

Bethel Physician Assistant Program

Mission Statement

The mission of Bethel University Physician Assistant Program is to create opportunities for members of the learning community to become exceptional and compassionate health care professionals, who will practice medicine within an ethical framework of Christian principles.

Bethel University Accreditation Status

Bethel University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Associate, Baccalaureate, and Master degrees. Please contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30333-4097 or call 404-679- 4500 for questions about the accreditation of Bethel University.

<https://www.bethelu.edu/academics/academic-services/registrars/accreditation>

PA Program Accreditation Status

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued status to the Bethel University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Bethel University**. Accreditation-Continued, is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is compliant with the ARC-PA Standards. Accreditation remains in effect until the PA Program closes, withdraws from the accreditation process, or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the ARC-PA Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be **March 2024**. 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 at <http://www.arc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Accreditation-History-Bethel-TN-35.pdf>.

Graduation from an accredited PA Program is the **only** way to be eligible to sit for the National Certifying Exam (PANCE). For more information regarding the implications of accreditation, please visit: <http://www.arc-pa.org/>, or contact ARC-PA at 12000 Findley Road, Suite 150, Johns Creek, GA 30097, and (770) 476-1224.

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) Degree

The Bethel University Physician Assistant Program will confer a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies upon completion of the 27-month educational program. Bethel's PA Program consists of 12 months of didactic education and 15 months of clinical experiences.

PANCE Pass Rate:

Our recent graduating cohort, Class of 2020, has completed the PANCE exam. We are pleased to announce that the 49 students have achieved a 96% first-time PANCE pass rate. Bethel University PA Program has a 94% five-year pass rate.

Admission Information

The interview process begins as soon as verified applications are received from CASPA. Interviews will be offered to qualified applicants and student positions will be offered on a rolling admissions basis.

***Early application is strongly encouraged, as admission to Bethel University PA Program is very competitive*.**

Information about Bethel's PA Program can be found at <https://www.bethelu.edu/academics/colleges/college-of-health-sciences/physician-assistant-studies/pa-program-application-acceptance> and associated pages. Applicants can find this Information Packet, Supplemental Application, and various other forms on our website.

Statistically, the ideal PA Applicant has achieved a 3.4 overall GPA, 304/3.8 GRE scores, completed 250+ hours of Health Care Experience, has 100 Shadowing Hours, 25+ Volunteer/Community Service Hours, and 80 Science Hours, before applying to Bethel's PA Program. These applicants have gone on to be very successful PA Students. Therefore, BUPAP encourages all applicants to have similar scores. Applicants, who have scores that deviate significantly from the average, will be considered on a case by case basis.

Application Requirements

- Verified CASPA application.
- Completed Supplemental Application received by the PA Program and \$75 fee received by Bethel University Business Office; copy of receipt is sent to the PA Program.
- A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university by September 1st, before matriculation in January.
- Official transcripts from all universities attended, need to be sent to CASPA for review and verification.
- **Three letters of recommendation:**
 - Two (2) of your letters of recommendation must be from a **PA, MD, DO, or NP.** *Letters from Pharmacists, Optometrists, Dentists, Physical Therapists, Athletic Trainers, Occupational Therapists, etc. are not acceptable.*
 - One (1) letter can be from a university professor or advisor. If you are unable to obtain a letter from someone within a college/university, you may submit a letter from your supervisor.

Letters of recommendation from family members are not accepted.

- Successful completion of the nine (9) prerequisite courses with a Grade "C" or higher (preferred) by September 1st, before matriculation in January.
- Students may apply before the completion of some prerequisite courses but should inform the university as to when and where the needed course(s) will be taken. Such candidates may gain conditional acceptance.
- Completion of GRE and results received by CASPA for review and verification.
- Completed a minimum of 25 hours of Community Service/Volunteering within the past 5 years.
- Completion of a minimum of 40 hours shadowing with a Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C), within the past 5 years.

If a candidate is unable to meet the 40-hour PA Shadowing requirement, due to COVID-19 restrictions in his or her local area, the number of submitted shadowing hours will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Required Prerequisite course work consists of the following classes:

- Two Semesters – General Biology (or equivalent)
- Two Semesters – General Chemistry (or equivalent)
- Two Semesters – Human Anatomy & Physiology
- One Semester – Microbiology or Bacteriology
- One Semester – Psychology
- One Semester – Human Genetics

Any class less than 3 credit hours will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

BUPAP does not generally accept pre-requisite grades for CLEP but will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all universities/colleges moved to an online format and offered their students the opportunity to receive “Pass/Fail” or “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” scores, instead of receiving the traditional letter grade. Bethel University Physician Assistant Program will accept these scores

Recommended Courses: Not Required for Admittance into Bethel's PA Program

- Biochemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Cell Biology
- Pharmacology
- Immunology
- Introductory Statistics or Critical Thinking

International Students:

Applicants, who received their Baccalaureate Degree(s) from colleges/universities outside of the United States, may also be considered for admission.

These applicants must:

- Have their transcripts verified and translated by an approved organization, such as World Education Services (WES).
- Complete at least 12-16 semester hours of additional Undergraduate or Graduate Study at an accredited U.S. college or university, prior to applying to the PA Program. **30 semester hours is preferred.**
- Non-native speakers of English: Achieved TOEFL IBT (internet-based testing) scores of at least 87 for non-native speakers of English with the minimum section requirements: Reading: 21, Speaking: 26, listening: 20, and Writing: 20. ***The TOEFL IBT must have been taken within two years of applying.***
- Must meet all other requirements.

PA-CAT EXAM

- Bethel University Physician Assistant Program is only **RECOMMENDING** that applicants take the PA-CAT Exam.
- Applicants need to please note that the scores he or she receives will neither increase nor decrease the chances of being offered a seat in Bethel's PA Program.
- If an applicant decides not to take the PA-CAT Exam, please note that this does not increase nor decrease the chances of being offered a seat in Bethel's PA Program.
- The PA-CAT is a specialized test designed to measure applicant knowledge in key prerequisite science subjects typically required for PA school.

PA-CAT Study materials provided by Exam Master include:

- 120 Question PA-CAT Practice Exam
- Eight 50-Question Subject Exams
- Candidate PA-CAT Study Guide
- Pre-Matriculation Success Program

PA-CAT Covered Subjects:

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- General Biology
- Biochemistry
- General and Organic Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Behavioral Sciences
- Genetics
- Statistics

For more information about the PA-CAT or to schedule the exam, please visit www.PA-CAT.com

• Please follow these steps to register/prepare for the PA-CAT Exam:

1. Go to www.PA-CAT.com to register, pay, and schedule exam.
 - Applicants, please make sure “Bethel PA Program,” is selected as the institution to receive the score report.
 - It is **highly recommended** that applicants take the PA-CAT in January, February, or March 2021. This allows BUPAP to receive the score report around the end of April when CASPA opens.
2. Applicants may study for the PA-CAT with resources provided at www.PA-CAT.com

BUPAP Application Procedure

1. Complete a CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants) application at <https://caspa.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login> . For assistance with CASPA, please call (617) 612-2080 or go to https://help.liasonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center_Help_Center.
2. Selected applicants will be interviewed by the Admission Committee and evaluated to assess their acceptability into Bethel’s PA Program.
3. Candidates will be notified of the Admission Committee’s decision within one (1) week of the interview. Candidates will either be accepted, placed on the alternate list, or denied. **Admission Committee decisions are final.**
4. Candidates, who have been offered a seat in Bethel’s PA Program, must formally accept, or decline the offer, via email within two weeks of receiving the offer. Candidates, who accept the offer will then be expected to pay a \$1,000 deposit to reserve his or her seat, within two weeks of receiving the offer. **This deposit is applied towards the first semester of tuition and is NON-REFUNDABLE.**

General Information

Applicants may apply before the completion of some prerequisite courses but should inform Bethel PA Program, as to when and where the needed course(s) will be taken/completed. Such candidates may gain conditional acceptance. Successful completion of the nine prerequisite courses with a grade “C” or higher (preferred) by September 1st, before matriculation in January is required.

No prerequisites older than 5 years after Baccalaureate Graduation will be accepted, unless you have been employed full

time in the health care field with direct (hands on) patient care since completion of those prerequisites.

Bethel University PA Program does not offer advanced placement. There is no credit for experiential learning. No Physician Assistant credits from another institution may be transferred into the Didactic or Clinical years. BUPAP students must complete the **ENTIRE** program at Bethel University.

Articulation Agreements

BUPAP has a Guaranteed Interview Agreement (GIA)/Articulation Agreement with the following universities:

- Austin Peay State University (APSU) in Clarksville, TN
- Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) in Memphis, TN
- Bethel University (TN) in McKenzie, TN
- University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) in Martin, TN

GIA allows highly qualified students from these institutions to sit for an interview with BUPAP. **The interview is not a guarantee of selection for admission into the PA Program but will enable students, who have achieved outstanding academic success within their field of study, to be considered for admission. Students also must meet the Terms Conditions set forth in the Articulation Agreements.**

Terms and Conditions:

1. Students must complete the prerequisite coursework as listed on the website for admission to BUPAP.
2. Students must meet all minimum requirements, as listed in BUPAP's Information Packet & website.
3. Students must take the GRE.
4. Students must have earned the Baccalaureate Degree or are scheduled to be awarded their Baccalaureate Degree on or before September 1st of the year of application.
5. Students meeting the foregoing conditions, must apply online through CASPA, and once the application has been verified, the student will be granted an admissions interview for the next entering class.
6. The foregoing notwithstanding, this agreement provides no assurances of admission for any student applying under this agreement.
7. BUPAP reserves the sole right to approve courses comprising the applicable GIA prerequisite coursework.
8. BUPAP reserves the sole right to modify the grade point average or other entry criteria; however, the criteria in effect at the time of a student's application to BUPAP shall be applicable to that student.

GIA Eligibility and Process:

1. GIA students are required to apply for admission electronically through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at: <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
2. GIA students are required to meet all posted deadlines for application and submission of materials.
3. The College/University-Coordinator of Health Sciences Pre-Professional Programs or another designated individual shall notify BUPAP of applicants meeting the GIA criteria.
4. Students certified by the UTM Coordinator of Health Sciences Pre-Professional Programs, BHSU Chair of Biomedical

Sciences Department, or APSU Director of Pre-Professional Health, whose application has been verified by CASPA, will be contacted by BUPAP to schedule the interview following receipt of necessary documentation.

Acceptance into the Bethel University PA Program is contingent upon:

1. Completion of all application requirements.
2. Successful completion of all outstanding prerequisite coursework.
3. Attending a personal interview; *By invitation only.*
4. Receipt of acceptance email/letter and non-refundable seat acceptance deposit.
5. Proof of health insurance. *All students are required to maintain health insurance for the duration of the PA Program.*
6. Receipt of negative drug screen and background check, indicating no prior convictions that would result in failure to obtain medical licensure.
7. Completion of physical examination and immunizations, prior to matriculation.
8. No history of dismissal from another PA, Medical, or Nursing Program for academic or disciplinary reasons.

Readiness to Matriculate

The accelerated nature of the Graduate-level curriculum offered by Bethel University College of Health Sciences for students enrolled in the PA Program, requires that applicants seeking admission provide adequate evidence of their ability to undertake this advanced course of study.

When evaluating an applicant's readiness to matriculate in the PA Program, members of the Admissions Committee closely consider all available information, paying special attention to the following categories:

1. Academic achievement
2. Science and overall (Cumulative) grade point average
3. Scores received on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
4. Responses to questions contained in the application
5. Letters of recommendation
6. Community service experience
7. Interpersonal and communication skills
8. Compassion
9. Personal integrity
10. Motivation for a career in health care
11. Knowledge of the PA profession and its role in health care
12. Recommendations of faculty interviewers

Averages of Previous Class

The following information describes the recent averages for the PA Class of 2023, who matriculated in January 2021. Their averages will allow prospective applicants to realistically assess their application and the chances of admission.

Please note that these are AVERAGES. We evaluate each application on its own merit and Admission Committee decisions are final.

Class average for those matriculating in January 2021

- *Cumulative GPA = 3.43*
- *Science GPA = 3.29*
- *Healthcare Experience Hours = > 700*
- *Patient Care Experience Hours = > 2900*
- *Shadowing Hours = 200*
- *Science Hours = 88*
- *Community Service/Volunteer Hours = >500*
- *Age Range = 22 – 41*
- *GRE Scores = 304/3.9*

Health Care & Patient Care Experience:

Health Care (Health-Related) Experience is in-direct or no hands-on patient care. This includes jobs such as, Medical Scribes, Health Care Receptionists, Billing Specialists, etc. *Patient Care Experience* is direct or hands-on patient care. This includes jobs such as EMTs, Paramedics, Nurses, Medical Assistants, Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants, Combat Medics, etc.

Patient Care Experience is preferred to Health Care Experience. Please note, though that although Health Care Experience is not required, it is preferred to no healthcare experience at all.

Deadlines:

CASPA will begin accepting applications on April 29, 2021 and will continue to accept applications until October 1, 2021. All required forms and documentation must be received by Bethel University Physician Assistant Program and the applicant's application must be verified by CASPA by October 1, 2021. Any application submitted/verified after October 1st may not be reviewed.

Dates to Remember:

- April 29 – Start applying to CASPA. PLEASE APPLY EARLY!
- September 1 – Deadline for Baccalaureate Degree and/or completion of required prerequisite classes.
- October 1 – Deadline to apply to CASPA, and have all required documents submitted to the PA Program and verified by CASPA (example: supplemental application, shadowing forms etc.).
- June – October: Interviews will be conducted.
- January – Classes begin.

Tuition, Fees, and Expenses

Tuition and fees are determined on an annual basis by Bethel University's Board of Trustees. Bethel University reserves the right to change tuition and fees at any time, without prior notice.

Tuition

Tuition is based on full-time studies and covers the 27- month PA Program. Tuition is \$96,250, or approximately \$13,750 per semester. (Note: Bethel University PA Program's curriculum consists of 7 semesters.)

Fees and Expenses

- \$70 Graduation Fee (Spring Semester of Graduation Year).
- Approximately \$1400 for books (\$450/Didactic Semester)
 - Approximately \$600 in additional funds for scrubs, initial drug screen and background check, and for TAPA Fall Fest

expenses.

- **Health Insurance** – All PA Students are required to have health insurance while enrolled in the PA Program. Health insurance must be maintained through the entirety of the PA Program and students must provide proof of coverage before and during his or her enrollment.
- **It is imperative for PA Students to understand that they will be responsible for all expenses associated with travel, housing, meals, etc., for the duration of the PA Program.** Federal aid recipients may use their financial aid to cover any expenses associated with travel, transportation, living, as well as other miscellaneous expenses. **BUPAP will NOT be responsible for expenses incurred by the student during clinical rotations.** Students need to take this information into consideration when budgeting Clinical Year expenses.
- Rotations may be scheduled anywhere that there is an available site and they are also subject to change.
- Additional funds are necessary for licensure/certification and DEA numbers, upon graduation from the PA Program and for registering/taking the PANCE.

Academic Standards

Students in BUPAP must maintain at least a “B” average (80%) in each course during the Didactic Year to progress to the Clinical Year. BUPAP Students must always act professionally to everyone, while maintaining patient and practice confidentiality. Breaches of professional conduct may result in dismissal from the PA Program.

Grades are assigned by the PA Program on the following: Individual Exams, Practicum, Checkoffs, etc.

Grading Scale:

1. A (90-100) = 4.0 GPA (Excellent)
2. B (80-89) = 3.0 GPA (Good)
3. Grade(s) below 80 (3.0 GPA) is considered failing.

Remediation Policy

- Remediation is the opportunity to correct unsatisfactory performance and progress. If a student requires remediation, the PA Course Instructor will contact the Academic Coordinator and PA Faculty Tutor. The student will be notified, and an appointment will be scheduled with the PA Course Instructor and/or PA Faculty Tutor.
- Remediation will be required if a student earns a grade < 78% on any test/exam, and/or fails to "meet expectations," during a Check-Off.
- If a student earns a grade < 78% he or she will be notified and required to attend a mandatory test review.
- If a student earns a grade < 75% he or she will be required to attend a mandatory test review and meet with the PA Course Instructor and/or PA Faculty Tutor for additional remediation. Remediation may cover but is not limited to tutoring, additional reading, additional examinations, written assignments, or study resources.
- If a student earns a grade < 70% he or she will be required to attend a mandatory test review and meet with the PA Course Instructor and/or PA Faculty Tutor for additional remediation. If needed, the student will be given additional study time and will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter through a remediation exam. The remediation exam will cover the same topics as the failed exam and may consist of verbal or written questions. If the student fails to demonstrate minimum competency on the remediation exam, he or she will be required to meet with the Promotion Retention, and Disciplinary (PRD) Committee to discuss his or her continuance in Bethel’s PA Program.

- **Students will be allowed to remediate two (2) times per course, per semester, or five times total per semester, before meeting with the PRD committee.**

Academic Warning Policy

- Students must always maintain a class average of 82% or higher. If a student's running average falls below 82% in any course after two tests/exams in that course, the student will be placed on academic warning for the remainder of the semester. This is to ensure early recognition of and intervention for deficiencies in knowledge and/or skills.
- A student on academic warning is required to meet regularly with his or her PA Academic Advisor and/ or PA Faculty Tutor to discuss and review study habits and progress.
- If a student is required to remediate a test/exam in the course in which they have been on academic warning, he or she will be required to meet with the PRD Committee.
- If the student's average falls below 82% after two tests/exams in any other course while on academic warning, he or she will be required to meet with the PRD Committee to discuss his or her continuance in the PA Program.
- Classes with Mid-Term and Final Exams: If the student's average is below 82%, after the Mid-Term, he or she will be placed on academic warning.

List of Essential Functions and Technical Standards

Bethel University Physician Assistant Program considers it essential for all PA Students, as required by the curriculum, to have the knowledge and skill to function in a variety of clinical settings and to provide a wide spectrum of patient care. This requires that every student have satisfactory abilities and skills in: Observation, Communication, Motor/Tactile Function, Cognitive/Intellectual Function, and Behavioral/Social Attributes. Therefore, every student must master a common body of basic science knowledge and the principles, knowledge, and procedures of the core clinical rotations of Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Women's Health and Behavioral/Mental Health.

Reasonable accommodation for students with documented disabilities will be considered on an individual basis, but a student must be able to perform in an independent manner. Surrogates cannot be used to accomplish the essential requirements. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable in many clinical situations, in that it implies that a student's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation. Furthermore, it is expected that the student will meet the technical standards throughout the duration of the PA Program. It is the student's responsibility to notify the appropriate PA Program Faculty/Staff immediately if he or she is unable to meet one of the standards.

Completion of Bethel University's PA Program requires the student independently demonstrate the following skills with or without accommodation:

Observation: Includes the ability to perceive, using senses and mental abilities, to process information presented in both educational and clinical settings. Educational information will be presented through lectures, small groups, and one-on-one interactions, as well as, written and audiovisual material.

Students must have satisfactory sensory capacity to observe in the lecture hall, virtual instruction, the laboratory, the outpatient setting, and at the patient's bedside.

- Required satisfactory sensory skills to perform physical examination. These include functional vision, hearing, and tactile sensation to observe a patient's condition and to elicit information through procedures regularly required in a physical exam; includes inspection, auscultation, and palpation.
- A student must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a distance, and close at hand, with or without standard

medical instrumentation, acquire information from written documents and visualize information as presented in images from computer screens, paper, film, slides, or video. This includes, but is not limited to, information conveyed through physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, microbiological cultures, and microscopic images of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states.

- In any case where a student's ability to observe or acquire information through these sensory modalities is compromised, the student must demonstrate alternate means and/or abilities to acquire and demonstrate the essential information. If the alternatives are acceptable, it is expected that obtaining and using such alternate means and/or abilities shall be the responsibility of the student.

Communication: Includes the ability to speak, hear, read, and write sufficiently, to achieve adequate exchange of information with other health care professionals, patients, and their support network.

- The student must have the ability to receive and process auditory information and speak and write clearly for all communications with patients, their families, and other health care professionals.
- The student must communicate effectively through written and electronic media formats.
- The student must be able to communicate sensitively with patients and their families.
- The student must be able to read sufficiently to comprehend complex medical literature and convey this information in easy to understand/relatable terms.
- The student must be able to perceive forms of non-verbal interpersonal communications, including facial expressions and body language.
- Students must be able to effectively communicate in both academic and health care settings.

Motor & Tactile Function

- A student must have enough motor function to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers.
- A student must be able to execute reasonably required movements to provide general and emergency medical care to patients. These skills require coordination of fine and gross motor skills, equilibrium, and functional sensation.
- A student must have the capability to manipulate equipment and instruments to perform basic laboratory tests and procedures.
- A student must have the ability to move from one setting to another and negotiate the patient care environment in a timely fashion.
- A student must have the physical stamina to perform the rigorous course of Didactic and Clinical study. This includes long periods of sitting, standing, and moving, which are required for classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings.

Intellectual: A student must be able to demonstrate necessary cognitive and problem-solving skills in a timely fashion for medical problem solving and patient care. Problem solving is one of the critical skills demanded of Physician Assistants.

Required intellectual abilities:

- Comprehension of visual-spatial relationships.
- Reading and understanding medical literature and the patient's chart.

- Learning, measuring, calculating, retrieving, prioritizing, analyzing, organizing, assimilating, integrating, and synthesizing technically detailed and complex information and appropriately applying this information.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

- The student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all academic and patient responsibilities.
- The student must be able to develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and their family members, staff, and colleagues.
- The student must be able to work collaboratively and effectively as a member of a small group in class, as well as, a health care team member.
- The student must have good interpersonal skills to relate positively with people across society, including all ethnic backgrounds, economic levels, sexual orientation, and belief systems.
- The student must possess compassion and concern for others, interest in, and motivation for service and integrity.
- The student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under mentally and emotionally stressful situations.
- The student must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and function in the rise of inherent uncertainties in clinical practice.
- The student must behave in an ethical and moral manner that is consistent with professional values.
- The student must be able to accept constructive criticism and appropriately respond through modification of his or her behavior.

Additional Information:

In the first year of the PA Program, students are required to attend all classes and educational sessions, master physical examination skills, complete all laboratory exercises, attend assigned patient interactions, and complete BLS/ACLS. In the clinical year, students must successfully complete all assigned rotations, which may include extended hours of instruction, evenings, nights, and weekends. Students must be able to transport themselves to all training sites. It is the responsibility of each applicant to affirm that they meet these technical standards upon entrance to Bethel University's Physician Assistant Program. During enrollment, the BUPAP's PRD Committee will monitor students for continuing compliance with technical standards. The PA Faculty recognizes their responsibility to present candidates for the MSPAS degree, who have the knowledge and skills to function in a wide variety of clinical situations and able to render a broad spectrum of patient care.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities, who can meet the above requirements. These accommodations must be accomplished without altering the essential requirements of BUPAP's medical education. Any student with accessibility needs, should contact the Office of Disability Services, website:

<https://www.bethelu.edu/academics/academic-services/office-of-disability-services>

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

Bethel University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented disabilities. If a student has a diagnosed disability, or if he or she believes there is a disability that might require accommodation in PA Program, please contact Will Gibson, Coordinator for Careers and Disabilities Services by phone at

(731) 352-6406, or via email at gibsonw@bethelu.edu. Bethel University's policy states that it is the student's responsibility to contact instructors to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, experiences, and assignments.

Furthermore, the PA Program's policy states that PA Students will report a medically documented learning disability to the Program Director during Orientation Week.

Office of Veteran Services

Bethel University's Office of Veteran Services is here to assist veterans, reservists, guardsmen, active duty service members, and dependents with their education benefits earned through service. Please contact Sylvana Matthews, Associate Director of Veterans and Military Affairs, by phone at 931-551-3652 or via email at matthewss@bethelu.edu. Military personnel may also visit the Office of Veteran Services website:

<https://www.bethelu.edu/academics/academic-services/office-of-veteran-affairs>

Attendance Policy

Except for emergencies, classroom attendance and attendance at all educational experiences is required. The final determination of "true emergency," will be at the discretion of the Program Director and/or Medical Director. If a student must leave during the day when class is in session, he or she must notify the Academic Director and Academic Coordinator. Students may be required to present a medical excuse, upon returning to the classroom. **Business appointments, routine dental and medical appointments, weddings, graduations, and other social events are NOT considered emergencies.** Please schedule these events during semester breaks or weekends. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Academic Director of anticipated absences.

Students are allowed one Personal Day, per semester during the Didactic & Year. Personal time off cannot be scheduled during exams, checkoffs, or guest lectures. Students utilizing their Personal Day, will need to schedule their time off and complete the "Request for Personal Day Form," which can be found on the classes' eMedley site. The student is also responsible for having the instructor, with whom the class will be/was missed, and the Academic Director sign the form. Once all signatures have been obtained, the completed form should be turned in to the Academic Coordinator.

There will be no make-up assignments or exams given for Personal Day usage.

For all absences, the student MUST, via email, notify the Academic Director and Academic Coordinator the night before or 15 minutes prior to the start of class on the day that will be missed. Students must also call (731) 407-7660 and leave a voicemail. This must be done for every day a student is absent. Sending a message through a classmate or family member is NOT acceptable.

***Medical Excuses must be completed by a licensed Physician, PA, or NP and submitted to Academic Coordinator. The excuse cannot be issued by a student's family member. An excuse from a nurse is not acceptable. All absences will undergo review. After the review of the absence or if there are excessive absences, the student may be required to meet with the PRD Committee.**

Pregnancy

A student, who is pregnant at the time of matriculation or becomes pregnant at any time before graduation, is required to inform the Program Director. Also required, is a statement from the student's Obstetrician, regarding her ability to continue in the PA Program. If an issue arises, the PA Program Faculty/Staff will review each case individually. **Missed course requirements, due to pregnancy, will be treated as any other absence.**

Progression and Graduation Requirements

To qualify for progression to Clinical Year, the student must satisfy all the following requirements:

1. All Didactic course work in the PA Program curriculum has been completed with a grade of "B" or higher.
2. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in PA Program coursework has been achieved.
3. Documentation of immunizations, annual TB screening and Influenza Vaccination is completed.
4. Documentation that Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) training is completed.
5. Drug screening and criminal background check clearance is obtained.
6. Successful completion of all competency skills (e.g., BLS, ACLS, etc.).
7. Verification of ability to meet the technical standards.
8. Continued enrollment in a health insurance program.

To qualify for progression and graduation with the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) degree, students must:

1. Follow the approved course of study and satisfactorily complete all courses.
2. Complete all courses with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, with no course or clinical rotation grade below 80%.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in all PA competencies.
4. Settle all financial accounts with Bethel University.
5. Successfully complete the Summative Evaluation upon completion of the clinical year.
6. Must be recommended for graduation by the PA program's PRD committee and the Dean of CHS and approved by CHS faculty.

PA Course Information: Below is an example of the Didactic Course offering for PACO 2023. Please note the semester these courses are offered is subject to change for future PA Classes.

Academic Course Offering: PACO 2023

(147 credit hours)

The PA Program Curriculum is 27 months in duration to be completed in 7 semesters with 147 credit hours requiring full-time student participation.

COURSE NAME	COURSE NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS	SEMESTER OFFERED
Clinical Medicine I	701	8	Spring 2021
Clinical Medicine II	702	8	Summer 2021
Clinical Medicine III	703	8	Fall 2021
Pharmacology I	710	3	Spring 2021
Pharmacology II	711	3	Summer 2021
Pharmacology III	712	3	Fall 2021
A&P with Lab I	717	2	Spring 2021
A&P with Lab II	718	2	Summer 2021
A&P with Lab III	719	2	Fall 2021
Pathophysiology I	723	2	Spring 2021
Pathophysiology II	724	2	Summer 2021
Pathophysiology III	725	2	Fall 2021
Physical Diagnosis I	730	3	Spring 2021
Physical Diagnosis II	731	3	Summer 2021
Physical Diagnosis III	732	3	Fall 2021
Clinical Skills I	740	3	Spring 2021
Clinical Skills II	741	3	Summer 2021
Clinical Skills III	742	3	Fall 2021
Lab Diagnostics I	750	2	Spring 2021
Lab Diagnostics II	751	2	Summer 2021
Lab Diagnostics III	752	2	Fall 2021

Medical Terminology	760	1	Spring 2021
EKG	761	2	Summer 2021
Behavioral Medicine	762	2	Summer 2021
Radiology	763	2	Fall 2021
The PA Profession	770	2	Spring 2021
Genetics	780	2	Spring 2021
Geriatrics	781	2	Fall 2021
Pediatrics	782	2	Fall 2021
Evidence-Based Medicine I	790a	1	Spring 2021
Evidence-Based Medicine II	791a	1	Fall 2021
Family Medicine I	801	5	Spring 2022
Family Medicine II	802	5	Varies
Internal Medicine	803	5	Varies
Emergency Medicine	804	5	Varies
General Surgery	805	5	Varies
Mental/Behavioral Health	811	5	Varies
Family Medicine/Pediatrics	813	5	Varies
Family Medicine/Women's Health	814	5	Varies
Elective Clinical Experience I	901	5	Varies
Elective Clinical Experience II	902	5	Varies
Elective Clinical Experience III	903	5	Varies
The Business of Medicine	816	3	Spring 2023
Summative	815	3	Spring 2023

Participation in Evaluation of Program

Bethel's PA Program is committed to delivering curriculum that will prepare the student to deliver optimal health care in an ever-changing medical environment. BUPAP's commitment to continuous quality improvement, allows students to be involved in course evaluations, supervised clinical practice evaluations, and faculty evaluations at the conclusion of each semester. Students are required to complete these evaluations for Didactic Courses and supervised Clinical Practice experiences. The evaluation process will be a part of every future health care provider's continuing medical education

course. The practitioner participates in these courses to maintain his or her Physician Assistant license.

Clinical Year Overview

It is imperative for the student to understand that he or she will be responsible for all expenses associated with travel, housing, meals, etc., for the entire clinical year. Students need to be sure to include this in their budget plans at the start of the PA Program! Federal aid recipients may use their financial aid to cover any expenses, associated with travel, transportation, living, as well as other miscellaneous expenses encountered during clinical rotations. **BUPAP is NOT responsible for expenses incurred by the student during clinical rotations.**

The clinical phase of the PA Program consists of 11 rotations that must be completed to satisfy degree requirements. Eight (8) of these are Core Rotations that provide exposure to different specialties within the healthcare field. The remaining three (3) rotations are electives that can be completed in almost any health care discipline. Rotations may be scheduled at any qualified location with an available clinical site. Elective rotations may be completed in a student's hometown or hub area. BUPAP has a large list of Cardiologists, Orthopedic Surgeons, Dermatologists, and many others from which to choose.

Elective Rotations completed with core Family Medicine Preceptors, must be completed as a student's first elective, due to the high demand of Family Medicine Preceptors during the first two rotations for Second Year Clinical PA Students.

Rotations may be completed in most states, however, there are some in which they cannot be done. BUPAP participates in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. This agreement determines in which states a PA Student may complete his or her clinical rotations.

Students may complete the Core Rotations near Bethel's PA Program or may be placed in another hub area. A "hub" is an area where BUPAP has established preceptors, who are willing to take PA Students every year. If BUPAP is unable to place a student at a rotation in the assigned hub, the student may be relocated to another hub to complete that rotation. BUPAP realizes this is an inconvenience, so the PA Clinical Department strives to keep students in their assigned hub. However, occasionally, students may have to relocate so the PA Clinical Dept. requests that students please be prepared for this possibility. *Please note that the PA Clinical Dept. attempts to keep student relocations to a minimum.*

Clinical Year Students will return to campus on the last Friday of each rotation. Return to Campus Days include end of rotation exams, case presentations, reviews, lectures, clinical skills practice, and much more. PA Faculty Advisors will meet with students on this day as well, to discuss the rotations and any encountered issues.

Clinical Course Offering

<i>Course</i>	<i>PAS #</i>	<i>Credits</i>
Family Medicine I	801	5
Family Medicine II	802	5
Internal Medicine	803	5
Emergency Medicine	804	5

General Surgery	805	5
Mental/Behavioral Health	811	5
Family Medicine/Pediatrics	813	5
Family Medicine/Women's	814	5
Elective Clinical Experience I	901	5
Elective Clinical Experience II	902	5
Elective Clinical Experience III	903	5
The Business of Medicine	816	3
Summative	815	3
Total Clinical Hours		61

Student Work Policy

Students enrolled in the PA Program are not prohibited but are strongly discouraged from working during the Didactic Year, due to the intense and rigorous nature of the curriculum. **Students are not allowed to work for Bethel's PA Program.** If a student chooses to work and is unable to fulfill the PA Program requirements, due to a work conflict, he or she will be dismissed from the PA Program.

Students are prohibited from working during the Clinical Year, due to the intense and rigorous nature of the curriculum/clinical rotations. Students are not allowed to work for the Bethel PA Program; must not substitute for or function as instructional faculty at the PA Program. Students are also not to receive, nor accept compensation for any work performed within his or her preceptor's clinical site or practice. Students may only render services as part of the clinical phase of their education. If a student chooses to disregard the work policy and is unable to attend scheduled clinical rotations due to a work conflict, he or she will be dismissed from the PA Program.

Competencies of the Physician Assistant Profession

The clinical role of PAs includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practice settings. Professional competencies for PAs include the effective and appropriate application of medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, patient care, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement and systems-based practice. Patient-centered, Physician Assistant Practice reflects many overarching themes; includes an unwavering commitment to patient safety, cultural competence, quality health care, lifelong learning, and professional growth. Furthermore, the profession's dedication to the Physician and PA team benefits patients and the larger community.

Medical Knowledge

Medical knowledge includes the synthesis of pathophysiology, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, health promotion, and disease prevention. PAs must demonstrate core knowledge about established and evolving biomedical and clinical sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care in their area of practice. In addition, PAs are expected to demonstrate an investigative and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations.

PAs are expected to understand, evaluate, and apply the following to clinical scenarios:

- Evidence-based medicine
- Scientific principles related to patient care
- Etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathologic process, and epidemiology for medical conditions
- Signs and symptoms of medical and surgical conditions
- Appropriate diagnostic studies

- Management of general medical and surgical conditions to include pharmacologic and other treatment modalities
- Interventions for prevention of disease and health promotion/maintenance
- Screening methods to detect conditions in an asymptomatic individual.
- History and physical findings and diagnostic studies to formulate differential diagnosis

Interpersonal & Communication Skills

Interpersonal and communication skills include verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic exchange of information. PAs must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills resulting in effective information exchange with patients, patients' families, physicians, professional associates, and other individuals within the health care system.

PAs are expected to:

- Create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients.
- Use effective communication skills to elicit and provide information.
- Adapt communication style and messages to the context of the interaction.
- Work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals as a member or leader of a health care team or another professional group.
- Demonstrate emotional resilience and stability, adaptability, flexibility, and tolerance of ambiguity and anxiety.
- Accurately and adequately document information regarding care for medical, legal, quality, and financial purposes.

Patient Care

Patient care includes patient and setting specific assessment, evaluation, and management. Physician Assistants must demonstrate care that is effective, safe, high quality, and equitable.

PAs are expected to:

- Work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals to provide patient-centered care.
- Demonstrate compassionate and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families.
- Obtain essential and accurate information about their patients.
- Make decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, current scientific evidence, and informed clinical judgment.
- Develop and implement patient management plans.
- Counsel and educate patients and their families.
- Perform medical and surgical procedures essential to their area of practice.
- Provide health care services and education aimed at disease prevention and health maintenance.
- Use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education.

Professionalism

Professionalism is the expression of positive values and ideals as care is delivered. Foremost, it involves prioritizing the interests of those being served above one's own. PAs must acknowledge their professional and personal limitations. Professionalism also requires that PAs practice without impairment from substance abuse, cognitive deficiency, or mental illness. PAs must also demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements.

PAs are expected to demonstrate:

- Understanding of legal and regulatory requirements, as well as the appropriate role of the PA.
- Professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers.
- Respect, compassion, and integrity.
- Accountability to patients, society, and the profession.
- Commitment to excellence and on-going professional development.
- Commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient

information, informed consent, and business practices.

- Sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender, and abilities.
- Self-reflection, critical curiosity, and initiative.
- Healthy behaviors and life balance.
- Commitment to the education of students and other health care professionals.

Practice-based Learning and Improvement

Practice-based learning and improvement includes the processes through which PAs engage in critical analysis of their own practice experience, the medical literature, and other informational resources, for the purposes of self and practice improvement. PAs must be able to assess, evaluate, and improve their patient care practices.

PAs are expected to:

- Analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities, using a systematic methodology in concert with other members of the health care delivery team.
- Locate, appraise, and integrate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health.
- Apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical literature and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness.
- Utilize information technology to manage information, access medical information, and support their own education.
- Recognize and appropriately address personal biases, gaps in medical knowledge, and physical limitations in themselves and others.

Systems-based Practice: *Adopted 2012 by ARC-PA, NCCPA, and PAEA; Adopted 2013 by AAPA*

Systems-based practice encompasses the societal, organizational, and economic environments, in which health care is delivered. PAs must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger system of health care to provide patient care that balances quality and cost, while maintaining the primacy of the individual patient. PAs should work to improve the health care system, of which their practices are a part.

PAs are expected to:

- Effectively interact with different types of medical practice and delivery systems.
- Understand the funding sources and payment systems that provide coverage for patient care and effectively use the systems.
- Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care.
- Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities.
- Partner with supervising physicians, health care managers, and other health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve the delivery and effectiveness of health care and patient outcomes.
- Accept responsibility for promoting a safe environment for patient care and recognizing and correcting systems-based factors that negatively impact patient care.
- Apply medical information and clinical data systems to provide effective, efficient patient care.
- Recognize and appropriately address system biases that contribute to health care disparities.
- Apply the concepts of population health to patient care.

Educational Philosophy

The BUPAP faculty understands that the field of medicine is constantly evolving. Therefore, we strive to train students to become life-long learners, adept at critical thinking. The role of the instructor is to guide and objectively evaluate the student, select and present important material, and model professional behavior, based upon the Physician Assistant core competencies and technical standards adopted by Physician Assistant organizations (Please see Resources Page, PA Competencies and PA Technical Standards). The instructor will likewise be a life-long learner, who will be objectively evaluated on a regular basis by the student and peers.

BUPAP General Goals

- To maintain continuous accreditation with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.
- To recruit and admit highly qualified applicants from diverse backgrounds.
- To attract and graduate students who exhibit a servant's heart.
- To maintain a level of first time PANCE pass rates above the national average.
- To maintain a 95% employment rate at six months of graduation.

BUPAP Student Learning Outcomes of the PA Program – Functions and Tasks that Graduates are expected to perform:

The Bethel PA Graduate will be able to:

- Have a fully developed identity as a health care professional.
- Have developed the desire to provide excellent care in a compassionate manner.
- Have a proficient understanding of the concepts of Anatomy and Physiology and Pathophysiology.
- Have demonstrated sufficient understanding of the concepts of Clinical Medicine, Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Genetics, Geriatrics, Electrocardiograms, Radiology, Medical Terminology, Laboratory Medicine, and Behavioral Science.
- Understand the history of the PA profession and know the applicable laws, rules and regulations concerning the practice of medicine as a Physician Assistant.
- Be proficient in the performance of clinical procedures necessary for practice as a physician assistant.
- Have medical knowledge sufficient to understand Pathophysiology, Differential Diagnosis, Patient Management, Surgical Principles, Health Promotion, and Disease Prevention in typical primary care.
- Have developed and refined a systematic approach to both the complete and focused history taking and physical exam skills.
- Utilize interpersonal and communication skills that encompasses verbal, nonverbal, and written exchange of information.
- Have developed an understanding of the PA role in the health delivery system to include patient care that is effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of wellness.
- Develop professional relationships, where the graduate demonstrates a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements.
- Sharpen and refine critical analysis skills of their own practice experience, medical literature, and other information resources for the purpose of self-improvement.
- Demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger health system of health care to provide the patient care that is of optimal value.
- Pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE)

Additional Information about PAs:

Definition of a PA

PAs are licensed and certified health care professionals, who diagnose illness, develop/manage treatment plans, and prescribe medications in partnership with doctors. They often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. All PAs are trained in medical and behavioral sciences and complete rotations in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Surgery,

Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emergency Medicine and Geriatric Medicine. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative.

Following graduation from an accredited PA program, PAs must pass a rigorous national certification exam (PANCE) that tests them on everything from taking a patient history to diagnosing and treating complex medical issues. To maintain certification, PAs document continuing education hours and must pass a recertification exam every 6 to 10 years.

PAs practice in every state, medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality. To learn more please visit: <https://www.nccpa.net/public> and <https://www.aapa.org/what-is-a-pa/>

Historic Precedents

For centuries, providing medical care to remote populations where none existed, and meeting military and public health needs, has been nationally concerning. The use of non-physicians to provide health care services has an extensive history. Among the more noteworthy experiments were efforts to deliver services to the Russian wilderness, the communes of rural China, the frontiers of the American West, and to Native-American villages in Alaska.

Military necessity, especially in times of war, led to the use of non-physicians to provide acute care at army bases and on warships in France, England, and Post-Revolutionary America. The United States Public Health Service also found a need to use former military corpsmen in aiding with medical care in prisons. Also, advanced, highly technical surgical procedures, developed in mid-20th century, led innovators to train technicians to assist in Urology and Cardiovascular Surgery.

In the 1940s a unique event took place, when a highly respected general practitioner in rural North Carolina, trained his own “doctor’s assistant” to care for his patients, while he was away furthering his medical education. Remarkably, that partnership received great praise from organized medicine. A road had been mapped and was soon to be paved by pioneer educators.

The PA Profession

The Physician Assistant Concept: The PA profession was created to improve and expand health care. In the mid-1960s, physicians and educators recognized there was a shortage of Primary Care Physicians. In 1965, to help remedy this, Eugene A. Stead Jr., MD, of the Duke University Medical Center, put together the first class of Physician Assistants. He selected four Navy Hospital Corpsmen, who had received considerable medical training during their military service. Stead based the curriculum of the PA Program on his knowledge of the fast-track training of doctors during World War II. The first Physician Assistant class graduated from Duke University PA Program on Oct. 6, 1967.

The PA concept was lauded early on and gained federal acceptance and backing as early as the 1970s as a creative solution to physician shortages. The medical community helped support the new profession and spurred the setting of accreditation standards, establishment of a national certification process and standardized examination, and development of continuing medical education requirements.

The PA concept has grown substantially since its creation in the 1960s. As of January 2021, there are 267 ARC-PA accredited PA Programs throughout the country. Today’s PAs are educated in graduate-level programs, averaging 27 months in length with 2,000 hours of clinical rotations. PAs practice medicine in all 50 states, Canada, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Ghana, and South Africa.

PAs practice in every setting and medical and surgical specialty, improving access to care for patients across the U.S. There are approximately 139,688 certified PAs in the United States. In 2019, there were 9,554 students who passed the National Certifying Examination (PANCE), which is administered by the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). PAs have more than 400 million patient interactions per year and in 2019, *US News* and *World Report* ranked PAs as #1 in their *Best Healthcare Jobs* list. For more on the history of the PA Profession, please visit the PA Historical Society: <https://pahx.org/>

PA Programs Status at Present – (January 2021)

- Number of Accredited PA Programs: 267
- Number of Accredited PA Programs in TN: 10
- Number of Certified Physician Assistants as of December 2019: 139,688.
- Profession established in 1967 certified by NCCPA since 1975.



History of Bethel University

Bethel College was established in the flourishing frontier town of McMoresville in 1842. An outgrowth of McMoresville Academy or the "Brick Academy," the school was founded as Bethel Seminary and operated under the fostering care of West Tennessee Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Bethel College was granted a charter by the State of Tennessee in 1847. Bethel was primarily devoted to the training of young men for the ministry but was open to other young men who were interested in higher learning. Reuben Burrow was Bethel's first president. He served as president for 20 years, during which time he also served as fundraiser, member of the Board of Visitors, head of the Theology Department, and teacher.

The Civil War brought hard times for Bethel College and McLemoresville. The area around McLemoresville was equally divided between the Union and Confederacy, and at times Bethel was occupied by each of the armies. The buildings were used as barracks and much of the physical equipment was destroyed by soldiers. Not only were the laboratory and classroom equipment lost but the student body was also decimated, as most of the young men were serving in either the Northern or Southern armies. When the war was over, Bethel had lost its endowment.

Following the Civil War, Bethel reopened in 1865, under the administration of Rev. Mr. B.W. McDonald, and for the first time, women were permitted to attend classes.

In 1872, while Rev. W.W. Hendrix was serving as Bethel's President, the building of the railroad missed McLemoresville, resulting in Bethel College being moved from McLemoresville, TN to McKenzie, TN.

On August 1, 2009, Bethel College became Bethel University. To learn more on the history of Bethel University, please visit Bethel's website: <http://www.bethelu.edu>