Admissions FAQ’s

Note: Admissions to the Center for Physician Assistant Studies are highly competitive and conducted on a rolling basis, i.e., applications are reviewed when received. It is highly recommended that you complete your application as early as possible.

How does the Albany Medical Center rolling admissions process work?

1. Application completion includes:
   - All application components (including A & B) received in the CPAS Office:
     - A. Supplementary Application
     - B. CASPA Profile with all references
   [Applications cannot be processed until all components reach our office. Applications that are completed after the application deadline (Nov. 1) will not be processed.]

2. Reviewers present applicant to Admissions Committee with recommendation:
   - Interview
     - Accepted by Admissions Committee
     - Declined
   - Table for later consideration
   - Applicant notified
   - Recommendation made to Graduate Studies Program
   - Declined
     - Applicant notified
   - Accepted
     - Applicant notified
     - Applicant places deposit to secure seat.

What were the qualifications of the typical student accepted for Class of 2021?

Undergraduate GPA: 3.72
Science GPA: 3.71
GRE: starting in 2020 we are no longer requiring the GRE for admission
Health care experience: 3,275 hours

How do Albany Medical College graduates perform on Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE)?

“Official NCCPA Pass Rate Summary Report” linked from the Program overview page or:
http://www.amc.edu/academic/PhysicianAssistant/upload/NCCPA-Report.pdf

Do you require minimum GPA’s?

No. Applications are reviewed for evidence to perform well in an academically rigorous environment.

Does the Center award advance standing or transfer credit for study at other institutions?

The Center does not. All students complete all required courses at Albany Medical College.

Is there a part-time track?

No. All students attend full-time for the 28 months.

Is it possible to work while attending the Program?

No. This is strongly discouraged due to the rigorous nature of the program.
Do you accept non-citizen applicants?
No. However, we do accept applications from US permanent residents with a valid permanent resident card (green card). By definition, if you have any type of visa other than a Permanent Resident status, then you are not eligible for admission. If you are currently applying for U.S. citizenship, but it has not yet been granted, you are not considered a U.S. citizen. If you are currently applying for an Alien Registration Receipt Card, but it has yet not been granted, you are not considered a Permanent Resident.

Do you accept AP credits?
We accept AP credits, for corresponding prerequisites only, provided they appear on a college transcript.

Can I apply even though I am still taking a course?
Yes, you can apply with courses pending. All coursework must be completed before matriculation.

When do I have to have the 1,000 hours of healthcare experience completed?
Your hours must be complete by our deadline of November 1st. If you are currently working, we will review your application based on the predicted hours at matriculation.

Meeting our Goals:
Graduates of AMC’s Center for Physician Assistant Studies can expect to have met the Center’s goals, which are:
- to graduate competent Physician Assistants
- prepared to practice in underserved, rural and culturally diverse settings
- to be equipped to engage in the scholarly activities of the profession.

As an AMC graduate you can expect to be employed as a physician assistant immediately upon completing certification and licensing. The Physician Assistant profession is one of the fastest growing in the country and demand for AMC graduates far exceeds the supply. However, as an AMC graduate, you can expect to be not merely employable, but to be competent. In surveys for the last 5 years, 96% of employer’s responses rated AMC graduates adequately or better prepared.

Second, as an AMC student you will have been prepared and encouraged to choose to practice with patients in underserved, rural, and culturally diverse settings. Every graduate will have had the opportunity to learn skills for working in these settings and upon graduation will have completed at least two clinical rotations with these patients.

Finally, you will be a life-long learner, equipped by training and practice to assess the medical literature and apply new knowledge, as it is discovered, in caring for your patients. As an AMC student, you will have successfully achieved this goal through preparing and presenting a publication-quality poster as a graduation requirement.