

## University Saint Francis and Goshen College Articulation Agreement for the University Saint Francis Physician Assistant Program

The University of Saint Francis (USF), in conjunction with Goshen College (GC), 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 GC 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:

- a. Completion of a baccalaureate degree prior to matriculation into the USF PA Program in August.
- b. 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.
- c. 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 GC are detailed in Appendix A of this document and include:
    - i. BIOL 203 Human Anatomy and Physiology with Laboratory (4 cr. hrs.)
    - ii. BIOL 204 Human Anatomy and Physiology with Laboratory (3 cr. hrs.)
    - iii. BIOL 206 Microbiology with Laboratory (3 cr. hrs.)
    - iv. CHEM 303 Introduction to Organic Chemistry with Laboratory (4 cr. hrs.)
    - v. Two of the following:
      1. SOC 200 Principles of Sociology (3 cr. hrs.)
      2. SOC 205 Intro to Gender Studies (3 cr. hrs.)

3. SOC 210 Sociology of the Family (3 cr. hrs.)
  4. PSYC 100 General Psychology (3 cr. hrs.)
  5. PSYC 210 Developmental Psychology (3 cr. hrs.)
- d. Possession of a minimum of 1000 hours of direct patient care experience prior to graduation from GC. 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.
- e. 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 GC'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 GC by this date, the seats held for GC 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 GC 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 GC 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, GC 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 GC will be required to comply with all enrollment requirements and deadlines expected of all incoming PA students.

**Additional Notes**

1. GC 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 GC recruitment efforts related to the USF PA Program.
3. The USF PA Program may elect to accept more than two candidates from GC 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2024.

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

University of Saint Francis



Name

Interim UPAA

Title

4/5/24

Date

Goshen College



Name: Ann Vendrely, EdD, DPT

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Title

April, 4, 2024

Date

APPENDIX A.  
Required Courses to be Completed at Goshen College

Courses that must be completed at Goshen College include:

a. BIOL 203 Human Anatomy and Physiology with Laboratory (4 cr. hrs.)

A study of the organ systems of the human body, their gross and microscopic structure and their functions. Laboratory demonstrations and dissections. Three lectures, one three-hour lab. Prerequisite: one semester of college chemistry. Offered every spring.

b. BIOL 204 Human Anatomy and Physiology with Laboratory (3 cr. hrs.)

A study of the organ systems of the human body, their gross and microscopic structure and their functions. Laboratory demonstrations and dissections. Three lectures, one three-hour lab. With permission of the instructor, biology majors may take Biol 204 for two hours of lecture only. Prerequisite: Biol 203 and one semester of college chemistry. Offered every May term.

c. BIOL 206 Microbiology with Laboratory (3 cr. hrs.)

A general study of microorganisms and their relations to health and disease, with practical applications valuable to the nurse. Includes the characteristics and activities of microorganisms, procedures for sterilization and disinfection; methods of growing and studying organisms and techniques of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases. Three lectures, one two-hour lab. Prerequisite: one semester of college chemistry. Offered every fall.

d. CHEM 303 Introduction to Organic Chemistry with Laboratory (4 cr. hrs.)

Covering structure, nomenclature, stereochemistry, and principal reactions for the major functional groups of organic chemistry, this is a one-semester survey course that gives an overview of the field. Laboratory exercises introduce basic purification techniques. This can be a stand-alone course for students majoring in biology and not continuing to medical school, veterinary school, or other graduate programs in biology and chemistry-related fields. For students with graduate school plans, this is the first in a two-course sequence in organic chemistry. Prerequisite: Chem 111-112 (C or better) or consent of the instructor.

e. Two of the following:

– SOC 200 Principles of Sociology (3 cr. hrs.)

An introduction to the principles and methods used in the study of human society. Includes a survey of topics in social problems, social inequalities, social identity, human ecology and social change.

– SOC 205 Intro to Gender Studies (3 cr. hrs.)

(Cross-listed from WGS 200) Introduction to major areas of feminist thought (historical and contemporary) that shaped the field of Women's Studies. Course objectives focus on increasing students' understandings of the social systemic factors (i.e., sociological factors) that influence women's

lived experience. Readings, small group discussions, and service learning/activism projects enable students to apply feminist theory concerning women and gender in an interdisciplinary context. This course serves as an introductory survey course for the women and gender studies minor and a topical exploration for society.

– SOC 210 Sociology of the Family (3 cr. hrs.)

A study of the role of family in society and culture. Includes a comparative history of the family institution as well as an examination of social trends affecting mate selection, marriage, family roles and family relationships in contemporary society and culture.

– PSYC 100 General Psychology (3 cr. hrs.)

An introduction to the methods, concepts and principles used in the study of behavior. Includes a survey of topics in psychological development, individual differences, memory, personality structure, mental health, learning and social psychology.

– PSYC 210 Developmental Psychology (3 cr. hrs.)

A study of developmental processes across the lifespan. Physical, social and cognitive changes provide the basic organization for this course. A variety of developmental theories will be examined including Piaget, Vygotsky, Erickson, social learning and psychodynamic. Current research and an understanding of how to think about developmental processes will be emphasized. A Social World course in the Goshen Core. Prerequisite: Psyc 100 preferred.