

## University Saint Francis and Indiana Tech Articulation Agreement for the University Saint Francis Physician Assistant Program

The University of Saint Francis (USF), in conjunction with Indiana Tech, works cooperatively to facilitate entry of highly qualified undergraduate students into the physician assistant profession. This agreement will facilitate entrance into the Physician Assistant Studies Program at USF for such students and will benefit both institutions. The following principles apply to the guaranteed admission program.

### Admittance Criteria

A student enrolled at Indiana Tech who is on target for graduation with a baccalaureate degree may be provisionally accepted to the Physician Assistant Studies Program at USF one year prior to their matriculation, provided they meet the following criteria:

1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree prior to matriculation into the USF PA Program in August.
2. Possession of a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.50 and science GPA of 3.0. Both GPA requirements must be maintained through completion of the undergraduate degree.
3. Completion of all course prerequisites stipulated by the USF PA Program with a grade of “C” or higher. Grades of “C-” or “pass/fail” will not satisfy this requirement.
  - a. Courses that must be completed to satisfy the minimum admission requirements include:
    - i. Human anatomy with lab (3 credits, above the 100 level)\*
    - ii. Human physiology with lab (3 credits, above the 100 level)\*
      1. \*Two courses of combined human anatomy and physiology with labs (minimum total of 6 credit hours) may be used to satisfy the individual human anatomy and human physiology requirements.
      2. \*Comparative anatomy and/or physiology courses are not considered acceptable substitutions for human anatomy or physiology. Mammalian anatomy and vertebrate anatomy are considered acceptable substitutions for human anatomy.
    - iii. Microbiology with lab (3 credits, above the 100 level)
    - iv. Organic chemistry with lab (3 credits, above the 100 level) OR Biochemistry with or without lab (3 credits, above the 100 level)
    - v. Two courses (minimum of 6 total credits) within the behavioral science discipline (e.g., psychology, sociology, or anthropology)
  - b. Courses that must be completed at Indiana Tech are detailed in Appendix A of this document and include:
    - i. HSC 2010 General Anatomy and Physiology I (4 cr)
    - ii. HSC 2020 General Anatomy and Physiology II (4 cr)
    - iii. HSC 2700 Clinical Microbiology (4 cr)
    - iv. CH 2400 Organic Chemistry I (3 cr) and CH 2410 Organic Chemistry I Lab (1 cr),  
OR BIO 4110 Biochemistry (3 cr) and BIO 4120 Biochemistry Lab (1 cr)
    - v. PSY 1700 Human Growth and Development (3 cr) and SS 2800 Introduction to Sociology (3 cr)

4. Possession of a minimum of 1000 hours of direct patient care experience prior to graduation from Indiana Tech. Evidence of a student's direct patient care experience will be demonstrated via the completed CASPA application.
  - a. Direct patient care experience is defined as hands-on experience with patients in an approved paid clinical position.
  - b. Positions that qualify for direct patient care experience include: medical assistant; patient care technician; surgical technician or technologist; first assistant; scribe; certified nursing assistant or student nursing assistant; occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant/tech/aide; physical therapist or physical therapy assistant/tech/aide; certified athletic trainer; phlebotomist; respiratory therapist; emergency room technician; lab technician (if phlebotomy and/or direct patient care is the majority of job description); pharmacist; certified pharmacy technician with hands-on patient care; dietician; emergency medical technician; paramedic; registered nurse or nursing assistant/aide; radiologic technician or technologist; ultrasound technician or technologist; EKG/EEG technician; chiropractor or chiropractor assistant; dental hygienist; military medic or corpsman; ophthalmic or optometric assistant; rehabilitation technician; or social worker (with a clinical focus).
  - c. Positions that do not qualify for direct patient care experience include: personal care assistant; clerical pharmacy technician; unit clerk; patient transporter; lifeguard; camp counselor; counselor; front office staff or clinical administrator; drug and/or equipment sales representative; or medical researcher.
  
5. Submission of three letters of recommendation via CASPA.
  - a. One recommendation must be from the student's academic advisor. This letter should indicate that the student is on track to meet all admittance criteria included in this agreement and that the student is in good academic standing per Indiana Tech's definition. The letter should also speak towards the applicant's ability to be successful in a graduate medical program.
  - b. One recommendation must be from a clinician (i.e., MD, DO, PA, or NP) who has worked alongside the candidate in a clinical setting through observation, shadowing, or prior/current work experience.
  - c. The third letter of recommendation is at the student's discretion. Letters of recommendation from relatives or family friends are not accepted.

### **Admissions Process**

1. Any student eligible for direct entry into the USF PA Program via the terms of this agreement must inform the USF PA Program of their intent to apply in writing by September 1 in the year preceding their anticipated matriculation. Written notification should be sent to [PAprogram@sf.edu](mailto:PAprogram@sf.edu).
  - a. If the USF PA Program is not contacted by any students from Indiana Tech by this date, the seats held for Indiana Tech students seeking direct admission under the terms of the agreement will be forfeited. Interested students are still able to apply via the traditional admissions process.

2. Students must formally apply to the USF PA Program via the CASPA application process between May 1 and October 1 in the year preceding their anticipated matriculation.
  - a. Failure to submit the completed CASPA application by this date will result in forfeiture of the seats held for Indiana Tech students seeking direct admission under the terms of the agreement. Interested students are still able to apply via the traditional admissions process.
3. The USF PA Program will admit two (2) students from Indiana Tech via this agreement per cohort.
  - a. If two or fewer students apply for admittance during the same CASPA cycle, those students will be provisionally accepted into the USF PA program. Matriculation will remain dependent upon completion of all admittance criteria.
  - b. If more than two students apply for admittance during the same CASPA cycle, the USF PA Program reserves the right to select the two most qualified applicants at its discretion. This process may include an extensive review of each candidate's CASPA application, guidance from the candidate's academic advisor, and/or an interview with each candidate. The remaining qualified applicants not offered direct admittance will be placed on the USF PA Program waitlist.
4. Following provisional acceptance into the USF PA Program, Indiana Tech students must reserve their seat with the submission of a non-refundable deposit required of all incoming PA students by March 1 of the matriculation year. This money will be credited towards the first semester's tuition.
5. Provisionally accepted students from Indiana Tech will be required to comply with all enrollment requirements and deadlines expected of all incoming PA students.

#### **Additional Notes**

1. Indiana Tech students who remain interested in the USF PA Program but do not qualify under the terms of this agreement are welcome to apply via the traditional admissions process.
2. USF will provide information support for Indiana Tech recruitment efforts related to the USF PA Program.
3. The USF PA Program may elect to accept more than two candidates from Indiana Tech per cycle at its discretion.

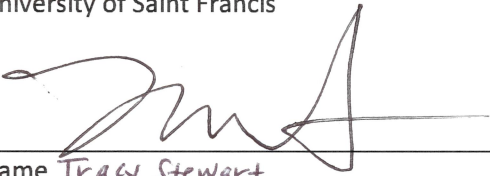
**Cooperation Term**

The term of this Agreement is three years. It will take effect from the date of signature by the representatives from both Parties. It may be altered, modified, or extended only by mutual consent and written amendment signed by both Parties up to three months before the expiration. Either Party may terminate the agreement in advance of its normal expiration date by giving the other Party a sixty-day prior written notice. The Parties agree to work together amicably to resolve any disputes or disagreements that may arise during the Parties' performance of this agreement.

The Parties hereto have executed this Agreement this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Other untouched issues, if there are any, should be addressed by both parties through consultation.

University of Saint Francis



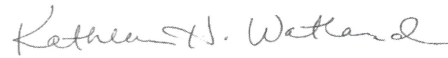
Name Tracy Stewart

Interim Vice President for Academic  
Title Affairs

March 25, 2024

Date

Indiana Tech



Name

Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Title

March 19, 2024

Date

APPENDIX A.  
Required Courses to be Completed at Indiana Tech

Courses that must be completed at Indiana Tech include:

General Anatomy and Physiology I (HSC 2010)

*Prerequisite(s):* [BIO 1000](#) or [BIO 1330/BIO 1340](#) or [BIO 1350/BIO 1360](#).

General Anatomy & Physiology I provides instruction about the organization, structure, and function of the human body. This course assumes a general knowledge of human cell structure and function. This course begins with introducing the physiological concepts of feedback regulation and homeostasis and provides a study of the four major tissue types. It then examines the structure and function of the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems and, in each of these systems, introduces basic pathologies occurring during physiological imbalances. This course has both a lecture and a laboratory component. Credit(s): 4

General Anatomy and Physiology II (HSC 2020)

*Prerequisite(s):* [BIO 1000](#) or [BIO 1330/BIO 1340](#) or [BIO 1350/BIO 1360](#).

General Anatomy and Physiology II provides instruction about the structure and function of the human cardiovascular, urinary, digestive, respiratory, lymphatic, endocrine, and reproductive systems, including the anatomical and physiological changes occurring during human pregnancy. This course assumes a general knowledge of human cell structure and function. This course also introduces basic concepts in human metabolism and energy production. Credit(s): 4

Clinical Microbiology (HSC 2700)

*Prerequisite(s):* [HSC 2010](#).

Clinical Microbiology provides a detailed study into the morphology and physiology of microorganisms with an emphasis on their effects on human health and disease. This course also focuses on microorganisms found in the human intestinal tract, in the mouth, in probiotics, and their roles in human health and illness. Prevention of the growth, spread, and transmission of pathogenic microorganisms through sanitation, hygiene, and sterile techniques is taught. This course is intended for students interested in clinical preprofessional careers or Allied Health occupations. This course includes both a lecture and laboratory component. Credit(s): 4

Organic Chemistry I (CH 2400)

*Prerequisite(s):* [CH 1230](#) with a grade C- or better. *Prerequisite or co-requisite(s):* [CH 2410](#).

Topics include bonding principles, intermolecular forces, nomenclature, isomerism, stereochemistry; synthesis and reactions of aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic compounds and functional groups. Addition, elimination, and substitution mechanisms. Also included in the course is a study of  $pK_a$  and  $pH$ , and an introduction to instrumental analysis. Credit(s): 3

Organic Chemistry I Lab (CH 2410)

*Prerequisite or co-requisite(s):* [CH 2400](#).

Expanding understanding in the linked lecture course (Organic Chemistry I), topics include melting points, boiling points, simple distillation, fractional distillation, extraction, recrystallization, and synthesis

of short-chain and single-ring organic compounds studied. Students will hone skills in chemical hygiene, laboratory safety, and use of ground glass equipment. Credit(s): 1

#### Biochemistry (BIO 4110)

*Prerequisite(s):* [CH 2400](#); [CH 2410](#); [CH 2500](#); [CH 2510](#). *Co-requisite(s):* [BIO 4120](#).

Taken in the final semester of the Molecular Environmental Biology major, this course reaches heights of content mastery that bring students to a career- or graduate-school ready position. Based on overarching "Threshold Concepts" established by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), this challenging course brings heightened knowledge to connected framework of learning and understanding. Credit(s): 3

#### Biochemistry Lab (BIO 4120)

*Prerequisite(s):* [CH 2400](#); [CH 2410](#); [CH 2500](#); [CH 2510](#). *Co-requisite(s):* [BIO 4110](#).

Rather than a set of cookbook-style lab exercises, this course takes the real-world approach to true unknowns and unexpected outcomes. Students will design experiments in order to discover the true answers instead of simply confirming prior facts. This laboratory course uses the entire semester to elaborate the content details of the associated Biochemistry course by interrogating the succinate dehydrogenase (complex II) component of the tricarboxylic acid cycle in *E. coli* (one of the work-horses of molecular biology cloning and protein expression). Students will emerge with career experience and competence. Credit(s): 1

#### Human Growth and Development (PSY 1750)

*Prerequisite(s):* None.

A life span human development course that integrates biology, psychology, sociology, medicine, demography, economics and anthropology perspectives from conception to death. Emerging trends in research are included. Credit(s): 3

#### Introduction to Sociology (SS 2800)

*Prerequisite(s):* None.

An introduction to the scientific study of human society and social behavior, this course examines sociological theories of human behavior, cultural patterns, and social change. Emphasis upon the influence of social and cultural forces on personal experience and social behavior in reference to the postindustrial society. Credit(s): 3