



SELECTIVE INTERNAL PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADMISSIONS PATHWAY (SIPAAP)

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program

Selective Internal Physician Assistant Admissions Pathway or SIPAAP Scholars

The overarching goal of the Selective Internal Physician Assistant Admissions Pathway is to increase diversity in the physician assistant (PA) workforce through an intentional medical professional mentorship program. The SIPAAP Scholars program is an internal North Central College pathway, or “pre-PA program,” for candidates who meet selective criteria to gain *provisional admission* to the MSPAS program.

Application Requirements

Accepted North Central first-year, transfer and current students are welcome to apply provided they meet the high school (and college) requirements. A candidate who has met eligibility requirements must complete the online application.

In order to be eligible for review and possibly receive provisional acceptance to the MSPAS program, candidates must:

- Have a minimum of 4 semesters remaining at North Central (summer semester included)
- Complete the SIPAAP required high school courses.
- Submit high school transcripts (and college if applicable) with an unweighted cumulative and prerequisite GPA of 3.5.
- Submit one letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or college professor who can comment on your professional character and commitment to the medical profession.
- Submit a 500-word essay answering the following question: “Why do you want to become a physician assistant?”
- Review the MSPAS Program’s Safety and Technical Standards.

The following represents the prerequisite high school courses that must be completed to be considered for the SIPAAP Program:

| PREREQUISITE HIGH SCHOOL COURSES* | YEARS |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Math | 4 |
| Chemistry | 1 |
| Biology | 1 |
| English | 4 |

* SAT or ACT are optional. If taken, an official copy of SAT or ACT and high school transcripts should be submitted to undergraduate admissions.

Acceptance into the Selective Internal PA Admissions Pathway

Potential SIPAAP Scholars will be invited to apply following acceptance to North Central College. The admissions subcommittee will review applications starting in January and invite competitive candidates to interview in March-April. Following an on-campus interview, candidates will be notified of their acceptance into the program, as well as the terms of their Provisional Admissions to the MSPAS program by **May prior to the end of the academic year**. All scholar activities will commence in the summer following acceptance.

Example of a SIPAAP Scholar's Admissions Timeline:

- Student receives acceptance to North Central College or is a present North Central student.
- Student applies to SIPAAP program.
- Student's application is reviewed by MSPAS Program Admissions Subcommittee.
- Student receives communication of SIPAAP on-campus interview.

SIPAAP Scholar Responsibilities

- Maintain a course load that will result in graduation at the end of four years (15-16 credit hours per semester).
- Maintain a cumulative GPA at or above 3.5 by the end of each academic year while at North Central College.
- Attend mentoring sessions wherein courses and grade updates and official transcripts are discussed (two sessions per semester-one must be after semester grades are obtained).
- Attend scheduled PA program activities (1 per semester).
- Complete all required courses, direct patient care hours and PA shadowing required of the MSPAS program.
- Submit a timely, completed and verified CASPA application to North Central College in your senior year.

Should the student be unable to comply with the minimum 15-16 hour credit load, this must be discussed with the MSPAS faculty mentor and program director. Failure to disclose this will result in withdrawal from the program.

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the North Central College Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program sponsored by North Central College. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class. The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-north-central-college>.

