

**ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF COSTS

These calculations are current estimates, but are subject to change. Aside from tuition costs, these figures focus mainly on the professional phase of the program, since these are the typical years of additional general expenses.

TUITION:

As of August, 2025, full time undergraduate tuition per semester = \$30,387

<https://www.rit.edu/sfs/undergraduate-students>

Tuition costs beyond 2025-26 academic year are subject to change.

Pre-Professional YEAR (1 & 2) tuition

Fall Semester, full time \$30,387

Spring Semester, full time \$30,387

Total Tuition \$60,774

HOUSING EXPENSES - Costs vary according to the needs of individual students. Suitable living on-campus (dorms, apartments, etc.) are generally available for average housing fees. Please refer to the RIT Undergraduate Bulletin and online at <http://www.rit.edu> for more information. In the fifth year of the program, students complete ten clinical rotations which require, from time to time, that the student be away from the Rochester area. Sometimes these clinical sites are within driving distance, but other times, the student will need to stay near the clinical site for the 5 weeks of the rotation. As a result, there may be slightly elevated housing costs during this fifth year. The PA program assists the student in finding suitable housing during this clinical year, but ultimately the responsibility for housing, travel, and food, is that of the student. Students are not reimbursed during their time on clinical rotations. Fifth year students are considered full time during this clinical training year and are responsible for tuition costs.

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING - In the professional phase of the program (years 3, 4, 5), students can expect to be off campus a portion of the time. The student is responsible for transportation during these years. Because of this, a car is recommended in the start of the third year, and certainly during the fifth year. Parking fees may be incurred as students park on campus and begin clinical training in hospitals. Car-pooling is recommended, when applicable.

TUITION & TEXTBOOKS - In the professional phase of the PA Program (third, fourth, fifth years), the coursework and clinical experiences are exclusively medical in nature. Additional textbooks are required in various areas of didactic and clinical instruction. These additional books and reference materials typically run around \$2,000.00, but vary from student to student.

EQUIPMENT - Each student is required to purchase a stethoscope for the start of the professional phase (year 3) of the program. The student is expected to bring his/her stethoscope to classes in good working order. The PA program works with various medical suppliers to ensure that equipment costs to

the third year students will be the lowest possible, while ensuring their quality. **If buying new equipment, it would be wise to wait until this time to purchase the equipment. If you have equipment that you have already purchased or received, please bring it to orientation to make sure that it meets the program standards and is in working order.** This will be a one-time only cost, and will be used for many years to come.

Stethoscope- Littman stethoscopes are of excellent quality; however, in a budget “crunch”, Sprague, Spectrum, and Tyco stethoscopes are entirely acceptable. The current price range for Littman stethoscopes via our vendor (McKesson) is \$100-\$300, which is an excellent price point. Please note, if your Littman stethoscope is purchased via our vendor (McKesson), there is warranty that will cover your stethoscope for the duration of your time at RIT! Coverage would include if your device is lost, stolen or broken.

The following equipment is OPTIONAL, and will be available to purchase via our vendors: **Blood Pressure Cuff-** Manual Cuff only (no digital), \$199; **Ophtho/otoscope-** This is an investment for the future, \$665-\$1,050. Welch- Allen has been the state of the art equipment. Buy a standard size kit with an insufflator and (pediatric) bulb; **Tuning forks-** 128Hz and 512Hz, \$16-\$19; **Reflex Hammer,** \$3,25. **Tape measure,** \$2.50.

Additional items to consider (NOT through our vendor) - Rubber gloves, pocket Snellen eye chart, cotton balls, safety pins, lubricant, tongue blades (may be provided).

Lab coat - required prior to the start of your 4th year: White lab coat (MUST be short jacket length) are available at any uniform store. **\$30-\$60 depending on brand/where you purchase. We recommend Scrubs & Beyond, which is located near RIT campus: 100 Marketplace Drive, #330, Rochester, NY 14623. Here are a couple of recommendations:**

- <https://www.scrubsandbeyond.com/wonderlab-womens-29-inch-consultation-lab-coats.html>
- <https://www.scrubsandbeyond.com/wonderlab-mens-31-inch-consultation-lab-coats.html>
- <https://www.scrubsandbeyond.com/meta-womens-28-consultation-lab-coats.html>

Also suggested, not required: **Equipment bag-** students have been creative in ways of transporting equipment. Traditional medical bags are available however, camera cases, small backpacks, etc. may also be used.

PA CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE RATING & ASSESSMENT TOOL (PACKRAT) EXAM

A written competency examination will be given to students in the fourth year of the Program. The Physician Assistant Clinical Knowledge Rating and Assessment Tool (PACKRAT) is a nationally recognized competency examination for PA students. This standardized examination provides excellent feedback to students and faculty regarding comprehensive knowledge bases and problem-solving abilities of the students. The content and approach has been created to simulate the computer-based Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE). Many students have found this to be excellent preparation for clinical rotations and the PANCE. The cost to each student is currently \$45.00/exam.

END OF ROTATION EXAMS

A written exam will be given to students at the completion of each core rotation. The End of Rotation Exam™ is a computerized, standardized exam assessing medical knowledge of the student. The cost is currently \$35 per exam.

END OF CURRICULUM EXAM

All PA students must demonstrate that each has the knowledge, professionalism, interpersonal and patient care skills required for entry into the PA profession. This evaluation, facilitated by program faculty, will be done within four months prior to graduation from the program. This summative evaluation will comprise assessments in the following patient care areas: clinical and technical skills, clinical reasoning and problem-solving abilities, interpersonal skills, medical knowledge and professional behaviors. In addition, an evaluation of medical knowledge will be completed by each student as part of the Summative Evaluation. The Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) End of Curriculum™ exam is a computerized, standardized exam. The cost to each student is currently \$99.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS - In accordance with various state laws and regulations, most of our clinical affiliates require PA students to undergo a criminal background check prior to beginning a clinical rotation. A PA student may not be allowed to participate in a clinical rotation (s), by the clinical affiliates, based on the results of a criminal background check. As a PA professional advances in his/her healthcare career, s/he can expect regular criminal background checks and credential verification as part of the participation, hiring, and employment process. The RIT PA Program requires that all PA students have an initial criminal background check prior to entering the professional phase of the program (year 3) and once again prior to the start of clinical rotations (end of year 4). The cost to each student for these screenings is approximately \$136.00 plus a service fee of \$2.99.

DRUG TESTING - In accordance with various state laws and regulations, some clinical affiliates may require PA students to undergo drug testing prior to beginning a clinical rotation. These additional authorizations and their associated fees must be completed by the student at the students' expense. A PA student may not be allowed to participate in a clinical rotation(s), by the clinical affiliates, based on the results of this drug testing. As a PA professional advances in his/her healthcare career, s/he can expect regular, random drug testing, and credential verification as part of the participation, hiring, and employment process.

BASIC AND ADVANCED CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS)/(ACLS) CERTIFICATION

Students are required to have current CPR /ACLS certification prior to the start of clinical rotations in the fifth year. This training is arranged through the PA Program in conjunction with the American Heart Association and hospital affiliates. The cost for this certification is \$235. This cost of these courses are subject to change annually per vendor pricing.

CLINICAL AFFILIATE REGISTRATION/SUBSCRIPTION

Beginning May 2021, each senior student on clinical rotations will be required to pay ~ \$60 as a registration/subscription fee for the administrative services rendered by the clinical affiliate. This fee will cover the ten clinical rotations required.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS & IMMUNIZATIONS - A history and physical examination (including various blood work, titers, TB testing, and current immunizations) are required prior to the start of clinical rotations. TB testing is also required prior to the start of the third year. Students must arrange for these examinations several months in advance of the start of clinical rotations. Costs may range from \$300.00 – \$600.00 depending on insurance coverage and what each student may need. Although the PA program cannot mandate that each student obtain the Hepatitis B vaccine, however it is **very strongly recommended** prior to the start of the third year. Lack of this vaccination may preclude students from most clinical training sites. Students may obtain this three injection vaccination series at the RIT Student Health Center or through private medical coverage. Costs may vary dependent upon health insurance coverage.

FIT TESTING - Prior to the start of clinical rotations students are required to undergo FIT testing which tests the actual size and provider's ability to use a respirator mask device that protects healthcare workers from inhaling harmful substances. The FIT testing will cost approximately \$60.00 and students in some clinical disciplines will need to purchase personal I-95 protective masks for a nominal cost prior to beginning clinical rotations.

OPTIONAL COSTS - Student memberships to the following professional organizations:

Rochester Regional PA Association (RRPAA):

\$10.00 annually

New York State Society of PAs (NYSSPA):

\$75.00 for a 3-year membership

American Academy of PAs: (AAPA):

\$75.00 valid for the duration of your student enrollment