

# Health Care: A Career For Life

## PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT

### WHAT IS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Physician Assistants (PAs) are accelerated medically educated clinicians who practice within a formalized relationship with physicians. The PA practice of medicine includes diagnoses, obtaining medical histories, performing physical exams, ordering and interpreting diagnostic studies, providing therapeutic procedures, prescribing medications, and educating and counselling patients. Although educated and qualified as medical generalists, PAs receive additional education and experience on the job and may work in a wide variety of practice settings.

**SALARY RANGE**  
\$75,000 - \$110,000

PAs are Associate Regulated Members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba requiring an approved Practice Description and Contract of Supervision before being allowed to practice medicine. The Contract of Supervision identifies the Primary and any alternative physician who are allowed to supervise the PA. The PA's Scope-of-Practice mirrors that their physicians with permission to perform restricted acts, provide prescriptions or write medical orders established by regulations and provincial law. <http://cpsm.mb.ca/registration/categories-of-registration/physician-assistants>  
[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health\\_sciences/medicine/education/paep/whatisapa.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/medicine/education/paep/whatisapa.html)

### THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The University of Manitoba Master of Physician Assistant Studies educates outstanding Physician Assistant clinicians who serve their communities and advance the profession in Manitoba and Canada. We nurture the future leaders of the profession, and lead the field in academic preparation of Physician Assistants in Canada.

The University of Manitoba Master of Physician Assistant Studies prepares generalist medical practitioners in a 25-month course based professional program. The curriculum delivers the Canadian Physician Assistant National Competency Profile and is the only graduate level PA program in Canada. The curriculum and program is accredited by the Canadian Medical Association Conjoint Accreditation Services allowing graduates to challenge the national certification examination. The students develop clinical expertise and critical thinking skills from experiences and mentoring from a mixture of academic, didactic, and clinical experiences.

The philosophy of the PA profession is to approach the delivery of medical care in collaboration with the physician as a valued member of an integrated team. Physician Assistants (PAs) function as critically thinking and problem solving medical professional in their own right with a scope of practice determined in a formal practice description. The goal is to develop a professional ready for practice as a primary health care provider or employment in a community hospital as part of a patient-centred team. Upon graduation, some PAs have obtained positions that allow them to develop knowledge of a specialty building on their core generalist medical knowledge. The Physician Assistant is placed in positions of trust and responsibility and must demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of their career.

**MB's Healthcare  
Providers Network**  
[www.mhpnetwork.ca](http://www.mhpnetwork.ca)



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The Program accepts 12 students per year. The comprehensive curriculum consists of an academic first year (late August to July) comprised of classroom, small group and self-study work taught by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. Several of the classes are shared with other programs. This is followed by 13 months of clinical rotations in a variety of medical and surgical environments throughout Manitoba.

[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health\\_sciences/medicine/education/paep/about\\_us/about.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/medicine/education/paep/about_us/about.html)

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible to apply for this Program, you must:

- Be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada.
- Be a graduate of or enrolled in the final year of a four year Bachelor's degree from a college or university recognized by the University of Manitoba
- Have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the most recent 60 credit hours of study (full time or part time study).
- Provide a total of 3 letters of recommendation (2 letters as required by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, plus 1 additional letter as required by MPAS).  
One of the referees must be your current/most recent employer, supervisor, student advisor, or professor. The referees must be able to provide information regarding your character, communication skills, professionalism, and suitability for practice as a Physician Assistant. Please follow instructions on the On-Line application form for Reference Letter submission.
- Have successfully completed or be enrolled in undergraduate level courses (three credit hours each) in Human Anatomy, Human Physiology and Biochemistry if they were not included in the Bachelor's degree.

For questions on how exactly the GPA is calculated please contact [Graduate\\_Admissions@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Graduate_Admissions@umanitoba.ca)

[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health\\_sciences/medicine/education/paep/pros\\_students/3829.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/medicine/education/paep/pros_students/3829.html)

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact the Office of Physician Assistant Studies for more information at: **Email:** [mpas@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:mpas@cc.umanitoba.ca) or **phone** (204) 272-3094

## LINKS

Canadian Association of Physician Assistants <https://capa-acam.ca/>

University of Manitoba [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health\\_sciences/medicine/education/paep/](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/medicine/education/paep/)

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