Towson University ● CCBC Essex

Physician Assistant Program

Application and Admissions Information

This Booklet contains complete application and admissions information. All information contained in this booklet is subject to change. Please refer to this site often for updates.

Towson University ● Community College of Baltimore County

Revised 05/16/2014
The contents of this booklet may not be changed or duplicated without the express written permission of the Towson University • CCBC Essex Physician Assistant Program Governing Committee.

All policies are subject to change. Prospective applicants are required to abide by the Towson University/Community College of Baltimore County admission policies. It is the applicant’s responsibility to read the booklet and become familiar with the policies and principles detailed within the document. Should further questions arise, please contact the program.
**TOP REASONS PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS CHOOSE US**

- **Solid reputation built on more than 40 years of excellence in PA education**
  - Master’s Program initiated in 2001

- **Master’s program focusing on leadership and education with reasonable and affordable tuition and fees**
  - In-state tuition and fees for entire program are very reasonable with no hidden costs
  - Students work closely with faculty on projects and research
  - Leadership opportunities

- **Excellent student to faculty ratio**
  - 36 students per class
  - Six fulltime faculty members with clinically experienced adjunct faculty members for specialty instruction

- **Excellent graduate pass rate for the national certification exam**

- **100% placement rate for all graduates seeking employment as a physician assistant**
  - Assistance from the program and faculty
  - Local employers seek Towson • CCBC graduates

- **Experienced Core faculty members**

- **Excellent clinical instructors and top-notch teaching sites**
  - Affiliations with all of the major medical teaching institutions in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area including: The Johns Hopkins Medical Center, Greater Baltimore Medical Center, University of Maryland Medical Center, St. Joseph’s Medical Center
  - Participation of private physician offices
  - Clinical instructors dedicated to producing the best PA’s

- **Community Medicine, Cross Cultural Stipend Program**
  - Students are able to apply for travel and expenses to complete elective rotations internationally or within the US. Determinations are made based on the merits of each request.
  - Former sites have included Belize, Florida, Western Maryland and other underserved and rural areas
THE PA PROFESSION

The title "physician assistant" or "PA" refers to health care providers who are licensed to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed physician. The concept of the profession originated in the 1960s as a way to enhance provision of health care to medically underserved communities. The founding of the profession was based on accepting the premise that with special training and education other health professionals could perform many of a physician’s functions with equal competence.

Physician assistants, by nature of their education, are prepared to perform many duties that were most commonly the responsibilities of the physician. PA’s are allowed to practice in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam. They can also be employed in a broad range of medical facilities including private physician’s offices, hospitals, nursing homes, HMOs, occupational health centers, emergency departments, the military and correctional institutions.

Working with the supervision of a physician and as a part of the larger medical team, PA’s practice medicine through history taking and physical examination as well as ordering or performing laboratory tests. They formulate diagnoses and develop management plans after analyzing medical data. Additionally, PA’s perform many diagnostic and therapeutic procedures including casting, splinting, and minor surgery procedures such as suturing and biopsies. All 50 states, including Maryland, allow physician assistants to prescribe medications.

The physician assistant profession is a rapidly growing career field with employment opportunities expected to grow through the next decade.
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The physician assistant is academically and clinically prepared to provide health care services with the direction and responsible supervision of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy. Within the physician/PA relationship, physician assistants make clinical decisions and provide a broad range of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive and health maintenance services. The clinical role of PA’s includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical settings. PA practice is centered on patient care and may include educational, research and administrative activities.

The role of the physician assistant demands intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, appropriate interpersonal skills, and the capacity to react to emergencies in a calm and reasoned manner. An attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality in communicating with patients, and a commitment to the patients’ welfare are essential attributes.

PA practice is characterized by clinical knowledge and skills in areas traditionally defined as family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, surgery, and psychiatry/behavioral medicine. Specific tasks performed by individual PAs cannot be delineated precisely because of the variation in practice requirements mandated by geographic, political, economic, and social factors. At a minimum, however, PAs are educated in areas of basic medical science, clinical disciplines, and discipline-specific problem solving. PA practice is characterized by clinical knowledge and skills in areas traditionally defined as family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, surgery, and psychiatry/behavioral medicine. Physician assistants practice in ambulatory, emergency, inpatient, and long-term care settings. Physician assistants deliver health care services to diverse patient populations of all ages with a range of acute and chronic medical and surgical conditions. They need knowledge and skills which allow them to function effectively in a dynamic health care environment. Services performed by physician assistants while practicing with physician supervision include, but are not limited to, evaluation, monitoring, therapeutic, patient education and referral.
Program Description

This collaborative program of the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) and Towson University is designed for students who hold a bachelor's degree prior to admission. It prepares individuals with strong academic backgrounds and clinical experience for careers as Physician Assistants. Full-time continuous enrollment is required throughout the 26-month program. The Accreditation Review Committee on Education of Physician Assistants (ARC-PA) accredits the program. Graduates are eligible for certification by the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

At its September 2013 meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) voted to place the Towson University CCBC Essex Physician Assistant Program on Accreditation - Probation until the next commission review in September 2015.

Probation is a temporary status of accreditation limited to two years and conferred when a program does not meet the Standards and when the capability of a program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Once placed on probation, a program that still fails to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and/or risk having their accreditation withdrawn.

Specific questions regarding the program and its plans should be directed to the program director and/or the appropriate institutional official(s).

Entry into the program requires admission to Towson University Graduate Studies and CCBC as well as admission to the collaborative PA Program. Enrollees must successfully complete all requirements of the program, which include both Towson University and CCBC courses. The program of study is 97 credits—36 graduate credits taken through Towson University and 61 undergraduate credits provided through CCBC. All courses are provided on the CCBC Essex campus. Enrollees enjoy full student privileges on both campuses. Faculty has teaching appointments to both institutions.

The physician assistant curriculum (CCBC and Towson University courses) integrates a large volume of technically detailed information. Successful completion of the program requires strong science, general education and medical experience preparation, as well as intense study and commitment throughout the 26 month program. The first year of study is in large part didactic in nature. Students will attend classes for 35 to 40 hours per week. In the second year, students complete clinical rotations in medicine, family practice, pediatrics, women’s health, emergency medicine, community medicine, and surgery. They will also complete an elective rotation and an eight-week primary care preceptorship. Students return to the Essex campus between rotations for classes during their clinical year.
Students will register for 200 level courses with CCBC Essex and will register for 600, 700 and 800 level courses with Towson University.

Tuition and fees for 200 level courses are paid to CCBC Essex. Tuition and fees for 600, 700, and 800 level courses are paid to Towson University. Applicants will pay application fees to each institution as appropriate. Towson University graduate course GPAs are calculated separately from CCBC courses. Students will receive two grade reports each semester and carry a GPA separate for Towson and CCBC. Comprehensive records from both institutions are maintained by CCBC. Lastly, each student will receive an overall program GPA, which incorporates performance from both Towson University and CCBC courses.
The oldest and most well established program in Maryland, the Essex Physician Assistant Program began in 1972 as a cooperative effort with the Johns Hopkins University and Franklin Square Hospital with separate tracks at each institution. Both tracks were integrated as one in 1976. Now a collaborative effort of CCBC Essex and Towson University; the program has undergone a dynamic evolution over its 40-year history. More than 1000 program graduates are employed in a wide variety of medical settings in regional, national, and international locations.

**Towson University**

Founded in 1866, Towson University is recognized among the nation’s finest regional public universities, offering more than 90 undergraduate and graduate programs from the bachelor’s to doctoral level. It is the second-largest institution in the University System of Maryland (over 20,000 students) and the largest comprehensive university in the Baltimore area.

Towson University is regularly recognized among regional and national public institutions by *U.S. News and World Report, The Princeton Review, and Forbes*. Located in the suburban community of Towson, just eight miles north of downtown Baltimore, the 328-acre beautifully landscaped campus has an impressive blend of traditional and modern architecture. The campus is approximately ten miles from the CCBC Essex campus, which is also in the suburban Baltimore area. Towson has graduated more than 100,000 students, including more than 10,000 with graduate degrees.

**Community College of Baltimore County**

In October of 1998, by action of the Baltimore County Council, the three Baltimore County Community Colleges (Catonsville, Dundalk and Essex) became The Community College of Baltimore County. The former Essex Community College was established in 1957 and has a long history of excellence in allied health professional programs. The CCBC Essex campus of approximately 147 acres is located in a wooded setting in eastern Baltimore County. Nine major academic buildings house classrooms, laboratories, offices for faculty and staff, and special facilities such as the library, the community center, the theater, and School of Health Professions Program laboratories. Franklin Square Hospital Center occupies 100 acres adjacent to the college and provides a convenient site for shared clinical education activities. Tree-lined parking areas, pedestrian plazas, large lawns, and special gardens complete the campus environment.
# Program Sequence of Study

## Year I

### Summer Session I (First Five Weeks)
- PAST 212 Public Health and Preventative Medicine: 2 credits
- PAST 224 Gross Anatomy: 2 credits
- PAST 236 Basic Physical Diagnosis: 2 credits
- PAST 602 Ethics, Issues, & Trends: 3 credits

### Summer Session II (Second Five Weeks)
- PAST 214 Psychosocial Issues in Medicine I: 2 credits
- PAST 225 Human Pathophysiology: 2 credits
- PAST 603 Medicine I: 2 credits

### Fall
- PAST 216 Psychosocial Issues II: 2 credits
- PAST 230 Diagnostic Studies I: 2 credits
- PAST 237 Advanced Physical Diagnosis: 2 credits
- PAST 604 Medicine II: 6 credits
- PAST 606 Pediatrics I: 2 credits
- PAST 609 Pharmacology I: 2 credits

### Winter (Minimester)
- PAST 231 Diagnostic Studies II: 2 credits
- PAST 605 Medicine III: 2 credits

### Spring
- PAST 232 Diagnostic Studies III: 2 credits
- PAST 250 Introduction to Clinical Practice: 4 credits
- PAST 601 Research Methods: 3 credits
- PAST 607 Pediatrics II: 2 credits
- PAST 608 Medicine IV: 6 credits
- PAST 610 Pharmacology II: 2 credits

## Year II

### Summer
- PAST 251 Clinical Practicum I: 6 credits

### Fall
- PAST 252 Clinical Practicum II: 12 credits
- PAST 730 Clinical Management Seminar I (Summer Start): 2 credits
- PAST 801 Research Seminar I (Summer Start): 1 credit

### Winter (Minimester)
- PAST 253 Clinical Practicum III: 3 credits

### Spring
- PAST 254 Clinical Practicum IV: 11 credits
- PAST 731 Clinical Management Seminar II (Winter Start): 2 credits
- PAST 802 Research Seminar II (Winter Start): 1 credit

### Summer
- PAST 255 Clinical Practicum V: 5 credits

**Total Credits:** 97
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM COURSES

PAST 212 Public Health and Preventive Medicine 2 Credits
This course serves as an introduction to the dynamics of health and disease in human populations. In addition, the maintenance of health and prevention of illness in services and facilities will be discussed. Current clinical prevention standards, public health methods, clinical epidemiology, and relevant public health models for clinicians will be taught in detail. Demography, epidemiology, environmental health, provision of medical services, preventive medicine and infectious disease will be explored. Basic principles of health policy making will also be addressed.

PAST 214 Psychosocial Issues in Medicine I 2 Credits
This course will provide an understanding of the psychological processes underlying human behavior in medical settings. Emphasis is placed upon the dynamics of the patient-health provider relationship. Topics include the following: communication skills, approaches to patients, working with special populations, cross-cultural communication, stress and disease, chronic illness, adherence, domestic violence, human sexuality issues, and death and dying.

PAST 216 Psychosocial Issues in Medicine II 2 Credits
This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the psychological process underlying human behavior and psychiatric disorders. An emphasis is placed upon the importance of psychiatric principles in primary care. The course examines concepts in the diagnosis and treatment of the major classes of psychiatric disorders and psychiatric emergencies in primary care. Special issues in geriatric mental health as well as prevention, recognition and intervention of child abuse and sexual assault will be addressed.

PAST 224 Gross Anatomy 2 Credits
This course presents a focused review of human anatomy. The student will spend several days each week in a didactic setting and one day a week in the cadaver laboratory at the University of Maryland Medical School. This course is taught by highly experienced anatomists who utilize pro-section laboratory methods.
PAST 225  Human Pathophysiology  2 Credits

This course covers the reaction of the human body to disease from the cellular to the multi-system level. It focuses on specific pathophysiologic causes of human disease and illness. This course prepares the entering physician assistant student for future courses in medicine and prevention.

PAST 230  Diagnostic Studies I  2 Credits

The first of three courses designed to provide students with proficiency in performance, and ordering and interpretation of diagnostic studies. This course covers how to order and interpret of radiographs, ultrasound studies, and electrocardiograms. Students also perform 12 lead EKG studies.

PAST 231  Diagnostic Studies II  2 Credits

This course is designed to prepare students to perform and interpret basic diagnostic and laboratory tests. Emphasis is placed on those tests necessary to assess complaints common to the ambulatory, hospitalized and emergency medicine patient.

PAST 232  Diagnostic Studies III  2 Credits

This course is designed to prepare students to perform and interpret basic diagnostic and laboratory tests. Emphasis is placed on those tests necessary to assess complaints common to the ambulatory, hospitalized and emergency medicine patient.

PAST 236  Basic Physical Diagnosis  2 Credits

This introduction to the diagnostic process focuses on the proper methods of obtaining, recording, and presenting patient histories and physical examinations. This course places an emphasis on strong interpersonal communication skills and a system-by-system approach when performing the physical exam. Upon completion, the student will be prepared to perform and appropriately document a basic head to toe physical examination.
PAST 237  Advanced Physical Diagnosis  2 Credits

This course builds upon the skills obtained in PAST 236. A focused approach to the signs and symptoms of specific disease processes will be presented. Following the course, the student will be able to perform a complete and focused head to toe physical assessment, including the development of differential diagnoses. Thereby each student will be prepared for their initial direct patient care experience.

PAST 250  Introduction to Clinical Practice  4 Credits

Further development of basic clinical skills presented in PAST 213 with a focus on the diagnostic process including exposure to elements of clinical management. Students are assigned to the clinical setting for one or two eight-hour days per week and meet in small groups with faculty members for two hours each week. Emphasis is placed on eliciting the patient history, physical assessment, recording patient data and case presentation, diagnosis and basic management plans, and performing basic clinical skills with actual patients in the clinical setting.

PAST 251-254 Clinical Practicum I-IV  32 Credits

These four clinical practica provide rotations in family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery, emergency medicine, community medicine, long-term care and two general elective areas in primary care and general medicine. Psychiatry in patient care is covered during family medicine and emergency medicine rotations with core faculty.

PAST 255  Clinical Practicum V  5 Credits

The Primary Care Preceptorship, the final clinical experience, provides the student with an opportunity to apply principles of the practice of medicine covered throughout the program in a primary care or rural/underserved location. The student will function as a full member of the medical team and be responsible for patient care from presentation through follow-up including diagnostic evaluation and patient management.

PAST 601  Research Methods  3 Credits

Interpretation, critique, and application of qualitative and quantitative research for clinical practice will be explored.
PAST 602  Ethics, Professional Issues and Trends  3 Credits

This course examines professional and ethical issues, as well as legal implications, confronting the physician assistant. Effect of social, political and economic changes is also explored, together with the physician assistant role in the health care team. Prerequisite: Admission to program.

PAST 603  Medicine I  2 Credits

The first of four courses designed to prepare the physician assistant student for management of disease in the adult patient. The disease process, diagnostic criteria and management options are presented. The course includes the standard lecture format as well as case-based learning.

PAST 604  Medicine II  6 Credits

This is the second part of four courses designed to provide Physician Assistant students with exposure to the mechanism and natural course of disease process. Signs, symptoms and laboratory findings are presented along with differential diagnoses and management options. In addition to the standard lecture format students participate in case-based learning.

PAST 605  Medicine III  2 Credits

The third of four courses designed to prepare the physician assistant student in management of disease in the adult patient. Women's health is emphasized.

PAST 606  Pediatrics I  2 Credits

This is the first part of a two-part course designated to provide Physician Assistant students with exposure to the mechanism and natural course of the disease process in the pediatric patient.

PAST 607  Pediatrics II  2 Credits

This is the second part of a two-part course designated to provide Physician Assistant students with exposure to the mechanism and natural course of the disease process in the pediatric patient.

PAST 608  Medicine IV  6 Credits

The fourth of four courses designed to prepare the physician assistant student in management of disease in the adult patient.
PAST 609 Pharmacology I 2 Credits

This is the first of two courses covering the basic principles of pharmacology and pharmacokinetics. Basic principles of prescribing are a major focus. The clinical use of antibiotics, analgesics, hypoglycemic agents, insulin, and medications used for treatment of peptic ulcer disease is covered in this course.

PAST 610 Pharmacology II 2 Credits

Specific topics include drugs affecting the autonomic nervous system, cardioactive drugs, antiarrhythmic, anesthetics, diuretics, antifungal, asthmatics, and drugs used for the treatment of various neurological and psychiatric disorders.

PAST 730 Clinical Management Seminar I 2 Credits

Selected clinical management topics are presented in a group seminar/lecture format. Students meet at the conclusion of each clinical rotation. Topics include current management of the major disease entities encountered in primary care. Principles of management including the diagnostic process, the selection of current medical interventions, and the management of patient education are expected of the students. Current interpretations of the literature addressing changes in current clinical management are expected of the students.

PAST 731 Clinical Management Seminar II 2 Credits

A continuation Patient Management Seminar I. Selected clinical management topics are presented in a group format. Students meet at the conclusion of each clinical rotation. Topics include current management of the major disease entities encountered in primary care. Principles of management including the diagnostic process, the selection of current medical interventions, and the management of patient education are expected of the students. Current interpretations of the literature addressing changes in current clinical management are expected of the students.

PAST 801/802 Research Seminars I & II 1 Credit/1 Credit

Each student will work with a mentor and the research coordinator to compose a formal report of the chosen research project. The final research project will be presented to a panel of faculty members for evaluation and critique.
**Program Mission**

The Physician Assistant Program provides a generalist foundation with a broad range of knowledge and skills to prepare competent PAs for practice in diverse medical settings.

**Program Vision**

The Physician Assistant Program prepares students in a learning-centered environment and promotes the following core values:

- Professionalism in compassionate and ethical medical practice
- Cultural diversity within the learning environment
- Cultural sensitivity and advocacy for addressing health care disparities
- Information literacy and life-long learning
- Inter-professional team practice
- Representing and advocating for the PA profession

**PA Program Graduates:**

1. promote the public's interest and the patient's needs before any other considerations;
2. are ethical health care professionals;
3. serve as advocates for patient needs;
4. provide patient education and preventive health care services;
5. demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning;
6. work with other health care professionals in providing coordinated health care; and
7. are committed to assuring that health care services are accessible and compassionate.

**Program Commitment**

The Physician Assistant Program seeks:

1. To assure that the education provided to graduates meets expectations of the medical community and complies with the ARC-PA Standards;
2. To promote the continuing education of program graduates; and
3. To provide career opportunities to individuals from all socio-economic background regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or national origin.
MISSION ACHIEVEMENT

The Towson University • CCBC Essex Physician Assistant Program has demonstrated achieving its mission in the following ways:

- Provides cultural diversity within the learning environment
- Students and faculty represent and advocate for the PA profession
- Graduates are readily employed within the community and serve a variety of populations
- Graduates are all employed within three months of graduation
- Overall national board success rate above national levels

PA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Graduates will be able to:

1. With the supervision of a physician, practice medicine across the lifespan, including but not limited to the following:
   1.1. Conduct health assessments and provide preventive services
   1.2. Perform histories and physical examinations
   1.3. Evaluate health status and diagnosing disease
   1.4. Formulate management plans for routine health maintenance, acute and chronic illness and emergent conditions
   1.5. Perform clinical procedures and surgical skills in a safe and efficacious manner
   1.6. Provide counseling and health education
   1.7. Evaluate outcomes of care
2. Demonstrate awareness of cultural diversity and sensitivity to multicultural health care issues.
3. Provide leadership in medical setting and ethical decision-making across a variety of practice settings.
4. Effectively advocate for the enhancement of health care delivery in the public arena using a variety of strategies.
5. Provide leadership in health care organizational systems.
6. Analyze research literature for use in the practice of evidence-based medicine.
7. Participate in research studies designed to contribute to the knowledge base in medicine.
8. Contribute to the education of health care professionals in academic and clinical settings.
**CLINICAL PRACTICE OBJECTIVES**

Graduates will practice medicine, with the supervision of a licensed physician, performing the following tasks in a safe, efficient, and accurate manner. They will:

1. Screen patients to determine need for medical attention and review patient records to determine health status

2. Elicit medical histories
   2.1. Establish rapport with the patient and/or his/her family
   2.2. Establish the patient’s chief complaint
   2.3. Obtain a history of present illness
   2.4. Obtain a past medical history
   2.5. Obtain a personal and social history including: education, employment, and alcohol/caffeine/drug/tobacco use
   2.6. Obtain the family history of illness or exposure to illness
   2.7. Assist patients with the narrative through the use of support and reassurance, empathy, reflection, interpretation, touch, or other methods appropriate to the situation
   2.8. Bringing closure to the interview in an appropriate manner.
   2.9. Communicate historical information to physicians or other health professionals in a clear and concise manner

3. Perform complete physical examination on patients of all age groups
   3.1. Gain the patient’s confidence
   3.2. Use instruments for physical examination, such as stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, tuning forks, tape measure, oto-ophthalmoscope, percussion hammer, pen light, etc
   3.3. Perform the examination in an orderly manner
   3.4. Alter examination according to the needs of the patient
   3.5. Recognize and record in an acceptable manner, normal and abnormal findings based on the patient’s age, sex and race
   3.6. Perform developmental screening examinations

4. Make initial diagnoses based on patient complaints, physical findings and laboratory study results
   4.1. Assess the patient’s problem(s), identify the appropriate diagnostic procedures and discuss differential diagnosis based on signs, symptoms and initial laboratory results
   4.2. Interpret the routine hematological, cytological, bacteriologic, and chemical tests, CBC, differential platelet counts, granulocyte counts, and serum electrolyte levels, etc
4.3. Identify the diseases with which abnormal findings are most often associated

4.4. Identify tests needed to monitor a patient’s condition and/or effectiveness of the therapy

4.5. Order, interpret, and as appropriate, perform diagnostic tests
   a. EKG
   b. Radiographs
   c. Chemistry studies
   d. Hematology studies
   e. Culture results
   f. Others

4.6. Perform follow-up evaluation of previously diagnosed illnesses

4.7. Carry out and collect specimens for commonly performed laboratory diagnostic studies

4.8. Perform clinical procedures including:
   a. Venipuncture
   b. Administration of oral and parenteral medications
   c. Administration of intravenous fluid, blood or blood component transfusions
   d. Administration of local anesthesia
   e. EKG
   f. Suturing, wound care, application of bandages and dressings
   g. Casting and splinting
   h. Control of external hemorrhage
   i. ABG specimen collection
   j. Removal of superficial foreign bodies of the skin, ear and eye
   k. CPR
   l. ACLS
   m. Aseptic and isolation techniques
   n. Bladder catheterization
   o. Nasogastric intubation
   p. Feeding tube insertion

4.9. Prepared with basic skills to learn a variety of clinical procedures pertinent to a specific clinical setting including but not limited to:
   a. Lumbar puncture
   b. Bone marrow aspiration
   c. Central lines
   d. Harvesting of saphenous veins
   e. Endometrial biopsy
   f. Suction evacuation of the uterus
   g. IUD insertion
4.10. Assist in surgery
   a. Identify and use appropriate surgical instruments
   b. Demonstrate appropriate OR conduct
   c. Suture
   d. Dress wounds

5. Formulate and implement patient management plans including writing prescriptions and issuing medical orders.

6. Evaluation and initiate management for emergency situations including but not limited to:
   6.1. Cardiac arrest
   6.2. Respiratory distress
   6.3. Hemorrhage and hemorrhagic shock
   6.4. Burns
   6.5. Trauma
   6.6. Anaphylaxis
   6.7. Ingestion of toxic substances
   6.8. Myocardial Infarction
   6.9. Acute abdomen
   6.10. Septic joint
   6.11. Urinary tract infection
   6.12. Wound infection

7. Provide counseling, and patient and family health education, and health risk assessment
   7.1. Report communicable diseases using the appropriate forms and follow-up
   7.2. Identify the personal or family socio-economic factors affecting medical care
   7.3. Initiate requests for patient services including home health care, school testing and evaluation, and public health services
   7.4. Give emotional support to patients and their families
   7.5. Teach patients the procedures for breast self-examination and testicular self-examination

8. Provide ethical healthcare
   8.1. Apply ethical decision-making skills
   8.2. Apply Professional Code of Ethics

9. Demonstrate critical evaluation skills
   9.1. Locate and retrieve medical literature
9.2. Discuss practice implications
9.3. Read the medical literature on an on-going basis
9.4. Discuss current and controversial medical knowledge with physicians and colleagues

10. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills
   10.1. Report and record patient data
   10.2. Write prescriptions and medical orders

11. Possess a sense of responsibility to medically underserved communities

12. Demonstrate awareness of issues of cultural diversity and a sensitivity to those of other cultures

**NCCPA Pass Rates**

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<tr>
<th>Towson/Essex Class PANCE Pass Rates</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Towson/Essex First-time Takers</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Program First-time Takers</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>93%</td>
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FINANCIAL AID

BASICS

It is imperative that applicants complete financial planning that does not require employment during the 26 months of the program due to the didactic and clinical demands of the program. Course work must be pursued on a full-time basis only. Students must also have reliable private transportation to assigned clinical sites. Towson University CCBC Essex PA students are generally eligible for up to $20,500 annually in federally guaranteed loans. The Towson University Financial Aid Office administers financial aid information for PA students. For financial aid information for PA students, go to the following web site http://onestop.towson.edu/finaid. The financial aid representative for the program is Ms. Christina Meyer. She can be reached through e-mail at cimeyer@towson.edu or by phone, (410)-704-5075.

PROJECTED PA PROGRAM TUITION COSTS

Important Tuition Changes Effect Spring 2014

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<tr>
<th>Towson University</th>
<th>CCBC-Essex</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Deposit</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application (non-refundable)</td>
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<td>Tuition Per Semester</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Fees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Univ. Fee per Unit</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-State (Out-of-County) (per billable hour)</td>
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<td>Out-of-State (per billable hour)</td>
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<td>Capital Fee</td>
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<td>Activity Fee (per billable hour, max $36/semester)</td>
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<td>Towson University (In-State)</td>
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<td>Towson University (Out-of-State)</td>
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<td>CCBC In State (In-County)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCBC In State (Out-of-County)?</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCBC (Out-of-State)†</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**  
In State (In county) | $24,786.00

**TOTAL**  
In State (Out of County) | $31,325.00

**TOTAL**  
Out of State | $52,026.00

ALL TOTALS ARE APPROXIMATE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ALL FIGURES ARE BASED ON TOWSON UNIVERSITY AND CCBC SPRING 2014 COSTS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

*Includes both college and additional semester fees

CCBC:

Baltimore County residency for CCBC can be established after 3 months

† Changes to Maryland State laws will impact tuition rates for Statewide and Health Manpower Shortage programs beginning Summer 2011. At registration, you will pay a new tuition rate for CCBC credits which is half way between the in-county tuition rate and out-of-county tuition rate.

For more information, go to www.ccbcmd.edu/outofcounty or call 443-840-2222

Towson University:

Information about establishing residency status can be found at http://www.towson.edu/main/admissions/tuitionaid/residency.asp
# PA Program Expenses in Addition to Tuition & Fees

## Prior to PA Program Start

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Towson University tuition deposit(^1)</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
<td>Upon acceptance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCBC supplies/testing costs(^3)</td>
<td>$1,700.00</td>
<td>Upon acceptance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desktop or Laptop Computer(^4)</td>
<td>varies widely</td>
<td>Prior to orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Health Insurance</td>
<td>varies widely</td>
<td>Prior to orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Background Check</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>Upon acceptance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Screening</td>
<td>varies widely</td>
<td>If required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Summer/Fall, Year I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks/Software/Information Technology (for all sems.)</td>
<td>$5,500.00</td>
<td>Summer, Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAPA Membership (two years)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAAPA Membership (two years)</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAPA Conference Registration</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone and PDA</td>
<td>varies widely</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Equipment</td>
<td>$800.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

## Spring, Year I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Logging (entire clinical training)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Student Medical Liability Insurance</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone with Pager Capability(^4)</td>
<td>varies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Spring, Year II/Graduation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCBC Certificate Fee</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Post-Graduation Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCCPA Certification Exam</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
<td>Approximately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland State Certification (initial)</td>
<td>$207.00</td>
<td>Approximately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegation Agreement Fee</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. Expenses in some instances are approximate, all are subject to change. There may be additional costs not mentioned here.
2. Applied to Towson University graduate tuition (not an additional expense.)
3. Covers: Standardized patients, standardized testing (PACKRAT), ACLS expenses, Typhon logging fee, online study assistance, hospital jackets, ID badges and name tags, surrogate patients and genital exam training, cadaver lab, skills lab supplies (surgical, suture, casting materials, parenteral medication and venipuncture equipment, etc.)
4. Computer and cell/phone initial costs and month fees vary widely. Student will want to shop for the best possible price.
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The deadline for application to the class beginning in June is August 1 of the previous year. The most successful applicants are those individuals who have completed all of their requirements by the time of application, apply to CASPA as early as possible in the application cycle, and have strong GPAs. When the available seats in the program are filled using this rolling admissions process, all applications received after that time may not be fully reviewed.

The minimum requirements for application for admission include: completed bachelor’s (or higher) degree, from a regionally accredited institution, completion of the six prerequisite courses, and a minimum of 800 hours (1600 preferred) of patient contact experience (examples of hours can be found at the end of this document).

The program uses a rolling admissions process, whereby eligible and competitive candidates are reviewed in order of submission, and upon a successful interview are offered admission into the program. Candidates who have completed and submitted all the application requirements are given priority review.

1. Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution must be completed by the time of final submission of the application

2. Minimum 3.0 GPA for completed Bachelor’s degrees or any graduate degree.

3. Patient contact or medical/health related experience. A minimum of 800 (1600 preferred) documented hours (examples of hours can be found on page 46 of this document). No updates to the patient contact hours are allowed after the application is submitted to CASPA.

4. Completion of prerequisite math and science courses from a regionally accredited college or university, with a minimum of a “B” grade, as follows:

   - Anatomy (or Human A & P I)\(^1\) 4 credits (Must include Lab)
   - Physiology (or Human A & P II)\(^1\) 4 credits (Must include Lab)
   - Biochemistry\(^2\) 3 credits
   - Microbiology 4 credits (Must include Lab)
   - College Level Statistics – any discipline 3 credits (May be taken online)
   - Medical Terminology 2/3 credits (May be taken online)

\(^{1}\) Comparative anatomy and vertebrate physiology may be substituted for A& P I and II

\(^{2}\) The prerequisite requirement is a course in biochemistry. At CCBC, “Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry” is the course title. At Towson University, this course is CHEM 351 Biochemistry (with CHEM 356 Lab).

Information and Admissions Booklet Page | 25
5. **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** (Applicants who are not US citizens are considered international students). Foreign Medical Graduates will not be required to complete all six prerequisites in the US.

   a. Residency Requirement
      i. Copy of permanent residency permits (green card) required.
      ii. Copy of current visa required.

   b. English Language Proficiency
      i. International students are those who have earned their degree outside of the U.S., regardless of citizenship status.
      ii. All international students for whom English is not a native language are required to complete the TOEFL or IELTS exam.
      iii. International students who hold a degree from a 4 year or graduate U.S. institution are exempt from this requirement; students who hold a 2 year degree or an Associate’s degree from a U.S. institution are not exempt from this requirement.
      iv. Minimum required TOEFL score--550 (paper-based testing) or 80 (internet based testing) with a minimum score of 20 on each of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing on the TOEFL, or minimum IELTS of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in each of the Listen, Speaking, Read, and Writing sections.

   V. Towson University is a testing site and offers the test in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Information can be obtained at [http://grad.towson.edu/admissions/international/index.asp](http://grad.towson.edu/admissions/international/index.asp). Towson’s institution code is 5404.

   VI. International students should reference the Towson University graduate catalog for complete and updated requirements.

   c. International Transcripts
      i. Towson University requires copies of all transcripts, including foreign transcripts, sent directly from your university to the Graduate Admission Office. **Please note: only those students who are offered an interview will need to submit transcripts and additional information. Those selected for an interview will be sent additional communication regarding this process.**

      ii. International transcripts must be evaluated by the AACRAO, ASCISS or WES credential evaluation centers. The PA Program prefers WES credentialing.

         World Education Service (WES)
         Bowling Green Station
         PO Box 5087
         New York, NY 10274 (212)966-6311
         Fax: (212)739-6100
         Website: [http://www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

      iii. Towson CCBC PA program does not accept scores on USMLE examinations as equivalent to prerequisite courses.
6. Ability to perform the essential functions of a physician assistant (see Physician Assistant Essential Functions).

Preferred applicants will have:

1. Completed all prerequisite courses and the bachelor’s degree prior to submission of the application;
2. Earned a minimum of “B” for each of the Prerequisite courses;
3. Completed required medical experience in the United States healthcare system;
4. Two or more years of full-time professional healthcare experience;
5. References from individuals within the United States healthcare system;
6. A GPA of 3.0 or higher (most applicants have a GPA greater than 3.2) and
7. A 3.0 or higher Science GPA
8. Experience in working with individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds.

APPLICATION DATES, TIMELINES & DEADLINES

1. The program application cycle year precedes the year of admission.
2. The CASPA application process opens each year by mid-April. Application may be made any time after this date.
3. For best consideration applications should be submitted to CASPA as early as possible.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Initial Application

The Towson University · CCBC Essex Physician Assistant Program participates in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Website address: https://caspa.liaisoncas.com

After clicking on to the CASPA site, click the button Before Applying and review the information there BEFORE starting the application.

Please send transcripts to the following mailing address:

CASPA
Post Office Box 9108
Watertown, MA 02471
For questions about completing the online CASPA application, help can be reached by phone, (617) 612-2080, or by e-mail caspinfo@caspaonline.org

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9am-5pm
Phone Number: 617-612-2080
Email: caspinfo@caspaonline.org

Mail:
CASPA
P.O. Box 9108
Watertown, MA 02471


The CASPA application window begins mid-April. For more information about the process, log on to https://caspa.liaisoncas.com

Applications are reviewed by the admissions committee as they are received from CASPA.

**SECONDARY APPLICATIONS**

Only applicants selected for an interview will be asked to complete electronic supplemental application materials and submit additional fees. In addition, Towson University will require official transcripts.

**International Students**

International Students—Additional Application Requirements

Applicants who are not U.S citizens are considered international students. International students accepted for an interview must submit the following to Towson University:

1. Official copy of the transcript evaluation performed through World Education Service (UES) www.wes.org, AACRAO, or ASCISS
2. Official TOEFL or IELTS scores received directly from the Education Testing Service. International students for whom English is a native language or who hold a degree from an accredited US institution are exempt.
3. Official copy of all transcripts from international schools attended.
4. Copy of permanent residency permits (green card).
5. Copy of current visa.

For additional information regarding international applications contact Towson University’s International Student & Scholar Office at (410) 704-2421 or isso@towson.edu.

**Patient Contact or Medically Related Experience**

All eligible candidates must submit verification of a minimum of 800 hours of patient contact or medically related experience (examples of hours can be found on page 36 of this document). While applicants with health care experience in another health care area are preferred, patient contact or medically related experience may include:
• Clinical hours completed as part of a health care training program,
• Medical or clinical research with or without patient contact
• Volunteer hospital or clinical experience,
• Documented home health care experience.
REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROGRAM

Successful students will receive the Master of Science Degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Towson University and a certificate of completion from CCBC. A student may not earn one credential (Master’s Degree and Certificate of Completion) without the other.

1. Successful completion of all PA Program (CCBC Essex and Towson University) courses on a full-time basis in the outlined sequence.

2. Achievement of an overall 3.00 GPA for Towson University Graduate physician assistant courses with no more than two “C” course grades.

3. Achievement of an overall 3.00 GPA for CCBC physician assistant courses with no more than two “C” course grades.

4. The medicine courses provide the foundation needed to complete the remainder of the program. Therefore, achievement of minimum of a “B” in PAST 604 or PAST 608 is required. Students who do not earn at least a “B” for one of these courses may not continue in the program.

5. Achievement of a minimum of a “C” for all medicine course exams (PAST 603, 604, 605, and 608) as defined in the course syllabus.

6. Achievement of a minimum score as defined in course syllabi for the Year I including summative evaluations, completion of PACKRAT exam, standardized patient Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs) and recommendation of the Student Progress Review Committee (SPRC) for continuation into the second year.

7. Achievement of a minimum score as defined in course syllabi for the Year II summative evaluations, completion of PACKRAT exam, standardized patient Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs) and recommendation by the Student Progress Review Committee (SPRC) for continuation to the primary care preceptorship.

8. Completion of all program requirements within 36 months of beginning the physician assistant program.

9. Full compliance with all Physician Assistant Program, Towson University and CCBC policies.
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Professional Technical Standards

The role of the physician assistant demands intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, the ability to relate with people, and the capacity to react to emergencies in calm and reasoned manner. An attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality in communicating with patients, and commitment to the patient's welfare are essential attributes.

Candidates admitted to the program must:

- Have the academic ability to master a large volume of technically detailed information and be able to synthesize and use this data to solve complex clinical problems. This information must be acquired in a short and intense period of study, which requires well-developed study skills, a high level of motivation and may require considerable personal and financial sacrifice.

- Have the mental, emotional, physical ability and stamina to complete the program on a full-time basis in the required sequence.

- Possess the emotional maturity and stability to approach highly stressful human situations in a calm, safe and rational manner.

- Have well developed oral and written English language communication skills.

- Be comfortable with the role of a dependent practitioner operating under the supervision of a licensed physician, while simultaneously feeling comfortable with the large amount of responsibility that goes along with the delivery of patient care in sometimes remote locations.

- Display strong ethical integrity consistent with working as a health care professional.

- Have the minimum physical abilities in the areas of sensory function, hand eye coordination, fine motor coordination and neuromuscular control to competently perform the technical activities that are a critical part of the program curriculum and profession, including:

  a) Physical examination;
  b) Performance and interpretation of diagnostic studies such as blood tests, EKGs and x-rays;
  c) Surgical assisting (standing, sitting and holding arms in one position for long periods of time);
  d) Performing common procedures such as casting, suturing and venipuncture; and
  e) Lifting and transferring objects weighing up to 25 lbs.
PA PROGRAM CANDIDATE GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

Applicants and Prospective Students should review and carefully consider the information below in planning for successful completion of the program.

1. Program Length
The physician assistant Program is a full-time, 26 month continuous program of study that begins with the first five-week summer session (early June). Orientation may be scheduled for late May. Year 1 is largely classroom, laboratory and lecture with some clinical assignment. Year II is largely clinical.

2. Employment/Financial Considerations
It is crucial that students plan ahead so that employment, full or part-time, is not necessary during the entire length of the program. No special consideration will be made for students who choose for any reason to ignore this recommendation.

3. Planning for Family Obligations
It is imperative that arrangements for childcare and other family responsibilities be planned for in advance with back-up arrangements in place so that students are able to attend all classes and assignments on time. Absence, lateness and assignments turned in late may be cause for course failure.

4. Family Support Systems
The program of study is highly intense and can stress the student’s personal, family, social and financial resources. Support of family and friends is crucial to achieving success in this program. Candidates are encouraged to prepare family members well in advance.

5. Program Sequence and Advance Standing
Students must complete all class and clinical assignments on time and in the correct sequence. The program awards no advance standing. Students who leave the program and wish to return must reapply to begin again.

6. Student Travel Costs
Students are fully responsible for all transportation costs (including parking housing, and meals) related to their clinical assignments and must have reliable transportation in order to attend clinical sites throughout the greater Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area and beyond. Most students will have at least one assignment distant enough from the college that housing is required.

7. Clinical Assignments
Students generally do not have options to choose clinical sites (within the exception of the elective rotations) and must attend wherever assigned at the discretion of the clinical coordinator.
8. **Academic Schedule—Year 1**
Classroom schedules are generally 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday during the first year of study. Occasionally attendance during evening hours is required.

9. **Clinical Schedule—Year II**
Clinical schedules will vary based upon the type and nature of the clinical care being provided at each clinical site. Some clinical sites may require evening, night, weekend and on-call hours. All students must be prepared to meet the requirements of their assigned clinical site.

10. **Cell Phones**
Physician assistant students are required to own a cell phone. It will be the student’s responsibility to purchase and or contract for cell phone services during their time in the program.

11. **Computer Requirements**
The Physician Assistant Program requires that each physician assistant student acquire a multimedia capable personal computer. (Please check with the Program before making a purchase.)

Minimum requirements include:

- Laptop
- Multimedia Package
- Windows 8, Windows XP or Vista operating system
- Microsoft WORD word-processing software. The college standard is Microsoft WORD 2010.
- WiFi capability
- Printer

12. **E-mail Accounts**
The Program requires that students establish an email account with both Towson University and the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC). Important communication among students, faculty and staff will occur via these email addresses.

13. **Smart Phone Requirement**
The Physician Assistant Program requires that each Physician Assistant student have a cell phone with smart phone capabilities.

14. **Physical Exam Practice**
PA Students are required to act as surrogate patients for fellow students for history taking and physical examinations (with the exception of the breast and genitalia). All students must be willing to allow themselves to be examined by both male and female fellow students and be examined with full body exposure. Women must wear a two-piece bathing suit or sports bra.
(must leave most of the anterior thorax exposed) and gym shorts. Full exposure of the abdomen is required as well as exposure of the chest (with the exception of the areas covered by the sports bra for examination of the heart and lungs). Men must wear gym shorts. (*Students who have religious or culture inhibitions regarding the above are responsible for informing the instructor prior to participation. The instructor will make special arrangements to accommodate these concerns.*)

15. **Criminal Background Checks**
Applicants should be aware that state medical boards may conduct criminal background checks on PA applicants for state licensure. In most instances, individuals with a criminal background will not be granted licensure. Additionally, many clinical placement sites for the program require student criminal background checks. Students who are assigned a clinical site where criminal background checks are required and who are denied access to any clinical site based on the criminal background check may be dismissed from the program.

16. **Drug and Alcohol Testing**
Program clinical sites may require routine random drug and alcohol screening or may require testing based on student inappropriate behavior in the clinical setting. Students required by a clinical setting to undergo screening or testing who test positive for drugs or alcohol are subject to dismissal from the program.

17. **Information technology and literacy expectations of entering students**
Entering students are expected to possess the following computer skills upon entry into the program:

- Word Processing (Microsoft Word preferred)
- Presentation software (PowerPoint preferred)
- Internet browsing capability

18. **Preparing for the Study of Medicine**
The study load for entering PA students is substantial and clearly greater than loads that most undergraduate or graduate students are expected to carry. Applicants and those preparing for admission may want to investigate *Study Without Stress: Mastering Medical Sciences* by E. Kelman & K. Straker (ISBN: 9780761916796), Sage Publications. This book represents 25 years of work of two medical educators who did Study Skills workshops for medical students. It has practical information, both general and specific, that covers the gamut of the challenges of medical education.

19. **Additional Program Costs**
In addition to required tuition, fees and costs mentioned above students may expect to spend $3,500 to $5,500 on books, equipment, software, professional organization fees and ACL training.
TYPICAL PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT CLASS PROFILE

Age Range: 21-41

Average Age: 28

Sex: 7 Males, 28 Females

Residency: In-State: 32
Out-of-State: 3

Education: All have Bachelor’s degrees
5 have Master’s degree
2 have Doctoral degree (including foreign medical degree)

Health Care Experience:
EMT (basic and paramedic)
Medical Technologist
Assistants: OT, PT, Chiropractic, MLT, Research
Nursing
CNA
Other health care experience: Sports Medicine, Corpsman

Major Fields of Undergraduate Study:
Biology
Other Sciences
Medical Technology
Psychology
Liberal Arts
Other Medically Related

Academic Grade Point Averages (rounded):

Overall GPA: 3.5
Average Last 60 Credits GPA: 3.8
Average Prerequisite GPA: 3.7
Average Science course work GPA: 3.5
**PREREQUISITE COURSES EQUIVALENTS**

*Biology majors may substitute 8 credits in anatomy (comparative/vertebrate) and physiology (mammalian).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prerequisite Course</th>
<th>Towson University</th>
<th>CCBC (including Essex, Catonsville, &amp; Dundalk)</th>
<th>University of Maryland-College Park</th>
<th>University of Maryland-Baltimore County</th>
<th>Anne Arundel Community College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANATOMY OR HUMAN ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 1</td>
<td>BIOL 221/221L: HUMAN ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 1</td>
<td>BIOL 220: HUMAN ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 1</td>
<td>BSCI 201: HUMAN ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 1</td>
<td>BIO 251 + 251L: ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 1 +LAB</td>
<td>BIO 233: ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSIOLOGY OR HUMAN ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 2</td>
<td>BIOL 222/222L: HUMAN ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 2</td>
<td>BIOL 221: HUMAN ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 2</td>
<td>BSCI 202: HUMAN ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 2</td>
<td>BIO 252 + 252L: ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 2 +LAB</td>
<td>BIO 234: ANATOMY &amp; PHYSIOLOGY 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOCHEMISTRY</td>
<td>CHEM 351+356: BIOCHEMISTRY 1 + LAB</td>
<td>CHEM 146+147L: INTRO TO ORGANIC AND BIOCHEMISTRY + LAB</td>
<td>CHEM 104: FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANIC AND BIOCHEMISTRY</td>
<td>CHEM 123+123L: INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC AND BIOCHEMISTRY 1</td>
<td>CHEM 115: GENERAL ORGANIC AND INTRODUCTION TO BIOCHEMISTRY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATISTICS (ANY BASIC LEVEL STATISTICS COURSE)</td>
<td>MATH 231: BASIC STATISTICS or PSYC 212: Behavioral Stats</td>
<td>STATISTICS</td>
<td>STATISTICS</td>
<td>STATISTICS</td>
<td>STATISTICS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1) How many students does the program accept each year?
   36

2) How often and when are classes admitted?
   Students are admitted once per year. Each new class starts in June.

3) How many applications does the program receive each year?
   Approximately 700

4) What is the mailing address for the program?
   Towson University • CCBC Essex
   Physician Assistant Program
   7201 Rossville Blvd, HTEC 317
   Baltimore, MD 21237

5) How can I reach the admissions office?
   Contact admissions by calling 443-840-2810 or e-mailing pshanahan@ccbcmd.edu. The
   admissions office fax number is 443-840-1588.

6) Does the program hold information sessions?
   The program holds information sessions at least twice each year. Please check web site
   for information and registration.

7) I will be in the area and would like to meet with an admissions counselor. Is this
   possible?
   If you have reviewed the website thoroughly and still have questions, please contact:
   Charlie Martino
   CCBC School of Health Professions Case Manager/Counselor  443-840-1037
   cmartino@cbcmd.edu
   Essex Campus A244
   or
   Lois Simmons
   Director SHP Office of Selected Admissions  443-840-1406
   lsimmons@ccbcmd.edu
   Essex Campus J101
   The health professions guidance counselor at your school may also be a helpful resource.
8) **Can I attend the program part time?**
   No. The program is 26 months in length and all students must attend full time for the entire program.

9) **Does the program require the GRE?**
   No, the GRE is not required. The program does not review GRE scores even if they are submitted.

10) **Is it possible for me to work to support myself or work as a graduate assistant to finance my education?**
    It is crucial that students plan ahead so that employment, full or part-time, is not necessary during the entire length of the program. Students typically spend 40 hours each week in the classroom or clinical setting and have responsibilities for assignments and additional study. No special consideration will be made for students who choose for any reason to ignore this recommendation.

11) **If this is a collaborative program of Towson University and CCBC to whom do I pay my tuition?**
    Towson University will bill you for graduate courses (600, 700 and 800 level) and CCBC will bill you for the undergraduate courses.

12) **So I would be a student of both CCBC and Towson University?**
    Yes. Students accepted in the program have full rights and privileges to both Towson University and CCBC facilities and activities.

13) **Where are classes held? Will I need to commute between both campuses?**
    All classes are given on the CCBC Essex campus where there is ample free parking and excellent laboratory facilities.

14) **Who teaches in the program? Towson faculty or CCBC faculty?**
    Physician Assistant Program faculty have appointments at Towson University and CCBC.

15) **How do I register for courses?**
    Once accepted into the PA Program, the program registers students for both Towson and CCBC classes. It is the student’s responsibility to pay the bill on time so that registration is not cancelled.
APPLICATION

1) When and how can I apply to the program?
All applications to the Towson University/CCBC Essex Physician Assistant program must be made through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). CASPA information can be found at https://caspa.liaisoncas.com. This link is also on the website. Applications for the June start of the program will be accepted by CASPA starting April 15th of the year proceeding the start year. If you are planning to apply to start the program in June, your application must be received between April 15th and September 1st of the previous year. However, this is a rolling admissions process and all prospective students are urged to apply as soon as they are ready. Once a class has been selected, no other applicants will be considered, even if their applications are received before the deadline. Maximum class size is 36 students.

2) Is there a supplemental application and where do I find it?
Only applicants selected for an interview will be asked to complete electronic supplemental application materials and submit additional fees. In addition, Towson University will require official transcripts.

3) If PA schools have different deadlines, how will I know when to apply through CASPA?
You should apply to CASPA by the earliest deadline of those schools to which you are applying. Remember, for best consideration for admission to the Towson/Essex Program apply as soon as possible after CASPA application cycle opens (Usually April 15-May 1) The Towson/Essex deadline is September 1st. Keep in mind that it generally takes between 3-4 weeks to receive a completed application from CASPA once they have received all of your required documentation. We will start reviewing as soon as we have received your completed CASPA application.

4) Does the program offer early decision?
No, the admissions process is rolling. Applications are considered as soon as CASPA materials are received by the program. Those with excellent credentials will be offered interviews first. The remaining qualified applicants will be interviewed as space allows.

5) If I only want to apply to the Towson/Essex PA program, can I apply directly to the program and not through CASPA?
No, all applications to the Towson/Essex PA Assistant Program must be made through CASPA.

6) Are paper applications available?
No. The CASPA application must be made on line. The secondary applications for CCBC, TU and the Towson/Essex PA Program are also on-line and will be sent by email to the applicants selected for an interview with instructions.
7) Where will I send my original transcripts?
All official transcripts should be sent to CASPA. If you are asked to interview you will be sent instructions on how to send original transcripts to the Program.

8) For best consideration from whom should I get my letters of recommendation?
All three letters of recommendation should come from persons who are familiar with Physician Assistants and the profession. Preferred letters will come from physicians who work with PAs or PAs themselves. College science faculty members are also good sources for letters of reference. Other healthcare professionals who have worked with PAs or PA students are also acceptable. Letters of recommendation must be processed through CASPA not directly through the program staff.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1) What courses may be substituted for the program prerequisites listed in the Application and Admissions Information Brochure on the website?
There is a chart of comparable courses for CCBC, Towson University, and other area schools. If you did not attend a local school or the course in question is not listed, you should go to the Towson or CCBC website course descriptions and compare your course description to those. Comparative anatomy and vertebrate physiology can be substituted for Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II. Final determination of whether or not a course can substitute for a prerequisite can only be made after application by the admissions committee and is often dependent on the applicant’s overall preparedness.

2) Can organic chemistry be substituted for the Biochemistry or Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry course requirement?
No. The program prerequisite is a course in Biochemistry. On the CCBC campus, this course is “Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry.” At Towson University, this course is CHEM 351 Biochemistry (with CHEM 356 Lab).

3) When must required prerequisites be completed in order to be eligible for consideration for admission?
All prerequisite courses must be completed by the time of application to CASPA.

4) Must I have completed my bachelor’s degree before I apply for admission?
In accordance with the Towson University Graduate Course Catalog, the bachelor’s degree must be completed by May 31 of the applicant year.
5) Do I need to have a medical terminology course at the time of application? 
Medical terminology is required at the time of application.

6) Can I have outstanding prerequisite courses when I apply to the program? 
No. Students who are completing their degrees or prerequisite coursework in the spring or early summer of the application year have the opportunity to apply between April 15th and September 1st.

7) Is there an age limit on prerequisite courses? 
All required courses should be completed within the last 10 years. Most competitive applicants will have completed coursework within the preceding five years. It is recommended that anatomy and physiology are taken within the preceding five years.

8) I have a graduate degree from a US institution; may I earn just the PA certificate? 
No. All coursework must be completed within the program to be eligible for the PA Certificate and Master’s Degree. It is not possible to earn one without the other.

9) Can you explain what “Patient Contact Experience” means? 
The program is looking for applicants who have thoroughly investigated the healthcare professions. Patient contact experience usually includes working with patients providing direct or ancillary care. Experience gained as a student enrolled in a healthcare profession also counts. Examples of “Patient Contact Experience” include but are not limited to: Nurses, Pharmacists, Speech Pathologists, Paramedics, EMT-B, Military Medics, Physical Therapists and PT Techs, Athletic Trainers, Surgical Technologists, Patient Care Associates/CNA, Emergency Room Technicians and Medical Scribes. Human medical researchers also may qualify. The addition of several hours shadowing a PA is encouraged.

10) What types of healthcare experience will qualify me for admission consideration? 
The program is very liberal when it comes to accepting patient contact hours. Any experience paid or volunteer that brings you in contact with medical patients will be accepted for the minimum. However, experience with higher levels of responsibility receives higher admissions scores. For example, an applicant with several years of nursing experience will receive a higher score than someone with patient escort experience.
11) I have no healthcare experience. How do I go about gaining that experience?
While applicants with health care experience in another health care area are preferred, patient contact or medically related experience may include:

- Clinical hours completed as part of a health care training program
- Medical or clinical research with or without patient contact
- Volunteer hospital or clinical experience,
- Documented home health care experience.

Some potential applicants have chosen to pursue training as a phlebotomist, certified nursing assistant or EMT-B. A first step might be to contact the volunteer office of your local hospital or the Red Cross to find out about volunteer opportunities. You could also contact schools in your area that provide health care training.

12) How much healthcare experience must I have at the time of application to be considered?
Generally, successful candidates have in excess of 800 hours or more (examples of hours can be found on page 36 of this document).

13) Will healthcare experience hours earned after the CASPA application is submitted be considered as part of my application?
No. The admissions process is rolling. Therefore, only the courses and experience documented on the CASPA application can be considered in the evaluation process.

14) When will I know whether I have been accepted to the program?
Applicants are notified on an ongoing basis about decisions made regarding the status of their applications. All decisions are typically made by mid January.

ADMISSIONS INTERVIEWS

1) Is an interview required to obtain admission to the program?
Yes, an interview is necessary. Students who are not offered interviews have been denied from the program. If you are chosen for an interview, you will be notified immediately by e-mail and, in some cases, phone. Those denied admission interviews should hear from the program no later than December 31 in the year of application.

2) What occurs on interview day?
Typical of the interview process are a writing sample, assessment of English verbal communication skill, individual interview, team interview (team of applicants interviewed or evaluated by an admissions committee panel), program director interview and informal interaction with first year PA students.

3) If I am chosen for the interview process, what documents will I be asked to bring to interview day?
None. All required documents must be submitted prior to the interview.
4) What criteria does Towson/Essex PA Program use to evaluate applicants during the interview process?

The interview process is designed to evaluate each candidate’s communication skills, maturity level, critical thinking ability, match to the program’s mission and vision, and understanding of the role of the PA in today’s healthcare environment.

5) How many interviews will be conducted?

Generally, the program will conduct interviews until all 36 seats are filled. Typically, this requires the program to interview between 60 and 100 applicants.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

1) What are immigration requirements?

International students must submit to the Towson University International Student and Scholar Office International Student Information Form (ISI Form) and a copy of a passport. United States residents should provide the office with a current visa. If you are a dependent, please submit a copy of the visa for your parent or spouse.

2) What is the residency requirement?

International students must provide a copy of permanent residency status (green card) and a copy of current visa.

3) Do I need to take the TOEFL or IELTS exam?

   a. All international students for whom English is not a native language are required to complete the TOEFL or IELTS exam.
   b. International students who hold a degree from a U.S. institution are exempt from this requirement.
   c. Applicants who are not United States citizens are considered international students
   d. Minimum required TOEFL score—550 (paper-based testing) or 80 (internet based testing) with a minimum score of 20 on each of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing on the TOEFL, or minimum IELTS of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in each of the Listen, Speaking, Read, and Writing sections.
   e. Towson University is a testing site and offers the test in the fall and spring semesters. Information can be obtained www/towson.edu/etc. Towson’s institution code is 5404.

4) Are there additional requirements for international students?

   a. Towson University requires copies of all transcripts, including foreign transcripts, sent directly from your university to the Graduate Admission Office (This does not need to occur before acceptance for an interview. Those selected for an interview will be sent additional information)
   b. International transcripts must be evaluated by the AACRAO, ASCISS or WES credential evaluation centers. The PA Program prefers WES credentialing.
For additional information regarding international applications contact Towson University’s International Student & Scholar Office at (410) 704-2421 or isso@towson.edu.

5) If I am an international medical graduate can I receive advanced placement or standing?
   No. The program grants no advanced standing regardless of background. All those accepted to the program must take all PA Program courses.

6) If I am an international medical graduate with a number of years of practice experience is there any way I could receive advanced placement or standing?
   No. The program grants no advanced standing regardless of background. All those accepted to the program must take all PA Program courses.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

1) What is the tuition for the program?
   Tuition and fees costs are listed in the PA Program Application and admission information booklet online www.towson.edu/chp/pa. Total admissions and fees for the 26 month program for Maryland residents is approximately $31,500.

2) How do I qualify for in-state tuition?
   The CCBC considers a student a Maryland resident once s/he has lived in the state and held a Maryland address for three months. Establishing state residency for Towson University is more complicated. Once a student has been a Maryland resident for at least six months and is currently enrolled in a Towson program, an application to establish state residency can be made to the University. One must be able to demonstrate intent to live and work in the state following graduation.
3) **How do I find out if I qualify for in-state tuition rates with Towson University?**

An initial determination of in-state status for Towson University will be made at the time of admission. The determination made at that time, and any determination made thereafter, remains in effect unless or until it is successfully challenged. To qualify for in-state tuition, a student must demonstrate that, for at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately prior to and including the last date available to register for courses in the semester/term for which the student seeks in-state tuition status, the student had the continuous intent to: 1. Make Maryland his or her permanent home; and 2. Abandon his or her former home state; 3. Reside in Maryland indefinitely; and 4. Reside in Maryland primarily for a purpose other than that of attending an educational institution in Maryland. For more information: [http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVIII/VIII270.html](http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVIII/VIII270.html)

4) **How do I apply for financial aid?**

The Towson University College of Graduate Studies and Research can provide information and resources for you as you embark on your graduate education. If you have any further questions, please email gao@towson.edu. Also please visit Towson University's Financial Aid website for more information regarding student grants and loans and the deadlines for consideration for aid.

All financial aid is handled through the Towson University financial aid office which can offer you information about financial assistance. The office is located in the Enrollment Services Building, Room 339. Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can reach Ms. Christina Meyer through e-mail at cimeyer@towson.edu or by phone, (410)-704-5075.

5) **Should I submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?**

Yes. Whether or not you have heard back from all of the programs to which you have applied, it is recommended that you complete the FAFSA if you plan to take out loans to finance your education.

6) **Are there any programs that will finance my tuition?**

Yes, there are programs like the National Health Service Corps that you can apply to. More information is available at the Towson University Financial Aid Office.
COMPETITIVE APPLICANT PROFILE

1) What does the program consider to be a competitive applicant?
The competitive applicant demonstrates core values such as: respect, integrity, accountability, compassion, dedication, tolerance, flexibility, and self-reflection. In addition, the applicant has superior communication skills, a high level of maturity, and demonstrate an understanding the role of the PA in today’s healthcare environment.

2) What is the typically GPA of a competitive applicant?
Successful applicants will generally have a minimum of a 3.2 overall GPA and a 3.3 science GPA.
**Physician Assistant Applicant Examples of Patient Contact/Healthcare Experience**

Healthcare experiences assist in determining the suitability of a career as a healthcare provider. The best experiences involve contact and interaction with patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Level</th>
<th>Moderate Level</th>
<th>Low Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chiropractor</td>
<td>Anesthesia Tech</td>
<td>Acupuncturist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corpsman/medic, IDC</td>
<td>Athletic Trainer</td>
<td>Caregiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Pathologist</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Tech</td>
<td>Chaplain</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Medical Graduate with</td>
<td>Clinical Medical Assistant</td>
<td>EEG Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing - RN / CRNP</td>
<td>CT Tech</td>
<td>International medical graduate with</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osteopath physician</td>
<td>Dental Assistant/Hygienist</td>
<td>Front Office / Receptionist</td>
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<td>Paramedic</td>
<td>Dietician</td>
<td>Health Information Tech</td>
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<td>Physical Therapist</td>
<td>DVM</td>
<td>Histotechnologist</td>
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<td>ER Tech</td>
<td>Medical Billing / Coding</td>
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<td>Gerontology Aide</td>
<td>Medical Office Administrator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>International medical graduate with</td>
<td>Medical Records Clerk</td>
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<td>Massage Therapist</td>
<td>Medical Scribe</td>
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<td>Medical Laboratory Tech</td>
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<td>Medical Scribe</td>
<td>Medical Transcriptionist</td>
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<td>Natural Pathologists</td>
<td>Medicine Aide</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Neurophysiology Technologist</td>
<td>Mortuary Science</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nuclear Med Tech</td>
<td>Non-Clinical Medical Assistant</td>
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<td>Nursing Aide / PCT / GNA / CNA / PCA</td>
<td>Optician</td>
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<td>Nursing - LPN/ Nursing Tech</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Rep</td>
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<td>Occupational Therapist Asst</td>
<td>Patient Care Assistant</td>
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<td>Occupational Therapist</td>
<td>Patient Transporter</td>
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<td>Optometrist</td>
<td>Personal Trainer</td>
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<td>Orthopedic Tech</td>
<td>Pharm Tech</td>
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<td>Pharmacist</td>
<td>Phlebotomist / Venipuncture</td>
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<td>Psychologist</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Aide</td>
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<td>Physical Therapist Assistant</td>
<td>Rehab Technician</td>
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<td>Radiation Therapy</td>
<td>Research – Limited to lab</td>
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<td>Radiography Tech</td>
<td>PA Shadowing</td>
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<td>Research (Human, Clinical)/</td>
<td>Student Internships</td>
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<td>Patient Educator</td>
<td>Vet Tech</td>
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<td>Social Worker / Counselor</td>
<td>Veterinary Assistant</td>
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<td>Sonographer</td>
<td>Volunteer (healthcare)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speech Therapist</td>
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<td>Surgical Tech</td>
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