



**SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES AND ADMISSIONS OFFICE
Combined Bachelor/Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Major
Selective Admission Criteria**

Please note: This Selective Admission Criteria refers to Fall 2020 only. For Fall 2021 Admission, please refer to the [Fall 2021 Selective Admission Criteria document](#).

To be considered for selection into this major, all applicants must have gained admission to the College, completed placement requirements, and met the admission standards and essential functions established by the Combined BS/MS in Physician Assistant Studies major.

High School Student - Conditional Seat (Effective beginning with Fall 2020 admission)

Up to 10 conditional seats will be offered to high school applicants desiring entrance into the five-year Combined BS/MS in Physician Assistant Studies major who:

1. Gain admission to the College and complete placement requirements. Placement is determined through placement testing, transfer courses, qualifying SAT or ACT scores, or any combination of the three. (See <https://www.pct.edu/admissions/admission-to-penn-college/meet-placement-requirements> for details.)
2. Place non-developmental for math, reading, and English
3. Document 40 hours of health care exposure hours, including eight with a practicing certified Physician Assistant (PA-C), via the electronic logging system. (See <https://secure.pct.edu/pattracking/login.aspx> for details.)
4. Successfully complete the following high school courses with a “B” or higher:
 - a. Three math courses which include advanced algebra/algebra II
 - b. Three science courses which include at least one biology with a lab and one chemistry with a lab
5. Earn an SAT total score of 1200 or higher or ACT composite score of 25 or higher
6. Have an unweighted cumulative high school GPA of 3.5 or higher
7. Achieve a CASPer Exam z-score greater than -1 (minus one)

In cases where there are more qualified high school conditional seat applicants than available seats, entrance into the major will be determined by ranking applicants for selection first by SAT/ACT, then by unweighted cumulative high school GPA, and lastly by CASPer Exam z-score. In cases where there is a tie, applicants with the highest criteria in the order listed will be offered acceptance. Students who do not receive a conditional seat will be placed in the pre-Combined BS/MS in Physician Assistant Studies major.

Those who receive conditional seats as high school students are accepted as a cohort for a specific year. These students must progress academically with their cohort and maintain both a Penn College graduation GPA and science grade calculation of 3.6. Additionally, a total of 316 health care exposure hours, 16 of which must be spent shadowing a practicing certified Physician Assistant (PA-C), must be completed and logged into the Penn College electronic logging system by **March 1st** of the **6th semester of the major**. Student progress, including cumulative graduation GPA and the cumulative science grade calculation, is reviewed at the completion of each semester. A student who fails to meet these conditions will relinquish his/her conditional seat and be placed into the pre-Combined BS/MS in Physician Assistant Studies major and will be subject to the pre-Combined BS/MS in Physician Assistant Studies Selective Admission Criteria for entry into the professional phase of the major.

Other Related Information for High School Students

CASPer Exam

A student can register for the CASPer exam through the following website: <https://takecasper.com>. Students may only take the CASPer exam **one time** in the open application cycle. The student is responsible for the cost of this exam. Current fees are posted on the CASPer website.

High School Student Definition

For the purposes of conditional seat consideration, a student is classified as a high school student if his/her graduation date is within two years of the starting semester and he/she has not enrolled in any college course work after graduation, excluding the summer following high school graduation if enrollment at Penn College is the first immediate fall. For example, a student applying directly to the Combined BS/MS in Physician Assistant Studies major for Fall 2020 will be classified as a high school student if his/her graduation date falls between August 2018 and August 2020, and the preceding conditions around college course work are met.

Pre-PA, Transfer, Current, & Re-enroll Students (Effective only for selection into the major for Fall 2020.)

To be considered for selection, all other applicants (pre-PA students, change of major students, and transfer students) must meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. All course work in the first three years of the curriculum completed or satisfied through accepted course transfer.
- b. A combined math and science grade average of 3.0 or higher in all math and science prerequisite courses (BIO 115, BIO 125, BIO 108, BIO 201, CHM 111, CHM 210, and 2 MTH classes 160 or higher).
- c. A grade of “C” or above in all prerequisite math and science courses as well as ENL 111, ENL 121 (or ENL 201), CSC 124, and PSY 111.
- d. Documentation of 300 health care exposure hours, including a minimum of 16 hours with a practicing PA, approved via the electronic logging system.

This major has limited seating capacity of 30 students per cohort. Entrance into the major will be determined through a selective ranking process to determine the top candidates for admission based on the Admission Ranking System detailed below.

Admission Ranking System

1. **DEGREES/CREDITS (Approximately 6%)** — used to determine the point value of degrees/credits based on an expected midpoint average of 2.5 points. Higher or lower midpoints may increase or decrease this calculation accordingly. Points are awarded on the following scale:

DEGREE/CREDITS	POINTS
Doctorate	5
Master’s degree	4
Bachelor’s degree	3
62 academic credits or more	2

2. **MATH AND SCIENCE CALCULATION (Approximately 71%)**—based on an expected math-science grade average of 3.5. Higher or lower final course grades may increase or decrease the math-science calculation accordingly. The following must be noted:
 - Only grades of “C” or higher will be used to calculate the math-science grade average.

- Students are required to take two math courses at or above the MTH 160 (Elementary Statistics with Computer Applications) level. If more than two courses were completed, the highest two grades will be used for ranking purposes.
- Math and science courses included in this calculation include:

BIO 115	Anatomy and Physiology I
BIO 125	Anatomy and Physiology II
BIO 108	Principles of Biology I
BIO 201	Microbiology
CHM 111	General Chemistry I
CHM 210	Organic Chemistry I
Two MTH Courses	MTH 160 and higher

3. OTHER COURSE CALCULATION (Approximately 23%) – based on an expected grade average of 3.0. Higher or lower final course grades may increase or decrease this calculation accordingly. The following must be noted:

- Only courses completed with grades of “C” or higher will be used in the calculation.
- If ENL 121 and ENL 201 are taken, the higher grade will be used for ranking purposes.
- Courses included in this calculation include:

ENL 111	English Composition I
ENL 121	English Composition II
or	or
ENL 201	Technical & Professional Communication
PSY 111	General Psychology
CSC 124	Information, Technology, and Society

Selection Dates & Application Deadline

High School - Conditional Seat – All selection requirements must be completed and received by **March 1** for consideration for the **August cohort start** for semester one of the five-year major.

Pre-PA, Transfer, Current, & Re-Enroll Students – All selection requirements must be completed and received at the College by **June 1** for consideration for the **August cohort start** for the professional phase (years four and five of the major).

International Students

Additional English language proficiency requirements must be met to be considered for selection:

1. TOEFL iBT®: minimum Total score of 100 (0-120) AND minimum Speaking score of 22 (0-30); or
2. IELTS: minimum composite score of 7.0 (0-9)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The total number of seats available for selection each year will not exceed 30.
2. Only the **specific** courses listed in ranking areas 2 and 3 above will be used in the Combined Bachelor/Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Admissions Ranking System.
3. Selection decisions are based on academic grade calculations and objective performance criteria. A student may appeal a selection decision. The student must submit a written summary of circumstances to the Dean of the School of Nursing & Health Sciences no later than five business days following the student's receipt of written notification of non-selection into the major. To be considered, appeals must be typed, signed, dated, and include a current mailing address. A Selection Appeal Committee will be convened to review the appeal. The student will receive a written notification of the decision within five business days following the dean's receipt of the formal appeal. Decisions by the Appeal Committee are final with no further appeal.
4. Typically, any changes to these admission requirements are made prior to the student's enrollment at Penn College; however, in special circumstances, such as an observed change in program outcomes, the College President may approve more immediate changes to ensure student success. In such cases, students will receive timely written notice of the change.