

5-Year Physician Assistant Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is Valpo's 5-Year PA Program accredited?

Yes, the PA Program is accredited. Only the graduate MSPA portion of the 5-Year PA Program undergoes accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The undergraduate BSHS portion of the PA Program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission just like all undergraduate programs at Valparaiso University.

Does the College of Nursing and Health Professions offer direct admission for the 5-Year PA Program?

Yes, it does! As designed, this is a program in which students will come to Valparaiso University as a first semester freshman to complete a five-year curriculum and earn both a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

How competitive is Valpo's 5-Year PA Program in comparison with other schools?

Because of Valpo's very attractive and distinctive program structure, this program will be highly competitive in comparison with other schools.

Why Valpo?

Students admitted to Valparaiso University will have the opportunity to pursue a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and complete the degree in only 5 years, provided all progression and retention criteria are met.

Will transfer students be considered for admission into the program?

Yes. Only undergraduate students will be eligible for transfer into the BSHS portion of the 5-Year PA Program. No transfer students are accepted into the graduate MSPA portion of the program. See further details under the Program Admission section of the website.

What point in the program is specifically related to physician assistant studies?

Students will be admitted as an undergraduate Health Science major. However, the actual PA specific program does not begin until the professional/graduate phase during the last two years.

Is there financial aid available for this program?

Yes, financial aid is available for those who qualify. The 5-Year PA Program includes a slightly different package than most other programs. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid directly at 219.464.5015 or at finaid@valpo.edu for additional and specific information.

In what types of settings are PAs employed and in which areas?

Physician assistants treat millions of people in a variety of health care settings—from offices, clinics, and hospitals to nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and military health centers. Physician assistants work in all areas of medicine, including primary care and family medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, and psychiatry.

How much high school science and math are required?

All admitted students must have successfully completed four years of lab science: biology, chemistry, anatomy/physiology, and physics are recommended. In addition, students must have taken enough math to place into or higher than MATH 114, which is pre-calculus.