

CANADIANPA.CA

**CANADIAN
PA SCHOOL
admission
REQUIREMENTS**

Comparison Chart



Welcome!

Hi, I'm Anne! A Canadian trained and practicing Physician Assistant. I graduated from the McMaster PA Program and now practice as a Physician Assistant in Orthopaedic Surgery. I am passionate about educating others on the role of the PA profession and how it can make an impact in primary care practices, and surgical/non-surgical specialties.



I created this free guide to help you on your journey to becoming a Canadian health care professional. I was once in the position to find a career that I wanted to pursue and had to plan my undergraduate study, and fulfillment of program prerequisites accordingly.

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THIS FREE ADMISSIONS GUIDE:

- **This is a *summarized* overview of PA applications**, the most up-to-date information is available on the official PA program websites.
- **Don't forget to *include and submit ALL aspects of the application on time***, this PDF overview does not include all of that (e.g. English Language Proof documentation, transcription conversations for schools outside of Canada, etc.)

To see more articles on how to enhance your PA application, visit the [Canadian Pre-PA Resources](#). Articles include how to approach GPA, what undergrad courses to take and more!

Don't hesitate to get in touch at anne@canadianpa.ca if you have any questions (or insights!). I'd love to hear from you.

CHEERS,

ANNE

P.S. Join the [Canadian Pre-PA Facebook Group](#) to connect with other Pre-PAs, PA Students and practicing PAs in Canada.

P.P.S. Let's connect! You can follow me on [Youtube.com/CanadianPA](https://www.youtube.com/CanadianPA) or on Instagram [@canadian.pa](https://www.instagram.com/canadian.pa)

Your PA School Audit

To effectively go through this workbook, I recommend either 1) printing this off 2) fill out electronically by editing this PDF.

NAME:

UNIVERSITY:

UNDERGRAD DEGREE:

OF YEARS OF UNDERGRAD STUDY COMPLETED:

OTHER NOTES ABOUT YOUR ACADEMIC/LIFE EXPERIENCE:

MY CURRENT GPA IS:

_____ out of _____

e.g. [McMaster's Undergrad program](#) is out of a 12.0 scale. An 83% average is equal to 10 out of 12.

**ON THE OMSAS SCALE,
THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO:**

_____ out of **4.0**

Note: OMSAS is only used for Ontario PA programs. **PA programs count ALL undergraduate coursework** (including other undergrad degrees you may have done, summer coursework, and part-time studies).
e.g. From our example above, according to the [OMSAS Undergraduate GPA Conversion table](#), our 10 out of 12 GPA at McMaster converts to 3.7 out of 4.0 GPA on OMSAS.

**IN MANITOBA ,
THIS GPA IS EQUIVALENT TO:**

_____ out of **4.5**

**** Remember to calculate this based on your most recent 60 credit hours**
e.g. From our example above, according to the [Manitoba GPA Conversion scale](#) , our 10 out of 12 GPA converts to 4.0 out of 4.5 Manitoba GPA.

WHICH PA PROGRAMS ARE YOU INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO?

University of Manitoba
Masters of PA Studies

McMaster PA Education
Program

PA Consortium
(BScPA UofT)

FAQs

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q. What is a Physician Assistant (PA)?

A. PAs are highly skilled health care professionals educated in the medical model who practice medicine:

- They graduate from a Baccalaureate or Master's Degree program that may be affiliated with a medical school.
- PAs practise medicine under the supervision of a licensed physician within a patient-centred health care team.
- PAs can work in any clinic setting to extend physician services, complement existing services and aid in improving patient access to health care. [Learn more at canadianpa.ca](http://canadianpa.ca).

Q. How many PA programs are there in Canada?

A. There are 3 Canadian PA programs in Canada as of 2022. This includes:

- McMaster PA Education Program
- Manitoba Masters of PA Studies
- PA Consortium (University of Toronto, NOSM, Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences)

[Click here to see a list of PA programs and contact information.](#)

Q. Does getting a Master's or Bachelor's in PA studies affect employment opportunities?

A. Whether you obtain a Master's or Bachelor's of PA Studies DOES NOT affect your ability to obtain employment in the Canadian PA Job Market.

Q. Who determines the class sizes of PA programs?

A. Class sizes in Ontario are determined not by the programs, but by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Q. What should I do next now that I understand PA admission requirements?

A. Learn as much as you can about the PA profession ([history](#), [scope of practice](#), [legislation](#)), read through [PA profiles](#) and [virtual shadowing](#), and go through [articles on how to strengthen your PA application](#).

Q. Where can I connect with PA students, Other Pre-PAs and practicing PAs in Canada?

A. Join the [Canadian Pre-PA Student Network Facebook Group](#) - it is free to join!

Canadian PA Admissions

COMPARISON CHART

Information here is for reference purposes only. Always check the [official PA program websites](#) for the most up-to-date information on admissions.

OVERVIEW OF CANADIAN PA PROGRAMS

	MANITOBA	MCMASTER	PA CONSORTIUM
Location	Winnipeg, MB	Hamilton, ON	Toronto, ON
Degree	Master of PA Studies (MPAS)	Bachelor of Health Sciences in PA Studies (BHSc PA)	Bachelor of Sciences from University of Toronto (BSc PA)
Class Size	15 students	24 students	30 students
Duration	~ 2 years (96 weeks)	~2 year program	~2 year program

SEPTEMBER 2022 INTAKE DEADLINES

	MANITOBA	MCMASTER	PA CONSORTIUM
Admissions	I recommend starting to look into admissions in Fall 2021		
Deadlines	<p>January 15, 2022 Deadline for Application Submission through Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), Radius Portal. All material must be submitted by that deadline (MPAS Supplementary application, letters of reference, transcripts, Police Check, etc.)</p>	<p>Deadline 1: February 1 OUAC Application, transcripts & supporting documentation submitted to PA office</p> <p>Deadline 2: March 4 Supplementary Application fee due (\$125) access to supp. application will be emailed mid-February.</p>	<p>Deadline 1: Jan 18, 2022 University of Toronto Online Application through OUAC, keep track of your OUAC reference number</p> <p>Deadline 2: February 1, 2022 1) Transcripts & Proof of English Language Proficiency 2) All supplementary documentation</p>

Who Can Apply to PA School?

COMPARISON CHART

Admission requirements differ between schools, and may change from year-to-year.

PA SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

	MANITOBA	MCMASTER	PA CONSORTIUM
Who can apply?	You MUST be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada to apply to any of the PA Programs in Canada.		
Minimum # of years of Study to Apply	Graduate of <u>4-year Bachelor's degree</u> . Students in 4th & final year of study can apply.	<u>2 years</u> of undergraduate study	Minimum 10 full-year courses (20 half-year courses) OR <u>4 semesters of undergrad study</u> .
Minimum cumulative GPA (cGPA) to apply	Minimum 3.0 (out of 4.5 GPA scale) calculated based <u>on most RECENT 60-credit hours</u> of study.	3.0 (out of 4.0 on OMSAS scale) on ALL undergraduate coursework completed	3.0 (out of 4.0 on OMSAS scale) for 2022-2023 admissions cycle on ALL undergraduate coursework completed
Required Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Human Anatomy</u> <u>Human Physiology</u> <u>Biochemistry</u> (online study acceptable)	None	None
Health Care Experience Hours	None required to apply		<u>Minimum 100 hours</u> (paid, volunteer or placement, completed by admission deadline)

Canadian PA School Admissions

COMPARISON CHART

PA SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS

	MANITOBA	MCMASTER	PA CONSORTIUM
Supplemental Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000-word written Statement of Intent (SOI) • Complete online situational judgement test (e.g. CASPer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timed video and written supplemental application (done through Kira Talent in previous years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete written Supplemental application – answering questions on health care experience & mini-essay questions.
Letters of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two letters of recommendation required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None required, any submitted NOT reviewed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Reference submits an Online Confidential Applicant Reference Form
PA School Interview Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Mini Interview • Panel Interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Mini Interview (MMI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Multi-Mini Interview (vMMI)

NOTES:

Q. Are PA program interviews virtual?

A. In the past, the Multi-Mini Interview was in-person. Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the interviews went virtual for the first time for the 2020-2021 PA School Admissions Cycle. PA programs will indicate on their websites and/or communicate to applicants directly what the format of PA school interview will be.

Canadian PA School Admissions

COMPARISON CHART

SAMPLE PA SCHOOL ADMISSION TIMELINES

	MANITOBA	MCMASTER	PA CONSORTIUM
<p>Admission Timelines</p> <p><i>Note: Specific dates may vary year to year</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January: Submit ALL documentation including online application • Late February: PA school interview invites released • mid-March: MMI invitations sent out • Early to mid-April: Virtual Interviews take place • End of April: Offers of acceptance sent out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb 1: Submit OUAC Form 105 & all transcripts • Feb 21: Access to supp. app released. • 1st week of April: MMI Invites sent out • Early May: MMIs take place • Mid-May: Offers of acceptance sent • Sept 2022: Successful applicants begin PA cycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 15: Complete UofT Online Application (OUAC) • February 1: Submit Transcripts and Proof of English Language Proficiency; and submit ALL supplemental documentation. • Early April: MMI Invites sent out. • Early May: MMIs take place • Mid-May: Notice of acceptance sent out to students • Sept 2022: Successful applicants begin PA school cycle.

Canadian PA School Admissions

COMPARISON CHART

COMPETITIVE PA APPLICANT ATTRIBUTES

	MANITOBA	PA CONSORTIUM
Preferred Admission Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPA of 3.5 or better is competitive (out of 4.5 GPA scale) • Microbiology and Psychology are asset courses and would enhance your application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One full-course equivalent of: Human Anatomy • Recent health care experience hours (within last 5 years) • Direct hands-on experience in a clinical setting • Paid position as a health care provider • Current resident of Ontario • Resident (as an adult) in a northern or rural community (Rurality index of 40 or more, outside of Ontario, Rural = population of < 15,000).

NOTES:

Q. Does McMaster outline any Preferred Admission Criteria?

A. No, they do not specify any preferred admission requirements.

Q. Are these preferred admission criteria required to get into PA programs?

A. These are NOT required, and there are many examples of PA applicants of those who got in without those requirements!

Q. Where can I see statistics of previous successful Canadian PA school applicants?

A. In our [Canadian Pre-PA Student Network Facebook Group](#) (which is free to join!), we have [infographics uploaded of past](#) successful applicants.



ADDITIONAL NOTES

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