course may be pre-audited
 - Analytical writing is not required, but highly recommended
- Quantitative and Verbal GRE scores above the 50th percentile
- Evidence of robust work ethic/leadership/extracurricular activities through college career
- Additional healthcare hours through college career STRONGLY recommended
- No history of conduct violations resulting in institutional suspension or dismissal
- Letter of recommendation from Marietta College Physician Assistant Direct Admit Pathway advisor
- Meet the technical standards of the Physician Assistant Program (www.marietta.edu/pa-technical-standards)
- Officially apply to the Physician Assistant Program through Central Application Service for Physician Assistants with application VERIFIED by November 1st
- Complete CASPER for applicable application cycle
- Attend and complete an admissions interview day with other applicants

Failure to maintain all direct admit pathway requirements will eliminate the student from the Physician Assistant Direct Admit Pathway. Students may still be offered an interview if they meet all requirements of the Marietta College Physician Assistant Guaranteed Interview policy; however, this interview does not guarantee a seat in the Physician Assistant Program.

Marietta College Physician Assistant Program

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www.marietta.edu/PA-program