

# LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

## **What is ARC-PA?**

ARC-PA is the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, which is the organization that has oversight of PA education and grants accreditation.

## **What is Lenoir-Rhyne University ARC-PA Accreditation status?**

**The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Lenoir-Rhyne University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Lenoir-Rhyne University.**

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

Lenoir-Rhyne University - Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program anticipates matriculating its first class in January 2016.

Provisional Accreditation is an accreditation status for a new physician assistant program that has not yet enrolled students, but at the time of its comprehensive accreditation review, has demonstrated its preparedness to initiate a program in accordance with the accreditation Standards.

## **What happens to me as a student if the program loses its accreditation?**

You will be eligible to sit for the PANCE regardless of any subsequent changes in program accreditation status.

## **Admissions**

### **What is CASPA?**

The Central Application Service for Physician Assistants know as, CASPA, offers applicants a convenient, state-of-the-art, web-based application service that will allow you to apply to any number of participating PA educational programs by completing a single application. The on-line application was specifically designed for your ease and convenience, with far less paperwork, streamlined processing, and ongoing communication with applicants. CASPA is a service of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA). PAEA's mission is to pursue excellence, foster faculty development, advance the body of knowledge that defines quality education and patient-centered care, and promote diversity in all aspects of physician assistant education.

### **Deadline for Applying**

Lenoir-Rhyne University will open on April 27th, 2017 and accept applicants for the January 2018 start class up until September 1st, 2017. These applicants must be in complete or verified status for them to be considered. The admissions committee will begin reviewing applications and inviting applicants for interviews in June and will continue until the class is filled. If your application is received after September 1st, you cannot be considered for the 2018 class.

From September 1st, 2017, any applicant who is in-progress or submitted can be considered by Lenoir-Rhyne University's January 2019 class up until the March 1st, 2018 cycle deadline close date. If you submit your application before September 1st, but it was not yet complete or verified, you may still be considered for the 2019 class.

Every year following, the application cycle will run September 1<sup>st</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to enrollment.

### **How do I apply?**

Students will apply directly to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). The website is <http://portal.caspaonline.org//>. The phone number is (617) 612-2080.

### **What is the deadline for applying to the physician assistant program?**

The deadline for applying is October 1st of each year. However, applicants are accepted on a rolling basis and you are strongly encouraged to submit your application early.

### **What is the required GPA?**

Applicants must have the minimum GPA (unweight) to be considered:

- Undergraduate GPA: 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Cumulative Science GPA: 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Cumulative Prerequisite GPA: 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

### **How many students will be enrolled each year?**

Lenoir –Rhyne University anticipates enrolling 48 students per year. The University will only enroll students after ARC-PA has granted Provisional Accreditation at the September 2015 Commission meeting.

### **What if I have not completed my pre-requisites at the time of application?**

All pre-requisites must be completed prior to starting the program. Students must provide official transcripts to the Graduate Admission Office reflecting completion of all required coursework.

### **Can I still apply if I have outstanding prerequisite courses?**

Yes. However, students submitting an application with greater than two outstanding prerequisite courses in the semester prior to the program's start will not be considered for admission.

### **Is there a time line on prerequisite course work?**

Yes, all required courses must be completed within the last 10 years prior to matriculation.

### **Will a course be considered if I made a "D" in the course?**

No, you must obtain a "C" or better in all the required prerequisite courses.

### **Do you have alternate/wait list?**

Yes, the program has an alternate list (waiting list) during each admission cycle. However, the alternate list does not carry over to the following year.

### **If I am on the alternate/wait list and not accepted, do I need to reapply the following year?**

Yes, candidates on the alternate/wait list who are not offered a seat for the current admission cycle must reapply through

### **Who can apply to this program? Do I need a baccalaureate degree to attend?**

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) degree at Lenoir-Rhyne University is an intensive 27 month, year-round program designed for students who hold a bachelor's degree or are provisionally enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Medical Studies (BSMS) 3 + 2 program

### **Does Lenoir-Rhyne University accept College Level Advanced Placement Courses?**

The MSPAS program does not accept advanced placement. All students must successfully complete all courses required in the program.

### **Does the program grant advanced placement?**

Lenoir-Rhyne University does not grant or reward Advanced Placement.

### **Can the CLEP examination be used as a substitute for pre-requisite courses?**

No. Lenoir-Rhyne University does not accept the CLEP examination.

### **I already have a baccalaureate degree; do I need to complete all the prerequisite courses?**

Yes. All prerequisite courses will be required for admission to the physician assistant program. There are no exceptions or substitutions.

### **I am a medical doctor from another country. Do I still have to complete the requirements?**

Yes. All of the requirements must be met by all applicants. A list of transcript evaluation service providers may be found at [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org).)

### **Is there preferential acceptance to any type of student?**

Yes, preferential acceptance to the Lenoir- Rhyne University Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program is given to those students who have met the minimum requirements and have successfully completed the required three years of the Bachelor of Science in Medical Studies at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

### **Where should I obtain references?**

It is recommended that candidates seek references from individuals who are well acquainted with them academically, personally and/or professionally. Three letters of recommendation to include:

1. A Professor
2. A Medical Doctor, Nurse Practitioner or a Physician Assistant
3. Employer or Coach

### **Is a criminal background check or drug screen required?**

Yes. Criminal background checks and drug screens are required. These are required after a student is accepted into the program and at the beginning of the clinical year. These requirements will be at the expense of the student.

## **Patient Care Experience and Volunteer Work**

### **Are applicants required to have health care experience?**

Although medical experience is not required, selection for the Physician Assistant Program is very competitive. Therefore, medical experience is highly recommended. *Applicants with medical experience will be given favorable consideration.*

**What type of patient care experience are you looking for?**

The type of experience we look for relates to experience that involved a direct patient care and contact with patients. This would include but not limited to: Certified Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomist, Medical Assistant, EMT, Paramedic, and Patient Care Technician.

**Are applicants required to shadow a physician assistant?**

It is not required but highly recommended to shadow a physician assistant.

**Will shadowing a medical doctor or nurse practitioner fulfill this requirement?**

No.

**How many hours of shadowing a physician assistant are required?**

No required minimum.

**Are applicants required to perform Volunteering/Community service?**

Not required but highly recommended.

## **GRE and Other Exams**

**Is a GRE required?**

Yes, all prospective applicants are required to complete the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) within 5 years of applying to the Lenoir-Rhyne University, Master of Science in Physician Assistant program.

**What is your required GRE Score?**

It is required that you make a 301 or higher.

**Where should I have my GRE Scores sent?**

(Lenoir –Rhyne University **GRE CASPA– Code = 7553**). TOEFL is required for all foreign applicants.

**Is the GRE still required if I already have a Master’s Degree?**

Applicants with prior advanced graduate degrees are exempt from taking the GRE exam.

**Does an applicant whose primary language is not English have to take the TOEFL exam?**

Yes. If an applicant’s primary language is not English, applicants must present a TOEFL score of 550 or higher on a paper-based examination (TOEFL PBT), 213 or higher on the computerized version, or a score of 79 on an internet-based examination (TOEFL IBT), or an IELTS score of 6.5 or higher.

## **Program Information**

**How long is the physician assistant program?**

The program is 27 months in length. The first 15 months will consist of didactic courses and the last 12 months will be clinical instruction and rotations.

**When will the program begin?**

A new class will begin in January of each year.

**When will the program end?**

Each cohort will graduate in May upon completing 27 months of instruction.

**What clinical rotations are required?**

The required clinical rotations will be: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Psychiatry, Women's Health and one elective. Student will not be required to set up their own clinical rotations.

**Can I work while attending the Physician Assistant Program?**

Due to the intensity and time demands associated with the program, students are strongly discouraged from working while in the program. There may be classes that meet during the evening hours or weekends as the schedule permits; students must be available to attend these sessions. The intensity of study required for successful completion of the program makes working a significant distraction.

**What kind of degree is granted with the completion of the program?**

A Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies will be granted upon successful completion of the program.

**Can a student attend the physician assistant program on a part-time basis?**

No, the physician assistant program is a full-time program only. Students will complete their course of study in seven semesters or 27 months.

**Can I transfer credits to reduce the number of courses I must take?**

No, because of the nature of the program, no advance standing or transfer of credits will be granted. Each class is an integral part of the academic experience and is necessary for success in this program.

**Can I defer my acceptance into the program for a future class?**

No, the physician assistant program will not defer admissions. Offers of acceptance will be valid only for one entering class. Applicants must repeat the entire admissions process. No preferential treatment will be granted.

**Where do students perform their clinical rotations?**

Lenoir –Rhyne University physician assistant students will be assigned to various clinical sites to meet the eight required clinical rotations. Students will not be required to supply their own clinical sites. Clinical sites include inpatient, outpatient, long- term care and office settings within areas surrounding of the three Lenoir-Rhyne University campuses in Hickory, Asheville, and Columbia, South Carolina.

**Is a laptop computer required?**

Laptop computers will not be required. However, all students must have access to a computer and printer.

**Are students required to carry healthcare insurance?**

Yes, all students are required to provide personal health insurance throughout the entire program. Healthcare coverage will be verified on a monthly basis.

**Is financial aid available?**

Yes, many of our students will use some form of financial aid from public and/or private sources. Part of planning for entry should include planning for the financial situation faced by students.

**Does Lenoir-Rhyne University provide on-campus housing?**

Yes, with limited spacing. Please contact our Residence Life office to inquire. <https://www.lr.edu/student-life/residence-life>

**What happens when a student is identified as having academic difficulties? Is there a remediation policy?**

Yes, the program does have a student remediation policy.

The MSPAS program curriculum is a rigorous process that requires full commitment from both the students and the faculty. Each student is assigned an academic advisor. During regular academic advisor meetings, faculty members are informed of all student grades across the curriculum. Faculty also share reports on how their advisees are doing at faculty meetings.

Students who are identified as having academic difficulty will be contacted by their academic advisor who will meet with them to identify problems and offer solutions.

Students may be referred to one or more of the following services as needed:

- Referred to Tutoring services
- Referred to Disability Services
- Referred to Course Director/instructor
- Referred to Program Director – study skills
- Referred to Student Services for mental health counseling services

**Do students have access to academic records?**

Physician Assistant students do not have access to the academic records or other confidential information of other students or faculty. All records are secured and only available to authorized personnel. Lenoir-Rhyne University student files are kept by the Program Director and registrar.