

Frostburg State University
Bachelor's to Master of Medical Science in Physician
Assistant Studies Pathway

OVERVIEW:

Frostburg State University undergraduate program has established an agreement with the Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant Studies program as a partnership in providing a pathway to graduate admission. Only full-time, enrolled undergraduate FSU students who are currently pursuing a baccalaureate degree from FSU are eligible to be considered for a set number of reserved seats.

Introduction/Executive Summary

This articulation agreement between Frostburg State University's Bachelor of Science in Health Science program and the Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies program establishes a structured pathway for undergraduate students at Frostburg State University (FSU) to transition into the graduate Physician Assistant Studies program. The purpose of this agreement is to streamline the admission process for eligible FSU undergraduate students, providing them with a clear and advantageous route to pursue advanced studies and professional training to become a Physician Assistant within the same university.

The key benefits of this agreement include reserved seats for qualifying FSU undergraduates, priority admission consideration, and the opportunity for these students to contribute to the healthcare needs of rural and medically underserved areas, particularly in western Maryland. This initiative aligns with FSU's commitment to preparing highly skilled healthcare professionals ready to serve communities with the greatest need.

Parties involved in this agreement are the FSU Health Science Program and the FSU Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant Studies Program. Each program has designated coordinators responsible for implementing the agreement's terms, ensuring a seamless and efficient process for student transition from undergraduate to graduate studies.

This agreement reflects FSU's dedication to fostering educational advancement opportunities for its students while addressing the critical demand for healthcare professionals equipped to serve in rural and medically underserved areas.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For admission into FSU's Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant Studies program,

candidates must complete the following requirements:

1. Apply through the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA).

- The admission cycle opens by April 30 each year. The priority application deadline for FSU Health Science students is **June 25**. Students should apply by that day for full consideration. The deadline for other students to have their CASPA application received and verified is November 1.
- A complete application includes three letters of recommendation (one required from a Physician Assistant, one from the Health Professions Advisory Committee, and another from a supervisor), health care experience information, PA shadowing experience for a minimum of eight (8) hours, short essay, personal statement, test scores and all official transcripts confirming science prerequisite courses have been completed and graded by the time of application. Please note that only one non-science required prerequisite can be outstanding at the time of application. FSU will accept no additional transcripts after the application submission for science prerequisites or repeated courses.
- Obtain a score of acceptable or above in an interview with the PA program faculty.

2. Academic Requirements:

- A Bachelor of Science or Arts degree in Health Science or any other major, or to be earned by the end of the student's semester in which they are currently enrolled at Frostburg State University.
- All science prerequisites must be completed with a grade of C or better at the time of application. All prerequisite courses must be taken within the previous 10 years, with the exception of Anatomy and Physiology which must be taken within the last five years. Applicants who have remained clinically active in the health care arena or content specific field may request consideration of waiver of the time limitation.
 - Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab (8 credits) – must be completed within five years of application unless waiver eligible.
 - Microbiology (3-4 credits) – must be completed within five years of application unless waiver eligible.
 - Medical Terminology (1-3 credits) – Must be a graded course. P/F grade will not be accepted.
 - Chemistry with lab (4 credits) – may be completed as AP courses in high school with a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam. Also, blended General Chemistry courses will be

considered depending on course description.

- Biochemistry with lab (4 credits) or Organic Chemistry with lab (4 credits) – Biochemistry preferred. This should be an upper level course.
- Abnormal Psychology or Developmental Psychology (3 credits)
- Statistics – may be completed as AP courses in high school with a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam.
- Recommended but not required – Genetics, Physics
- A minimum 3.0 cumulative undergraduate grade point average at the time of application and before matriculation into the program, as calculated by CASPA. If a student has transfer credits, those will be included in the calculation of an overall GPA. All repeated course grades are also counted in the CASPA GPA calculation.
- Prerequisite GPAs are considered as a part of the admissions process, with higher GPAs preferred.
- Candidates may have only one non-science prerequisite outstanding at the time of application, and this grade must be submitted before final admission. Therefore, students are encouraged to complete all prerequisites by the end of the summer prior to the year of matriculation.

PRIORITY ADMISSION POLICY

In accordance with our mission to prepare physician assistants to live and work in rural and medically underserved areas, particularly those in western Maryland, the FSU Physician Assistant program provides preference to:

1. Higher pre-requisite GPAs above the minimum 3.0
2. Direct patient care experience requiring advanced training, certification, and/or licensure
3. Leadership and volunteer work for greater than 1 year
4. Permanent address in medically underserved areas (MUA), health professions shortage area (HPSA), or rural location
5. Resident of the state of Maryland at the time of application
6. Graduation from a regional institution (within 120 miles of the Frostburg, MD campus.)
7. Alignment with the program's mission statement to serve rural and underserved patient populations in the primary care setting
8. Military service (veterans must have an honorable or entry-level discharge)
9. Frostburg State University alumnus
10. 4 county resident in Maryland (Washington, Garrett, Frederick, Allegany)
11. Advanced language proficiency as reported in CASPA for more than one language, including American Sign Language
12. Application to the FSU Bachelor's to Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies Pathway

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

A maximum of five FSU undergraduate students who meet admission criteria and complete the interview will be rank-ordered and admitted into FSU's Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant Studies program each year. If more than five students apply, the PA program will consider all application materials before students enter the regular applicant pool. Admission into the PA program is decided by the PA Admissions Committee. Final decisions are based on consideration of all application materials, along with the admissions interview evaluation. Applicants from the Bachelor's to Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies Pathway will be notified by the FSU PA Program.

Provisional admission is offered to those students completing their bachelor's degree and final prerequisite courses prior to program entry/matriculation. These students receive an admission letter from the Graduate Admissions Office listing which requirements need to be completed, along with other details.

This agreement does not negate the usual process of student evaluation or supersede final decisions on admissions. After successful completion of the PA program, Frostburg State University awards a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree. This agreement is intended to be a long-term arrangement and will be reviewed every three years by each party. Each party may continue or discontinue this agreement on a yearly basis with notice. The FSU Physician Assistant program requires a one-year notice for changes in prerequisites to provide adequate protection for students in a pre-physician assistant course of study.

COLLABORATIVE RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSION

The Health Science Program Coordinator agrees to:

1. Recruit students to participate in the Physician Assistant program.
2. Screen and recommend qualified candidates for interview and possible admission to the Physician Assistant program through the priority admissions program.
3. Award the baccalaureate degree in Health Science to those participants who successfully meet all degree requirements.

The Physician Assistant Program agrees to:

1. Reserve five spots for FSU Health Science students who meet all admission requirements.
2. Grant early application review for FSU Health Science students, for priority

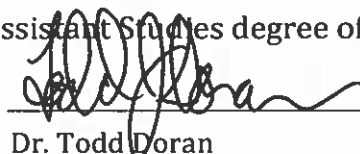
consideration for admission to the Master of Physician Assistant Medicine program.

3. Grant the Master of Physician Assistant Medicine degree to participants admitted through the priority admission process and who successfully complete the curriculum.

This agreement will be effective beginning with the Class of 2025. This agreement may be amended or terminated by either party one year following receipt of a written notice of intent to amend or terminate. This document constitutes the entire agreement between the programs.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

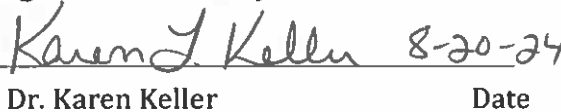
We, the undersigned, agree to the articulation of courses and requirements for the Frostburg State University Bachelor's degree and the Master of Medical Sciences in Physician Assistant Studies degree offered by Frostburg State University, as indicated on the attached.



Dr. Todd Doran
Chair & Program Director
Department of Physician Assistant Program
University
Frostburg State University

8/6/2024

Date



Dr. Karen Keller
Health Science Program Coordinator

Date

Frostburg State