

**Admission Procedures**

Requirements:

- 2 years of undergraduate university
- 3.0 GPA (OMSAS 4.0 scale)
- No specific course requirements



Apply by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012:

- Ontario University Application Centre  
[www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca)
- Send transcript to Registrar's Office
- Supplementary Application



Interviews:

- 60-80 individuals
- Mini Multiple Interview (MMI)



September 2012:

- 24 PA Students (Class of 2014)

**Admissions Committee will consider:**

- GPA and Transcripts
- Supplementary Application
- Interview (MMI)

**What is a PA?**

Physician Assistants (PAs) are health care professionals who work under the supervision of a physician. The PA's scope of practice is determined by the supervising physician and the rules and regulations of the province in which they are practicing. PAs undertake tasks delegated to them by physician supervisors who ensure excellence in healthcare. PAs provide a broad range of health care services in primary and specialty care, including patient assessment, clinical investigation and diagnosis, treatment plan, therapeutic interventions, counseling on preventive care and assisting in surgery.

**Program Overview**

**CURRICULUM**

- 24 months
- Problem-based, small-group, self-directed
- Focus on the Physician Assistant's role in health care
- Promotion of inter-professional education and training

**YEAR 1: CLINICAL SCIENCES**

- Modeled on the McMaster Medical School Curriculum
- Designed to meet the **Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA)** National Occupation Competency Profile
- Four components:
  - Clinical Science: physiology, pathophysiology and disease
  - Interviewing, Examination and Reasoning
  - Professional Competencies: Professionalism & Ethics
  - Clinical observerships

**YEAR II: CLERKSHIP**

- 48 weeks of supervised clinical placements.
- Core placements:
  - Family medicine
  - Medicine
  - Surgery
  - Emergency medicine
  - Psychiatry
  - Pediatrics
- Electives round out the balance of the year
- Goals of clerkship:
  - Develop increasing facility in history taking
  - Develop increasing ability in doing physical examinations
  - Learn to develop, and under supervision initiate, a plan of investigation and management of the patient problem
  - Become skilled in communicating with the patient and the supervising physician

## Professional Certification

After graduation, PAs will qualify to take the certification examination with the Canadian Physician Assistants Certification Council (PACC), an independent Council of the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA). This includes an entry to practice examination which ensures that the PA meets the standard set out in the Occupational Competency Profile (OCP) for the Physician Assistant profession.

## Financial Information:

### Year I & II:

2011/2012 – approximately \$10,124 for a 12 month academic term, plus supplementary fees of \$1000 per year.

It is anticipated that these fees will moderately increase for the 2012/2013 academic year.

Additional costs include books, diagnostic equipment and other learning resources estimated at \$2,500.00.

Students are also responsible for their transportation costs related to clinical study.

### For more information regarding fees:

[http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/student/SAC\\_fees.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/student/SAC_fees.htm)

## Conditions of Enrollment:

Upon acceptance, successful applicants will be required to provide detailed medical information, including a record of completion of required immunizations, evidence of Basic Cardiac Life Support certification (Health Care Professional) and a satisfactory Police Records Check (at the applicant's expense) upon entering the program and annually thereafter.

## Learning Format:

Problem-based learning requires students to use a clinical problem as a stimulus for identifying important concepts for learning. Students are presented with a series of health care problems, requiring for their solution, the understanding of underlying physical, biological, and behavioural principles, the appropriate collection of data and the critical appraisal of evidence. In each problem area, the student may select the most appropriate issues to ensure the understanding and application of the fundamental concepts. The central focus of the program is the tutorial. This class is divided into small groups, each with a tutor. In the tutorial session students develop a series of learning objectives from each health-care problem and negotiate how they will approach their learning tasks. They then acquire the knowledge and skills to meet the objectives of the Medical Foundation in which they are working. They also learn to work as a team, helping and learning from their peers. The study habits and sense of responsibility to self and others provides a basis for lifelong working and learning habits.

### Accredited by:

Canadian Medical Association (CMA) – June 2010

## For more information:

**Information Night: November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011  
@ 7pm HSC 1A1**

Campus map: (building #37)

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/welcome/campusmap.cfm>

### Website:

<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/physicianassistant>

### Contact:

[paprogram@mcmaster.ca](mailto:paprogram@mcmaster.ca)

## Links:

Health Force Ontario:

<http://www.healthforceontario.ca>

Canadian Association of Physician Assistants

<http://www.caopa.net/>

Physician Assistant Education Association

<http://www.paeaonline.org/>