Traditional Master's Program (100 SCH, 28 month length) Domestic Program Requirements MPAS with a major in Physician Assistant Studies

I. Description of Degree (Traditional Master's Program)

The Master in Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) prepares graduates with intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, appropriate interpersonal skills, and critical thinking skills. The graduate will be capable of medical patient assessment and developing a plan of action for addressing health concerns. The professional curriculum for PA education includes basic medical, behavioral, and social sciences, introduction to clinical medicine and, supervised clinical practice, and health policy and professional practice issues.

II. Program Requirements (Traditional Master's Program)

1. Online Application

The application to UTPA's graduate programs can be completed online at www.utpa.edu/gradapply

2. Application Fee

The University application fee of $50 can be paid online by credit card or electronic check (in the online application). All application fees are non-refundable.

3. Official Transcripts*

Official college transcripts are to be sent to the Graduate Studies office directly from all the institutions attended. If the applicant attended UTPA at any time, those official transcripts will be handled by the Graduate Studies office; however, the applicant is responsible for requesting official transcripts to be sent directly from all other institution(s).

*Transcripts must be sealed and sent directly from the institution to be considered official. Transcripts will be considered unofficial if they are hand delivered by the applicant or third party regardless if sealed by the institution. Failure to submit a complete/correct application and official transcripts from all institutions attended will result in one of the following: rejection of application, withdrawal of admission offer or disciplinary action including expulsion if the student is enrolled. All submitted documents become the property of UTPA and will not be returned. Admissions documents will remain on file for one year if the applicant does not attend the University. Documents will be retained for seven years for students enrolled in a master's level program and for ten years for students enrolled in a doctoral program. Please review the Student File Retention Schedule for more details.

IMPORTANT: Please request that your official transcripts be mailed directly to the address listed below. It is important that you include the office name and room number to ensure proper delivery.

The University of Texas-Pan American
Office of Graduate Studies Marialice
Shary Shivers Bldg. 116
1201 W. University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78539

4. Students whose native language is not English or who studied at a university outside the U.S., review **Section X** for more requirements.

5. No GRE Required

No GRE Required to apply for the MPAS.

6. Minimum GPA

Minimum overall GPA of 3.0 required; must include all transcripts from all institutions.

7. CASPA

Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) application http://www.caspaonline.org

8. Shadowing Experience

50 hours of shadowing experience are required and MUST be documented on the CASPA application experience section. Shadowing is accepted from MD/DO, PA or NP providers only. Shadowing accomplished as an extracurricular activity is preferred. Shadowing while on-the-job or as part of an educational requirement is not considered ideal.

9. Prerequisite Coursework

All prerequisites must be completed by the October 1 deadline. Prerequisites taken during the Fall or Spring semesters during or after the October 1 deadline will not be considered for interview or admission. All applicants who are accepted must have a completed Bachelor's degree, its equivalent or a higher degree upon matriculation to the Physician Assistant Department.

Prior studies or degree work, work experience, fluency in Spanish, and residency in the underserved counties of South Texas may be helpful to all applicants. Although the prerequisite coursework may be accomplished at any accredited junior college, four-year college, or university, it is preferred that most, if not all, coursework be completed at a four-year college or university. Additional recommendations include Spanish coursework and medical terminology. A human focus is recommended for Anatomy & Physiology.

Science	Semester
General Biology I	3
General Biology II	3
Genetics	3
General Chemistry I	3
General Chemistry II	3
Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry	3
Microbiology	3
Anatomy & Physiology I	3

Anatomy & Physiology II	3
Math	
Statistics	3
Humanities	
Introductory Psychology or Abnormal Psychology	3
Total Prerequisite Requirements	**33**

***Note*:** Pass or Credit grades will not be accepted for any science prerequisite course. Credit by examination is accepted for Statistics and Psychology only. All prerequisite science courses must be taken for science majors. Science courses taken for non-science majors will not be accepted. Anatomy
& Physiology with a HUMAN focus is preferred.

***Note to applicants with foreign coursework*:** Every applicant must meet ALL prerequisite requirements. No prerequisite course waivers or substitutions will be granted. If admitted, foreign medical graduates will not be given advanced placement standing for any Physician Assistant Department course work. All matriculates must complete the entire professional curriculum.

III. Application Deadline (Traditional Master's Program)

Application Deadline is October 1st. All prerequisites must be completed by the October 1 deadline. Prerequisites taken during the Fall or Spring semesters during or after the October 1 deadline will not be considered for interview or admission.

IV. The Admissions Process

Meet minimum Graduate School requirements

All applicants must first apply to the Graduate School online. Applicants meeting the minimum requirements for entry into the Graduate School will be forwarded to the Physician Assistant Department for further review.

CASPA Application Review

a. Applicants meeting the minimum requirements for entry into the Graduate School will considered for CASPA application review. CASPA applications for applicants not meeting Graduate School criteria will not be reviewed.

b. The basis for inviting an applicant for interview is competitive. GPA's > 3.0 in the sciences and last 30 hours are most competitive. Offers of invitation for interview consider the applicant's academic performance represented by coursework, grades, and GPAs. In

addition, application review includes, but is not limited to, consideration of non-academic qualifications listed below (listed in no particular order of preference or importance):

Awards and Honors
Health Care Experience
Knowledge of and commitment to the PA profession
Leadership
PA shadow time
Primary care/South Texas oriented
Research background
Scholastic achievements
Service/volunteerism
Work experience

Interview

Admissions interviews are granted by the PA program by invitation only. Applicants are selected for interviews based on a holistic evaluation of the entire application and supporting materials. The interview includes questions to assess the applicant's knowledge of the PA profession, motivation and commitment, maturity, intellectual curiosity, interest patterns, interpersonal skills and academic history.

Admissions Committee Decisions

At the conclusion of all interviews, the admissions committee (comprised of PA program faculty, medical director, local medical providers and UTPA administration) meets to review all applicants who were interviewed. The admissions committee will forward their selections to the Graduate School for approval and official notification.

V. Advanced Placement & Transfer Credit

Advanced placement and waiver of courses in the professional curriculum are not available to applicants or enrolled students in the program. All students and applicants must complete the entire professional curriculum in residence at the University of Texas – Pan American.
The Physician Assistant Department does not admit students from other physician assistant departments. All currently or formerly enrolled physician assistant students at other physician assistant departments must participate in a competitive admissions process along with all other applicants.

VI. Program Contact Information

Program Website: http://www.utpa.edu/pad
Department Chair: Frank Ambriz, PA-C
Admissions Coordinator: Wilma Mealer, MPAS, PA-C & Lewis Weger, MPAS, PA-C
Email: pad@utpa.edu
Phone: (956) 665-2298
Program Address: The University of Texas - Pan American
Physician Assistant Department
1201 W. University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: (956) 665-2298
Fax: (956) 665-2438

VII. Frequently Asked Questions

Transcripts

Where do I need to submit my transcripts?
Official college transcripts are to be sent to the Graduate Studies office directly from all the institutions attended. If the applicant attended UTPA at any time, those official transcripts will be handled by the Graduate Studies office; however, the applicant is responsible for requesting official transcripts to be sent directly from all other institution(s).

Do transcripts need to be sent by the Institutions?
Transcripts must be sealed and sent directly from the institution to be considered official. Transcripts will be considered unofficial if they are hand delivered by the applicant or third party regardless if sealed by the institution. Failure to submit a complete/correct application and official transcripts from all institutions attended will result in one of the following: rejection of application, withdrawal of admission offer or disciplinary action including expulsion if the student is enrolled. All submitted documents become the property of UTPA and will not be returned.

How long will UTPA keep my admission documents?
Admission documents will remain on file for one year if the applicant does not attend the University. Documents will be retained for seven years for students enrolled in a master's level program and for ten years for students enrolled in a doctoral program. Please review the Student File Retention Schedule for more details.

Online Application

Do I need to submit recommendations to the Office of Graduate Studies?
No. Recommendations are not required.

Who can I contact if I need technical support?
http://support.embark.com or support@embark.com

If I decide not to enroll, can I use my application again?
Each application will be kept on file for one year. If a student decides to reapply within one year, they will not need to pay the application fee. If the student was accepted by a graduate program and is reapplying to the same graduate program, the student may use the shorter re-application form.

Can I edit my Application if I have already submitted it?
Please make sure that you have completed all sections of your application before hitting the submit button as it will then be downloaded for review by the graduate office. You may not edit your application once it has been submitted.

VIII. Application Checklist

1. ☐ Online application (Graduate School)
2. ☐ Application fee (Graduate School)
3. ☐ Official transcripts (Graduate School)

4. ☐ Completed CASPA application with all supporting materials to CASPA

5. ☐ Shadowing Experience

6. ☐ Prerequisite Coursework

IX. English Proficiency Exam/Evaluation of Educational Records

1. Students whose native language is not English or who studied at a university outside the U.S.:

A. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

- The institution code to forward your scores to the University of Texas-Pan American is **6570**.
- Scores must be sent directly from Educational Testing Services (ETS) to UTPA. Student copies will not be accepted.
- Scores are valid for two years. If the test date was more than two years ago, the applicant must retake the examination and request that an official report from ETS be sent to UTPA.
- UTPA does not accept institutional (or residual) TOEFL exams taken at another institution.
- The minimum acceptable total score is 500 for paper/pencil tests or 173 for computer-based tests or 61 for internet-based tests (Note: some programs require a higher score, please check the program requirements page for more information). For more information please visit TOEFL iBT Score Comparison Tables (pdf).
- The test bulletin of information and registration forms are usually available at American embassies and consulates, offices of the United States. Information Agency, or online at www.ets.org.

B. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the Graduate School. Students scoring below a 5.5 on the IELTS will not be eligible for admission. For information visit: IELTS.

C. Exceptions to the TOEFL or IELTS

- Lifetime residents of Australia, Canada (other than Quebec), New Zealand, United Kingdom, or the United States (other than Puerto Rico).
- Students who have recently and successfully completed at least 30 hours of university level academic studies in one of the countries listed.

2. Evaluation of Educational Records for universities outside U.S.

- Applicants must have their transcript(s) evaluated by Foreign Credentials Service of America (FCSA). Click here for the FCSA application. Additional information is available at www.foreigncredentials.org or (512) 459-8428.
- Students may send copies of their transcript(s) directly to FCSA. The student must bring the original copy of the transcript to the Office of Graduate Studies and a copy will be made to be placed in the student's file. This can be done at any point after the application is submitted or during the student's first semester, but must be done before the student registers for the second semester. Students not complying with this requirement will not be able to register for future semesters.
- Failure to submit a complete/correct application and official transcripts from all institutions attended will result in one of the following: rejection of application, withdrawal of admission offer or disciplinary action including expulsion if the student is enrolled.

- All submitted documents become the property of UTPA and will not be returned. Admission documents will remain on file for one year if the applicant does not attend the University.

Documents will be retained for seven years for students enrolled in a master's level program and for ten years for students enrolled in a doctoral program. Please review the Student File Retention Schedule for more details.

Should you have any questions about this, please contact FCSA at:

FCSA
1910 Justin Lane
Austin, TX 78757-2411
Phone (512) 459-8428 • Fax (512) 459-4565
E-mail: info@foreigncredentials.org • Website: www.foreigncredentials.org