

Does Valpo's 5-Year PA Program accept AP credit?

Students who submit results of Advanced Placement examinations are eligible to receive credit for the undergraduate BSHS degree in accordance with the table published in the [General Catalog](#), "Advanced Placement Program" section. No Advanced Placement credit is given toward the graduate MSPA degree.

Are both the undergraduate and graduate degrees earned at the same time?

No. Upon successful completion of the pre-professional/undergraduate phase of the program, students will earn a Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS)—at the end of year three. The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPA) is earned after successful completion of the graduate phase—at the end of year five.

Will earning a bachelor's degree in three years require summer school?

Yes. The undergraduate portion is year-round for three years, including three summers. Required summer courses consist of elective courses and field experiences, both of which can be completed in the student's hometown.

How does a prospective student apply?

Prospective students can contact the Office of Undergraduate Admission at 219.464.5011, send an email to undergrad.admission@valpo.edu, or visit the Undergraduate Admission website at www.valpo.edu/admission/apply.

Does Valparaiso University participate in CASPA?

No, we do not participate in CASPA. Prospective students will apply to our program through the University's Office of Undergraduate Admission: www.valpo.edu/admission/apply.

Can the graduate phase be done as a part-time student? Are evening courses available?

The PA Program is completed only as a full-time, cohort program. Regularly scheduled classes occur only during daytime hours. The graduate phase begins in the fall, and students graduate two years later in August after successful completion of all academic requirements.

Can I work while attending the program?

The rigorous, intense nature of the accelerated curriculum requires students to remain extremely focused and dedicated to their studies. In addition, the time demands of the class schedule may require occasional attendance on evenings or weekends. Most classes during the professional/graduate phase are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday through Friday). During rotations, hours are variable depending upon the clinical rotation assignment. As such, it is highly recommended that students limit outside distractions.

Tell me more about the clinical rotations.

Students in the MSPA program at Valparaiso University complete their clinical rotations in a variety of settings, including inpatient facilities, outpatient facilities, long-term care, and office settings. Rotations may occur at large teaching institutions or small, rural facilities under the supervision of experienced clinicians. Many clinical sites are located throughout Northwest Indiana while others may be located in the Chicago and South Bend areas. Students complete nine rotations (each of which are five weeks in duration). Required specialties include emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, surgery, pediatrics, and psychiatry/behavioral medicine. Students select two elective rotations in order to gain additional experience in a specialty of interest. Some examples of elective rotations include cardiovascular surgery, orthopedics, dermatology, and research.