

# **Stockton University & Philadelphia University**

## **Combined B.S. in Health Science/M.S. Physician Assistant Studies**

### **Undergraduate Entry Program Description**

The Undergraduate Entry option is designed for students who have found their niche in health care as a physician assistant early in their academic career. Qualified high school seniors may apply to this program. Applicants to this program should have no, or few college credits (no more than 16 credit hours of dual high school or AP credits can be awarded towards the BSHS/MSPA program). It is designed as a full-time, accelerated, five-year course of study. This program awards a B.S. in Health Science (BSHS) at the conclusion of the seventh semester and a M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPA) at the conclusion of the entire 5 year program. The program admits students for Fall enrollment only.

Transfer students will not be considered for this combined program but are welcome to apply to the BSHS Program.

### **Curriculum Overview**

The Pre-Professional Phase is comprised of the first 6 semesters of undergraduate study. The Pre-Professional Phase consists of medically related science and psychology prerequisite courses, along with all of the components of the University General Studies Program. The goal is to prepare students for the Professional Phase.

The Professional Phase is a continuous 25 months of study and includes the Didactic portion and Clinical portions. The Didactic year consists of three semesters of medically-related classroom and laboratory work, with limited clinical experience. The BSHS degree is granted by Stockton University after the first semester of the Professional Phase. The remaining courses in the Professional Phase are graduate courses. Students must successfully complete all Didactic courses before entering the Clinical year. The Clinical year consists of extensive clinical experience through ten 5 week rotations at a variety of medical facilities such as hospitals and medical offices.

Upon completion of the full five-year program, graduates will receive a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Philadelphia University, be eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) and may participate in the Physician Assistant Program Completion Ceremony in August, as well as the commencement ceremony at Philadelphia University in May.

Please visit the Philadelphia University website to review additional information about the Professional Phase of the Program.

### **Progression Criteria**

Successful completion of the Pre-Professional Phase includes:

- Completing all required Pre-Professional courses, with a grade of C or better in all core classes.
- Maintaining the required grade point averages of 3.25 cumulative and 3.25 core at the end of each Spring semester
- Completing a state certification as an EMT-B or CNA
- Gaining 200 hours of direct patient contact
- Acquiring 3 satisfactory letters of reference
- Completing a personal essay
- Obtaining approval of the PA Program Admissions Committee

With successful completion of these requirements, students are guaranteed admission to the Professional Phase.

Successful completion of the Professional Phase includes:

- Completing all required Professional Phase courses and rotations
- Maintaining a 3.0 grade point average
- Successfully passing Summary Testing
- Meeting all standards listed in the Philadelphia University Graduate Catalog and Physician Assistant Studies Handbooks

### **Admission Information**

Undergraduate entry applicants apply to the combined BS/MS/PA Program through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Stockton University. The deadline to apply for the following academic year, Fall admission, is January 15<sup>th</sup>. We will begin reviewing applications on a rolling basis starting in September.

The BS/MS/PA Program is rigorous and admission is highly competitive with 12 seats available for Fall 2015. Successful applicants are typically strong students academically, especially in the sciences. Minimally, to be considered for admission, the applicant should be a high school senior in the top 10% of their class with an SAT score (Critical Reading and Math) of 1250 or higher or a Combined ACT score of 28 or higher. Healthcare experience is not required but is of benefit. An understanding of the role of the Physician Assistant is expected. To be admitted to this program, candidates must be able to meet the Physician Assistant Technical and Professional Standards.

Questions should be directed to [Admissions@Stockton.edu](mailto:Admissions@Stockton.edu)