Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Applicant Bulletin   Deadline – January 15th

This bulletin provides information for applicants to the University of Manitoba's Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS).

MPAS is a highly competitive program, averaging more than 10 applicants for each position. Meeting the following criteria is your best chance for acceptance to the program’s admission and interview day. However, we stress there are many more applicants than available program positions. The MPAS Admission Committee recommends applicants to the Faculty of Graduate Studies which holds the authority for the final admission decision.

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) seeks applicants who have demonstrated academic success and will contribute to our University, the program’s mission, and to patient care as a Physician Assistant.

Applications and required documentation are submitted through the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) admission portal. The completed application, including the FGS and MPAS supplemental, with all supporting materials, including the three letters of reference and uploaded transcripts, must be received by the January 15 deadline for consideration.

Unofficial transcripts and evidence of work in progress are acceptable in the initial submission. Only final grades are used in the evaluation of applicants. Official transcripts are required after admission.

To apply, please visit:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/admissions/programs/paep.html

No paper applications are accepted.

Notifications and correspondence are by email and the FGS Self-Service Centre. It is essential you check your application and email regularly. Please monitor your junk folder as notices with University addresses are occasionally mistakenly routed.

MPAS Minimum Requirements (Summary)

All applicants must possess:

- Canadian citizenship OR Permanent Resident Status.
• A four-year Bachelor’s degree awarded from a recognized University awarded by the Fall Term start date.
• Minimum GPA of 3.0 (B or equivalent) in the last two full years (60 credit hours) of study.
  o Please be aware that a 3.50 is strongly encouraged and competitive.
  o Possess a grade of B or higher for each core course. (Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry.*)
• Eligibility for registration on the College Physician and Surgeons of Manitoba Educational Registry.
• CV/Resume.
• Statement of Intent. (see heading below)
• Self-Declaration Form.
• Three letters of reference.

The required courses are three-credit hours in Human Anatomy, Human Physiology and Biochemistry taken at an accredited university. Anatomy and Physiology can be combined in one 6-credit course. A credit hour is one term (13-weeks) of a 3-hour per week class work course. These core courses are required regardless of degree and may need to be taken outside or in addition to your Bachelor’s degree. Biochemistry does not require a lab component, and if Biochemistry is in the course title or description, it will be considered. Animal zoology or animal related anatomy will not be considered.

Core courses taken in the last ten years will be considered. Bachelor degrees are not limited by time. These core courses are required regardless of degree or level of education. They may need to be taken outside or in addition to the Bachelors or University degree. Distance learning courses are acceptable. We recommend completing the core courses at North American universities and within the past 10 - years. A review of student performance identified at-risk students or requiring remediation had performed poorly in these core courses.

For further information about the core courses, please see the FAQs: MPAS FAQs

Statement of Intent

The statement of intent is written as a formal essay. The essay or statement is an opportunity for you to explain why you want to enter the Physician Assistant profession and the MPAS program. It must address these questions:

• Reason for seeking admission to the University of Manitoba Master of Physician Assistant Studies.
• Reason for choosing the Physician Assistant profession and how your decision was researched.
• Proudest achievement or accomplishment to date.
• Reason and rationale for choosing specific applicant pools.

Letters are read by a team. If you do not address these questions, you will not be considered.

1. Manitoba
The Admissions Committee gives priority to Manitoba applicants. If the composite score is equal, the Manitoba applicant will have preference. The Committee defines Manitoba applicants as those who:

- have graduated from a Manitoba high school; or
- have been a resident of the Province of Manitoba for a minimum of two (2) years at the time of application (the two-year residency period will not be considered broken if the Admissions Committee is satisfied that the applicant was temporarily out of the province on vacation, in short-term volunteer work or employment, or as a full-time student); or
- have a recognized degree from a university in Manitoba; or
- have completed a minimum of two consecutive years of full-time academic studies in a recognised program at a university in Manitoba, while physically residing in Manitoba.

Applicants who have provided a minimum of two years of full-time service in the Canadian Forces at the time of application are included in the Manitoba applicant pool regardless of their current provincial residency.

2. Rural Attributes

The Max Rady College of Medicine and MPAS has sought to enhance the representation of rural students. Rural Attributes are based on an applicant’s experiences in rural, remote or northern settings, along with evidence of self-reliance, community ties and activities. All rural applicants must describe their rural background in the application statement. The Admissions Committee evaluates attributes in applicants’ rural “roots” (High school, residency), experience and nature of work, and volunteer or leadership experience.

3. Out-of-Province Applicant Pool

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies, the Max Rady College of Medicine and Faculty of Graduate Studies welcomes applicants from all provinces and territories. The MPAS Admission Committee defines Out-of-Province applicants as those who are a citizen or permanent resident of Canada but are not a resident of Manitoba. Only when all scores are equal will the Manitoba resident have priority.

4. Indigenous Applicant Pool

The University of Manitoba is committed to addressing the under-representation of Indigenous medical students and Indigenous healthcare providers in Manitoba. Applicants from all provinces and territories in Canada are encouraged to declare their First Nations, Métis or Inuit heritage. Indigenous applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements. Applicants need to be prepared to submit documentation to support their declaration of aboriginal ancestry.

5. Socioeconomic and Cultural Diversity

To meet its social accountability mission and meaningfully serve the complex and diverse healthcare needs of Canadians, there must be enhanced diversity of registrants. Diversity encompasses many dimensions, including ethnicity and religion, gender and sexual orientation,
geographic origin, and socioeconomic status. The Admissions Committee evaluates different attributes in the following three (3) domains: Family history, financial information, and other-sociocultural determinants.

**Letters of Reference (due by January 15 in the year of application)**

Applicant’s referees should have current knowledge of the applicant’s attributes and activities. The best references provide examples of character, maturity, and suitability for the study and practice of medicine. The program will not consider references from family or extended family members of the applicant.

We recommend meeting with referees to discuss the program and the letter requirements. Ask referees to address specific questions regarding the character and provide examples where possible. The University of Manitoba offers referees with a form to evaluate personal attributes using a percentile scale. However, it may not be appropriate for every reference. A letter addressed to the MPAS admission committee is always appropriate.

The Admissions office may contact the applicant’s referees to verify information provided or seek clarification. It is the applicant’s responsibility to confirm references are successfully submitted through the online application system by the deadline of January 15.

**Professional Registration Requirement**

All Physician Assistants Students must be eligible for and be registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (CPSM) by the start of class at the University of Manitoba. The CPSM website at cpsm.mb.ca provides information on the eligibility requirements. Students must be accepted to the CPSM’s Educational Registry. [http://cpsm.mb.ca/educational](http://cpsm.mb.ca/educational)

**Proficiency in the English Language Requirement**

The College of Physician and Surgeons of Manitoba requires English language scores (IELTS academic version) within the last 24 months at the time of application and achieved a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the four components in the same sitting.

For information regarding the English Proficiency Requirement Please see: [http://umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/international/english/index.html](http://umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/international/english/index.html)

**The Interview**

Applicants are required to participate in all phases of the admissions process including the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format, a Written Essay Station, and a formal Panel Interview.

The interview date is released in mid-March and hosted in mid-April. Applicants not available to attend the scheduled interview date are not considered for admission. We strive to provide early notification and if candidates cancel the next candidate of the wait list are notified. Space on the interview is limited because of human resources and facilities. The MMI team consists of clinicians, faculty members and senior students. Raters are required to declare potential Conflict
of Interest situations. Information regarding the MMI format is available on the following website. [http://umanitoba.ca/student/employment/webshops/Multiple-Mini-Interview/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/employment/webshops/Multiple-Mini-Interview/)

For admission selection, the total score from the MMI, Panel Interview, and Written Station, as well as professionalism is considered.

**Applicants with Disabilities**

The Max Rady College of Medicine supports individuals with disabilities who may require an accommodation to meet the requisite skills and abilities for admission, promotion and graduation in the MPAS program. The MPAS follows the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Policy regarding Accommodation for Undergraduate Medical Students with Disabilities and linked from our web page [https://umanitoba.ca/physicianassistant](https://umanitoba.ca/physicianassistant)

**Confidential Process**

An application for admission to MPAS and the supporting documentation is personal information and is sensitive, as per *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Application information is only used to assess the candidate’s suitability for admission, and for making reasonable accommodations. Information about successful applicants is part of the student’s file and used for academic purposes only. Successful applicants’ information is stored on the student’s record. MPAS reserves the right to retain information indefinitely should there be evidence of information that may have a bearing on future professional behaviour for those who choose to re-apply.

MPAS protects the integrity of the admissions process. As a result, applicants will not have access to certain information related to their application, including:

- The letters of reference;
- Specific MMI, panel or interview scoring;
- Composite score or ranking; and
- The interviewers’ names;
- Reason for non-acceptance.

**Student Advising**

Because of limited resources, MPAS is not able to assist applicants with all inquiries. We recommend reviewing material provided on the program’s website before contacting the program. Contacting practicing PAs is strongly recommended. It is our policy not to instruct applicants on a course of action they should follow, but rather provide the information needed for the applicants to make their choices on the alternatives available.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their plans with all who can usefully advise them. *Please be aware that second and third-hand information about MPAS admission policies or the program itself is often incorrect or outdated.* The MPAS Faculty attends many events at Manitoba Universities to speak on the program and Physician Assistant profession. Please contact your University’s Career Services office to extend an invitation to our program. We are
happy to participate when we can. Our web page has video’s you may view for additional
information.

MPAS does not pre-assess applications. Applicants may submit written inquiries to mail to the
program address MPAS@umanitoba.ca if you feel your question is not addressed in our
information and only after reviewing the website and program information. Written responses
are considered as evidence of any advice provided by MPAS, Faculty of Graduate Studies or from
the Admissions or Enrollment Services office.

Student Advisory Meetings will not be available for unsuccessful applicants from MPAS.

As stated above, information regarding scoring, ranking and specifics from individual MMI
performance and interviews will not be available.

Good Luck!

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Master Physician Assistant Studies