

## **Program Policies of Interest to Prospective Students**

**A3.08: Solicitation of clinical sites:** In the fifth year of the program, students complete ten clinical rotations, which may require that the student be away from the Rochester area. Sometimes these clinical sites are within driving distance, but at other times, the student will need to reside near the clinical site for the 5 weeks of the rotation. Students are not required to provide or solicit clinical sites or preceptors. The PA program coordinates and assigns all clinical sites and preceptors for all clinical rotations. All rotation assignments are solely at the discretion of the PA program and are subject to change without prior notice as required.

**A3.09a: Immunization and health requirements:** Prior to the start of your Hospital Practice course in the fall of your fourth year **and again** prior to clinical rotations beginning in May of the fifth year, the list of requirements and immunizations below must be completed by the student. These policies are based on New York State Department of Health recommendations, current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for health professionals and requirements of our health care affiliates. No student will be permitted to enter any health care setting without the health status update in place and compliance with any hospital/clinical policy mandates. Immunizations, titers and tuberculosis screening results are maintained and released with written permission of the student. 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 fourth year. Students must arrange for these examinations several months in advance of the deadline. Costs vary based on insurance; students are responsible for all health requirement costs.

Although the PA program cannot mandate each student obtain valuable vaccinations for admittance to the program, including COVID, flu, Hepatitis B, it is strongly recommended. **Lack of these vaccinations may preclude students from most clinical training sites, which may prevent program completion.** Costs of vaccinations vary depending upon health insurance coverage.

Students MUST provide documentation for the following immunizations and/or titers:

- Tuberculin Skin Test (PPD) or Serologic Test for Tuberculosis either T-SPOT or QuantiFERON-TB Gold). \*If positive, please provide documentation of CXR or completion of treatment.
- Tdap immunization (1 dose initially and then Tdap or Td every 10 years)
- Varicella (Chickenpox) Immunity (immunization dates **or** titer result) – must have received two doses given at least 28 days apart, show laboratory evidence of immunity, laboratory confirmation of disease, or diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella or herpes zoster (shingles) by a healthcare provider.
- MMR - must have received two doses on or after the first birthday. Titers are not required if can document two doses)
- Hepatitis B vaccine 3-dose series of hepatitis B vaccine at 0, 1, and 6-month intervals. HCP should be tested for hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) to document immunity 1 to 2 months after receiving dose #3.

- Post-vaccination Serologic Testing
  - § • If the level of anti-HBs is at least 10 mIU/mL (positive) after 3 immunizations, the HCP is immune. No further serologic testing or vaccination is recommended. • If the level of anti-HBs is less than 10 mIU/mL (negative) after 3 immunizations, the HCP is considered unprotected against hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. The recommendation is to revaccinate with another 3-dose series. Retest anti-HBs levels 1 to 2 months after the last dose (usually 6 doses total).
  - If anti-HBs is positive, the patient is immune. No further testing or vaccination is recommended.
  - If anti-HBs is negative following 6 doses of vaccine, the patient is a non-responder.
- Seasonal Influenza: Most clinical affiliates require students to have the influenza vaccine during the winter months. It is strongly suggested for all students, regardless of site requirement, that you consider this protective immunization. Students who cannot provide proof of vaccination may be required to wear a mask during flu season for all encounters at the site.
- COVID-19: Not currently required, consistent with current CDC guidelines (some sites may require specific documentation regarding COVID-19 vaccination status and require vaccination).

Retain copies of all the above documentation to be presented at each rotation.

All the above tasks must be completed and paperwork received by the PA program staff assistant by the designated required dates. It is the responsibility of the student to complete these requirements on time. Failure to adhere to the deadlines may cause delays in the start of the student's Hospital Practice course and/or clinical rotations. Students will not be permitted to embark on rotations without all completed requirements.

In accordance with New York State regulations, PA students are required to have a medical provider complete and sign the Certificate of Health Statement before the start of clinical rotations, certifying that they do **not have any physical or mental conditions, or substance dependencies, that could interfere with their ability to safely and effectively perform program duties or pose a risk to themselves or others.** These documents are maintained and released with written permission of the student. (A3.09a)

**A3.09b: International curricular components:** Currently, the professional phase of the RIT PA program does not offer international curricular components.

**A3.11a: Program Accreditation Status:** The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Rochester Institute of Technology Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Rochester Institute of Technology. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards. Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be

September 2027. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website, [www.arc-pa.org/Accreditation-History-Rochester-Inst-of-Tech](http://www.arc-pa.org/Accreditation-History-Rochester-Inst-of-Tech).

**A3.11b: Effectiveness in meeting program goals:** [Measures of Success updated 1-10-2024.pdf](#)

**A3.11c: Current PANCE Exam Performance Summary Report:** [Program PassRateReport](#)

**A3.11d,e: Required Curricular Components and delivery method:** PA Curriculum 2026-2027.pdf

**A3.11f: Summary of Cost:**

Years 1-5: [Summary of Costs PA Program 26-27.pdf](#)

Years 3-5: [Summary of Costs Professional Phase 26-27 .pdf](#)

**A3.11g: Program-defined competencies for entry-level practice:** [PA Program Competencies.pdf](#)

**A3.11h: Distant campus resources:** N/A to the RIT PA Program

A3.11i: Current annual student graduation rate: [Microsoft Word - Graduation-Rate-Template-Single-Campus-Sept2025-1](#)

### **A3.12a-b, A3.13: Admissions and Enrollment**

#### First Year Admission

First-year applicants are expected to demonstrate a strong academic background that includes the following, or the equivalent:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of social studies and/or history
- 3 years of math is **required** and must include algebra, geometry, and algebra 2/trigonometry. Pre-calculus and/or statistics is **preferred**.
- 2-3 years of science. Biology and chemistry are **required**.

#### Additional Admission Information

- GPA Requirements: Prospective applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) to be considered for admission. Preference is given to students with a GPA of 3.5 and above. Once a student is enrolled in the program they must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 each year to progress from the pre-professional phase to the professional phase.
- Personal Interview: Personal interviews are by invitation only and play a critical role in applicant ranking and selection. If invited for a personal interview, applicants must submit a supplemental data packet and application.

Careful attention is given to ranking and the personal interview for both first-year and transfer applicants.

### Transfer Admission

We welcome transfer applications for spaces available in the second and third years of the physician assistant program. Transfer applications are thoroughly reviewed on a case-by-case basis by program faculty, who ultimately make a determination on which year the applicant is eligible to transfer into. Applicants should meet these minimum degree-specific requirements, but transfer applicants are strongly encouraged to talk with an admission counselor or the program chair to discuss specific requirements for entry into the program based on the year the applicant is interested in transferring into.

- A minimum of college algebra is required. Pre-calculus or calculus is preferred.
- Biology and chemistry are required.
- Anatomy and physiology are required and must be taken within the last 5 years prior to matriculation.

Qualified transfer students are accepted into the PA program ONLY on a space available basis. Transfer admission is highly competitive.

- Prior health care experience and/or shadowing are strongly recommended.
- Transcript evaluations and rendering of transfer credit are addressed at the time of admission only.
- For eligibility to transfer into the professional phase of the program (year 3), anatomy and physiology courses must be taken within the last five years prior to matriculation.
- All pre-professional course work must be completed to be considered for entry into the professional phase of the major. Please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for information on [transfer requirements](#).

### A2.12c: Advanced Placement

The following restrictions apply to applicants seeking to apply with AP credits:

- AP credit for general education courses, calculus, statistics, and university electives is evaluated and approved by academic advisors.
- AP credit is not accepted for biology or chemistry as course substitutions.
- AP credit and prior experiential learning credits are not awarded in the professional phase of the major.

### A3.12d: Work Experience

#### Health Care Experience

- **Patient Care Experience:** While health care experience is not a requirement for admission, preference is given to applicants who have accrued more than 40 hours of patient care experience. Program faculty highly recommend that candidates volunteer in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice centers, and/or health care facilities.
- **Shadowing Experience:** Shadowing health care professionals (physician assistants, medical doctors, etc.) in clinical arenas is highly recommended as a means of observing the role of physician assistants and other members of the health care team.

### A3.12e: Required technical standards for enrollment

Students in the physician assistant program must possess certain capabilities and skills, with or without reasonable accommodation. These include the intellectual ability to learn, integrate,

analyze, and synthesize data. They must have a functional use, with or without accommodation, of the senses of vision, hearing, and equilibrium. Learn more about the [technical standards](#) required of a successful physician assistant major.