

Bethel Physician Assistant Program

Mission Statement:

The mission of Bethel University's Physician Assistant Program is to create opportunities for members of the learning community to become exceptional and compassionate healthcare professionals who will practice medicine within an ethical framework of Christian principles.

Bethel University Accreditation Status:

Bethel University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees. Bethel University also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels.

Questions about the accreditation of Bethel University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([SACSCOC](https://www.sacscoc.org))

General questions about the accreditation of Bethel University may be addressed to Dr. Phyllis Campbell at campbellp@bethelu.edu

PA Program Accreditation Status:

At its March 2024 meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) placed the Bethel University – TN Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Bethel University on Accreditation-Probation status until its next review in March 2026.

Probation accreditation is a temporary accreditation status initially of not less than two years. However, that period may be extended by the ARC-PA for up to an additional two years if the ARC-PA finds that the program is making substantial progress toward meeting all applicable standards but requires additional time to come into full compliance. Probation accreditation status is granted, at the sole discretion of the ARC-PA, when a program holding an accreditation status of Accreditation - Provisional or Accreditation - Continued does not, in the judgment of the ARC-PA, meet the Standards or when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Once placed on probation, a program that 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as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and is subject to having its accreditation withdrawn.

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

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at [ARCPA.org](https://www.arc-pa.org).

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) Degree:

The Bethel University Physician Assistant Program will confer a Master of Science Degree in Physician Assistant Studies upon completion of the 27-month educational program.

Bethel's PA Program consists of 12 months of Didactic Education and 15 months of Clinical Experiences.

Statement of Non-Discrimination:

Bethel University does not discriminate and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or military service, either in the admission of students, in employment, or in the administration of any of its educational policies, programs, or activities. In conformity with Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Bethel University does not, within the context of its religious principles, heritage, mission, or goals, discriminate on the basis of sex in the area of employment, admission, educational programs, or other activities. Bethel University complies with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the IRS Anti-Bias Regulation, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

PANCE Pass Rate:

Our recent graduating cohort, PA Class of 2024, has completed the PANCE exam. Our students have achieved **92%** first-time PANCE pass rate.

The PANCE Exam Performance Summary Report - Last 5 Years can be found [here](#)

Admissions Information:

The interview process begins as soon as verified CASPA applications are received.

Interviews will be offered to qualified applicants, and seat offers are based on rolling admissions.

Early application is strongly encouraged, as admission to Bethel University PA Program (BUPAP) is very competitive

Please visit [Bethel University's Physician Assistant Website](#) for additional information. On our website, applicants can find this Information Packet, Supplemental Application, and various other forms.

The successful student has a bachelor's degree or higher in a medical science concentration, repeated less than two (2) prerequisite courses, has a 3.4 Prerequisite, Cumulative, and Science GPAs, 304/4.0 GRE scores, completed 250+ hours of Health Care Experience, 100+ PA Shadowing Hours, 100+ Volunteer/Community Service Hours, and 60 science hours.

Applicants with scores that deviate significantly from these averages will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Application Requirements:

- Verified CASPA application.
- Completed Supplemental Application received by the PA Program and \$75 fee received by Bethel University Business Office; copy of receipt is sent to the PA Program.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university **by December 15th, before matriculation in January.**
- Official transcripts from all universities attended. Original transcripts are sent to CASPA for review and verification.
- **Three letters of recommendation:**
 - **Two (2)** letters of recommendation must be from a **PA, MD, DO, or NP.**

Please Note:

Letters from Pharmacists, Optometrists, Chiropractors, Dentists, Physical Therapists, Athletic Trainers, Occupational Therapists, etc. will not fulfill this requirement.

- **One (1)** letter can be from a university professor or advisor. If you are unable to obtain a letter from someone within a college/university, you may submit a letter from your supervisor.

Please Note:

Letters of recommendation from family members are not accepted.

- Successful completion of the nine (9) prerequisite courses with a Grade "C" or higher (preferred) by September 1st.

Prerequisite course(s) completed after September 1st will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- Students may apply before the completion of some prerequisite courses but will need to notify BUPAP Admissions.
- Completion of GRE and official scores received by CASPA for review and verification.
- Completion of a minimum of 25 hours of Community Service/Volunteering within the past five (5) years.
- Completion of a minimum of 40 uncompensated shadowing hours with a Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C), within the past five (5) years.

Please Note:

Hours spent shadowing an MD, DO, or NP cannot replace the 40-hour PA Shadowing requirement.

Required Prerequisite course work consists of the following classes:

- Two Semesters – General Biology (or equivalent)
- Two Semesters – General Chemistry (or equivalent)
- Two Semesters – Human Anatomy & Physiology
- One Semester – Microbiology or Bacteriology
- One Semester – Psychology
- One Semester – Human Genetics

Please Note:

Any class less than 3 semester credit hours will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

If you are unsure of a course meeting our requirements, please email the course description to paadmissions@bethelu.edu for verification.

No prerequisites older than 5 years AFTER receiving your bachelor's degree will be accepted, unless you have been employed full time in the healthcare field with direct (hands on) patient care since completing the prerequisites.

BUPAP does not generally accept prerequisite grades for CLEP; this will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Bethel University PA Program does not offer advanced placement.

There is no credit for experiential learning.

No Physician Assistant credits from another institution may be transferred into the Didactic or Clinical years.

Students must complete the **ENTIRE** PA Program at Bethel University.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all universities/colleges moved to an online format and offered their students the opportunity to receive "Pass/Fail" or "Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory" scores, instead of receiving the traditional letter grade. BUPAP Admissions will review any Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scores on a case-by-case basis.

Recommended Courses: *Not Required for Admittance into Bethel's PA Program*

- Biochemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Cell Biology
- Pharmacology
- Immunology
- Introductory Statistics or Critical Thinking

International Students:

Applicants, who received their baccalaureate degree(s) from colleges/universities outside of the United States, are welcome to apply.

Applicants must:

- Have their transcripts verified and translated by an approved organization, such as World Education Services (WES).
- Complete at least **12-16 semester hours** of additional Undergraduate or Graduate Study at an accredited U.S. college or university, prior to applying to the PA Program.
30 semester hours is preferred.
- Non-native speakers of English: Achieved TOEFL IBT (internet-based testing) scores of **at least 87** for non-native speakers of English with the minimum section requirements:
 - **Reading = 21**
 - **Speaking = 26**
 - **Listening = 20**
 - **Writing = 20**

Please Note:

The TOEFL IBT must have been taken within two (2) years of applying.

- Must meet all other admission requirements.

PA-CAT EXAM

- The PA-CAT is a specialized test designed to measure applicant knowledge in key prerequisite science subjects typically required for PA school.
- Bethel University Physician Assistant Program is only **RECOMMENDING** that applicants take the PA-CAT.
- Applicants need to please note that the scores received will neither increase nor decrease the chances of being accepted into Bethel's PA Program.
- If an applicant decides not to take the PA-CAT Exam, please note that this does not increase nor decrease the chances of being offered a seat in Bethel's PA Program.

PA-CAT Study materials provided by Exam Master include:

- 120 Question PA-CAT Practice Exam
- Eight 50-Question Subject Exams
- Candidate PA-CAT Study Guide
- Pre-Matriculation Success Program

PA-CAT Covered Subjects:

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- General Biology
- Biochemistry
- General and Organic Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Behavioral Sciences
- Genetics
- Statistics

For more information about the PA-CAT or to schedule the exam, please visit [Exam Master](#)

Please follow these steps to register/prepare for the PA-CAT Exam:

1. Go to [PA-CAT](#) to register, pay, and schedule exam.
 - Applicants, please make sure "Bethel PA Program," is selected as the institution to receive the score report.
 - It is ***highly recommended*** that applicants take the PA-CAT in January, February, or March 2024. This allows BUPAP to receive the score report around the end of April when CASPA opens.
2. Applicants may study for the PA-CAT with resources provided at [PA-CAT](#)

BUPAP Admissions Process:

1. Complete a CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants) application at [CASPA Login](#)

****For assistance with CASPA, please call (617) 612-2080 or go to [CASPA Help Center](#) ****

2. CASPA opens, accepting applications the last week in April through October 1st for the next January matriculation.
3. The Admissions Committee will interview selected applicants from the CASPA applications.
4. Interviews will be scheduled either face to face or virtually and be conducted by a Program Faculty Interview Panel.
5. Following the interview, candidates are evaluated by the Admissions Committee to assess their acceptability to the program.
6. The applicant, who has been accepted to the program, will be notified of the Admissions Committee's decision within one (1) week of the interview.

7. The applicant will be expected to pay a \$1,000 deposit to hold a seat within 10 business days of receiving the offer. This deposit is applied towards the first semester of tuition and is non-refundable. This initiates the enrollment of the student into the next matriculating class beginning in January.

Articulation Agreements:

BUPAP has a Guaranteed Interview Agreement (GIA)/Articulation Agreement with the following universities:

- Austin Peay State University (APSU) in Clarksville, TN
- Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) in Memphis, TN
- Bethel University (TN) in McKenzie, TN
- Murray State University (MSU) in Murray, KY
- University of Tennessee -Martin (UTM) in Martin, TN

Please Note:

GIA Students must meet the Terms and Conditions set forth in the Articulation Agreement. The interview is not a guarantee of selection for admission into Bethel's PA Program but will enable students to be considered for admission.

Articulation Agreement Terms and Conditions:

1. Students must meet all minimum admission requirements.
2. Students must take the GRE.
3. Students must have a baccalaureate degree or are scheduled to be awarded their baccalaureate degree on or before December 15th of the year of application.
4. Students meeting the admission conditions must apply online through CASPA, and once the application has been verified, the student will be granted an admission interview for the next entering class.
5. This agreement provides no assurances of admission for any student applying under this agreement.
6. Bethel University Physician Assistant Program reserves the sole right to approve courses comprising the applicable GIA prerequisite coursework.
7. Bethel University Physician Assistant Program reserves the sole right to modify the grade point average or other entry criteria. However, the criteria in effect at the time of a student's application to BUPAP shall be applicable to that student.
8. Students are required to meet all posted deadlines for application and submission of admission materials.

Acceptance into the Bethel University PA Program is contingent upon:

1. Completion of all application requirements.
2. Attending an invitation only interview.

3. Receipt of offer/acceptance email and non-refundable \$1,000 seat acceptance deposit.
4. Proof of health insurance. **All students are required to maintain health insurance for the duration of the PA Program.**
5. Receipt of negative drug screen and background check, indicating no prior convictions that would result in failure to obtain medical licensure.

Please Note:

In the case of a discrepancy on an incoming student's drug screen and or background check, it will be at BUPAP's discretion to review the results and then determine to keep seat offer/rescind seat offer.

6. Completion of physical examination and immunizations, prior to matriculation. If immunization titers are not adequate, the student will still be allowed to matriculate and will be required to have immunizations updated and submit proof to the PA Program.
All immunizations must be completed before entering the clinical year.
7. Any reason for dismissal from another Physician Assistant, Medical, or Nursing Program will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Readiness to Matriculate:

The accelerated nature of the graduate-level curriculum offered by Bethel University College of Health Sciences for students enrolled in the PA Program, requires that applicants seeking admission provide adequate evidence of their ability to undertake an advanced course of study.

When evaluating an applicant's readiness to matriculate in the PA Program, members of the Admissions Committee closely consider all information available with particular attention to the following elements:

1. Academic achievement
2. Cumulative (overall) and Science grade point averages
3. Scores received on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
4. Responses to questions contained in the application
5. Letters of recommendation
6. Community service experience
7. Matriculation readiness
8. Interpersonal and communication skills
9. Compassion
10. Personal integrity
11. Adaptability/stress management
12. Conflict management
13. Technical and professional knowledge/ability to learn
14. Motivation for a career in healthcare
15. Knowledge of the PA profession and its role in healthcare
16. Recommendations of faculty interviewers

Class Averages:

Below are the averages for the PA Class of 2027, who matriculated in January 2025.

These averages allow prospective applicants to realistically assess the chance of admission, and to plan accordingly (have a competitive application).

PACO 2027 (Matriculated January 2025)

- **Prereq GPA = 3.46**
- **Cumulative GPA = 3.43**
- **Science GPA = 3.32**
- **GRE Scores = 303/3.9**
- **Health care Experience Hours = 901**
- **Patient Care Experience Hours = 3,587**
- **Shadowing Hours = 150**
- **Science Hours = 86**
- **Community Service Hours = 615**
- **Age Range = 21- 37**

Please Note:

These are AVERAGES. Applications are evaluated on their own merit.

Health Care & Patient Care Experience:

Health Care (Health-Related) Experience:

Defined as in-direct, or no hands-on patient care. This includes jobs such as Medical Scribes, HealthCare Receptionists, Billing Specialists, etc.

Patient Care Experience:

Defined as direct, or hands-on patient care. This includes jobs such as EMTs, Paramedics, Nurses, Medical Assistants, Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants, Combat Medics, etc.

Please Note:

Patient Care Experience is preferred to Health Care Experience. However, please note, Health Care Experience is preferred to no health care experience at all.

Deadlines:

CASPA will begin accepting applications on **April 24, 2025**, and will continue to accept applications **until October 1, 2025**.

All required forms/documentation and receipt of payment for Supplemental Application fee, must be received by Bethel University Physician Assistant Program.

Applications **must be verified by CASPA by October 1, 2025**.

Please Note:

Any application submitted/verified after October 1st may not be reviewed.

***Dates to Remember*:**

- **April 24th**: CASPA opens. **PLEASE APPLY EARLY!**
- **September 1st**: Deadline for completion of required prerequisite classes.
- **December 15th**: Deadline for bachelor's degree conferment.
- **October 1st**: Application verified by CASPA and required admission documents submitted to BUPAP Admissions
(example: supplemental application, shadowing forms etc.)
- **June – October**: Interviews will be conducted.
- **January** – Classes begin.

Vaccine Policy:

Please see below for BUPAP's Vaccine Policy:

PACO 2027 Immunization Policy

Tuberculosis skin test (TST) or IGRA (TB blood test):

Must be completed within the 12 months preceding the 1st day of classes.

- BCG vaccination does not prevent testing. For students who have received the BCG vaccine, an IGRA either QuantiFERON TB Gold (QFT-G) or T-Spot, is preferred. However, a TST as described below is acceptable.
- A 2-Step TST is performed within one to three weeks (7 to 21 days).
 - Administer first TST following proper protocol.
 - If NEGATIVE, a second TST is performed one to three weeks after first results are read.
 - The TST must be repeated annually while enrolled in BUPAP.
- If TST or IGRA is positive, a chest x-ray is required within the 12 months preceding the 1st day of classes.
- If a student has recently received a live virus vaccine, TB testing should be delayed for four (4) weeks.

Hepatitis B 2 dose series (Hepilisav-B) or 3 dose series (Recombivax HB or Engerix -B) AND a positive Hepatitis B surface Antibody (HBsAb) quantitative titer (greater than 10 mIU/ml):

If the quantitative titer is less than 10 mIU/ml, a booster is recommended and a quantitative HBsAb rechecked one to two months later. If the blood titer is still negative, complete the series and repeat titer in one to two months after the last dose.

- 2 Dose Series (Hepilisav-B)
 - 1st dose
 - 2nd dose: Given four (4) weeks after first dose
- 3 Dose Series (Recombivax HB or Engerix-B)
 - 1st dose
 - 2nd dose: Given four (4) weeks after first dose
 - 3rd dose: Given five (5) months after second dose

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis:

A one-time dose of Tdap must have been completed as an adult and within the last 10 years.

MMR: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella:

Two Measles (rubeola), two Mumps, and at least one Rubella OR positive titers.

- If student is unable to document 2 Measles, 2 Mumps and 1 Rubella we will accept a positive MMR titer.
 - If titer is negative or inconclusive/equivocal then start MMR vaccine 2 dose series (dose # 2 must be given a minimum of 28 days after dose # 1)
 - If student HAS proof of 2 Measles, 2 Mumps and 1 Rubella, and titer is negative or inconclusive/equivocal, 2 doses of the vaccine must be given.

Influenza:

Receive influenza vaccine during the fall preceding matriculation in January.

- Annual influenza immunization is required while enrolled in the PA Program.

Varicella Zoster:

Two documented doses of the Varicella Vaccine OR a positive titer.

Meningococcal Conjugate vaccine (MenACWY):

If one (1) dose of meningococcal vaccine is documented prior to the age of 16, a booster is required.

- If vaccine is administered after the age of 16, no booster is required.

COVID Vaccine:

The COVID Vaccine is strongly recommended but is not required by Bethel University and its Physician Assistant Program. However, there are facilities (nursing homes, clinics, and hospitals) that PA Students visit during both the Didactic and Clinical years of the PA Program that do require the COVID Vaccine. Failure to meet the requirements of these facilities to conduct training could result in delaying progression to graduation. To graduate from Bethel University's Physician Assistant Program, the PA Student must meet all Didactic and Clinical Year requirements.

****BUPAP follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for health professionals and Bethel University's vaccine recommendations. For more information, please visit the [CDC website](#) and [Bethel University Immunization Requirements](#)****

Please Note:

The above vaccine policy was for our PA Class of 2027. The vaccine policy is always subject to change for the next cohort, as the PA Program follows CDC and Bethel University immunization guidelines.

Tuition, Fees, and Expenses:

Tuition and fees are determined on an annual basis by Bethel University's Board of Trustees.

****Bethel University reserves the right to change tuition and fees at any time, without prior notice*.***

Tuition

Tuition is based on full-time studies and covers the 27-month PA Program. Tuition is \$98,000, or approximately \$14,000 per semester. (Note: Bethel University PA Program's curriculum consists of seven (7) semesters.)

Fees and Expenses

- \$100 Graduation Fee (Spring Semester of Graduation Year).
- Approximately \$1400 for books (\$450/Didactic Semester)
- Approximately \$600 in additional funds for scrubs, initial drug screen and background check, and for TAPA Fall Fest expenses.

Please Note:

It is imperative for PA Students to understand that they will be responsible for all expenses associated with travel, housing, meals, etc., for the duration of the PA Program.

BUPAP will NOT be responsible for expenses incurred by the student during clinical rotations.

Federal aid recipients may use their financial aid to cover any expenses associated with travel, transportation, living, as well as other miscellaneous expenses.

Students need to take this information into consideration when budgeting Clinical Year expenses.

- Rotations may be scheduled anywhere that there is an available site, and they are also subject to change.
- Additional funds are necessary for licensure/certification and DEA numbers, upon graduation from the PA Program, and for registering/taking the PANCE.

Health Insurance:

All PA Students are required to have health insurance while enrolled in the PA Program. Health insurance must be maintained through the entirety of the program, and students must provide proof of coverage before and during enrollment.

Academic Standards:

Students must maintain at least a "B" average (80%) in each course during the Didactic Year to progress to the Clinical Year.

BUPAP Students must always act professionally to everyone while maintaining patient and practice confidentiality. Breaches of professional conduct may result in dismissal from the PA Program.

Grades are assigned by the PA Program on the following: Individual Exams, Practicum, Checkoffs, etc. Specific information can be found in the course syllabi.

Grading Scale:

1. A (90-100) = 4.0 GPA (Excellent)
2. B (80-89) = 3.0 GPA (Good)
3. Grade(s) below 80 (3.0 GPA) is considered failing.

Please Note:

Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number using the tenth place (A score of .5 and above is rounded up, and a score below a .5 is rounded down)

Remediation Policy:

Remediation is the opportunity to correct unsatisfactory performance and progress. If a student requires remediation, the PA Course Instructor will contact the Academic Manager and if needed, the PA Faculty Tutor.

The student's grade on the exam and/or check-off will determine the course of action, and the student will then be notified.

- Remediation will be required if a student **earns a grade <78%** on any evaluation requirement, and/or fails to "meet expectations" during a check-off.
- If a student earns **a grade <78%**, the student will be notified and required to attend a mandatory review, which consists of reviewing the evaluation requirement while being proctored.
- If a student earns **a grade <75%**, the student will be required to attend a mandatory review and meet with the primary course instructor or faculty tutor for additional remediation and instruction of the material.

Remediation may cover but is not limited to tutoring, additional reading, additional examinations, written assignments, or study resources.

- If a student earns **a grade <70%**, the student will be required to attend a mandatory test review and meet with the primary course instructor or faculty tutor for additional remediation and instruction. The student will be given additional study time (if needed) and will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter in the way of another evaluation requirement. The requirement will cover the same topics as the failed evaluation. The evaluation may consist of verbal or written examination. The purpose of the remediation evaluation requirement is to measure competency in the subject matter. If the student fails to demonstrate minimum competency on the remediation evaluation, the student will be required to meet with the Promotion Retention, and Disciplinary (PRD) Committee to discuss future in the program.

Please Note:

Students will be allowed to remediate two (2) times per course, per semester, or five (5) times total per semester before meeting with the PRD committee to discuss program continuance.

Academic Warning Policy:

All didactic course work in the PA Program curriculum must be completed with a grade of "B" or better. Any grade below 80% (3.0 GPA), is considered a failing grade. The purpose of the policy is to ensure early recognition of, and intervention for, deficiencies in knowledge and/or skills.

- Students must maintain a class average of **82% or greater**. If a student's running average falls **below 82%** in any course after two tests/exams in that course, the student will be placed on Academic Warning for the remainder of the semester. This is to ensure early recognition of, and intervention for, deficiencies in knowledge and/or skills.
- When placed on Academic Warning, the student is required to meet with the faculty tutor to discuss study habits as well as meet regularly with faculty advisor.
- If a student is required to remediate a test/exam in a course in which the student is on academic warning, the student will be required to meet with the PRD Committee.
- Classes with midterm and final exams Only: If the student's average is **below 82%**, after the midterm, the student will be placed on Academic Warning.
- If a student's average falls **below 82%** after two tests/exams in any other course while on Academic Warning, the student will be required to meet with the PRD Committee to discuss continuance in the program.

List of Essential Functions and Technical Standards:

Bethel University Physician Assistant Program considers it essential for all physician assistant students to have the knowledge and skills to function in a variety of clinical settings and to provide a wide spectrum of patient care as required by the curriculum.

Therefore, every physician assistant student must master a common body of basic science knowledge and master the principles, knowledge, and procedures of the core clinical rotations, including internal medicine, family medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, pediatrics, women's health, and behavioral/mental health.

This requires that every student has sufficient abilities and skills in: Observation, Communication, Motor/Tactile Function, Cognitive/Intellectual Function, and Behavioral/Social Attributes.

Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities will be considered on an individual basis, but a candidate must be able to perform in an independent manner.

Surrogates cannot be used to accomplish the essential requirements.

The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable in many clinical situations, in that it implies that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation.

Furthermore, it is expected that the student will meet the technical standards throughout the duration of the program of study. It is incumbent on the student to notify the program immediately if unable to meet one of the standards.

Completion of Bethel University PA Program requires that the student independently demonstrates these capabilities outlined more fully below. The following skills are required, with or without accommodation:

Observation:

Includes the ability to perceive, using senses, and mental abilities, information presented in both educational and clinical settings. Educational information will be presented through lectures, small groups, and one-on-one interactions, as well as written and audiovisual material.

- Students must have sufficient sensory capacity to observe in the lecture hall, the laboratory, the outpatient setting, and at the patient's bedside.
- Sensory skills adequate to perform physical examination are required. Functional vision, hearing, and tactile sensation must be adequate to observe a patient's condition and to elicit information through procedures regularly required in a physical exam, such as inspection, auscultation, and palpation.
- A student must be able to: observe a patient accurately, at a distance, and close at hand, with or without standard medical instrumentation; acquire information from written documents and visualize information as presented in images from computer screens, paper, film, slides, or video. This includes, but is not limited to, information conveyed through physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, microbiological cultures, and microscopic images of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states.
- In any case where a student's ability to observe or acquire information through these sensory modalities is compromised, the candidate must demonstrate alternate means and/or abilities to acquire and demonstrate the essential information conveyed in this fashion. If the alternatives are acceptable, it is expected that obtaining and using such alternative means and/or abilities shall be the responsibility of the student.

Communication:

Includes the ability to speak, hear, read, and write sufficiently well to achieve adequate exchange of information with other healthcare professionals, patients, and their support network.

- The student must have the ability to receive and process auditory information and speak and write clearly for all communications with patients, their families, and other healthcare professionals.
- The student must communicate effectively through written and electronic media.
- The student must be able to communicate sensitively with patients and their families.
- The student must be able to read sufficiently to comprehend complex medical literature and convey this information in easy-to-understand terms.
- The student must be able to perceive forms of non-verbal interpersonal communications including facial expressions, body language, and affect.
- Students must be able to communicate effectively in both academic and health care settings.

Motor & Tactile Function

- A student must have sufficient motor function to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers.
- A student must be able to execute movements reasonably required to provide general and emergency medical care to patients. These skills require coordination of fine and gross motor skills, equilibrium, and functional sensation.
- A student must have the capability to manipulate equipment and instruments for the performance of basic laboratory tests and procedures.
- A student must have the ability to move oneself from one setting to another and negotiate the patient care environment in a timely fashion.
- A student must have sufficient physical stamina to perform the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study. This includes long periods of sitting, standing, and moving, which are required for classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences.

Cognitive and Intellectual:

A student must be able to demonstrate cognitive and problem-solving skills in a timely fashion necessary for medical problem solving and patient care. Problem solving is one of the critical skills demanded of physician assistants.

Required intellectual abilities:

- Comprehension of visual-spatial relationships.
- Reading and understanding medical literature and the patient's chart.
- Learning, measuring, calculating, retrieving, prioritizing, analyzing, organizing, assimilating, integrating, and synthesizing technically detailed and complex information and appropriately this information appropriately.

Behavioral and Social Attributes:

- The student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all academic and patient responsibilities.
- The student must be able to work collaboratively and effectively as a member of a small group in class, as well as a healthcare team member.
- The student must have sufficient interpersonal skills to relate positively with people across society, including all ethnic backgrounds, economic levels, sexual orientation, and belief systems.
- The student must possess compassion and concern for others, interest in, and motivation for service and integrity.
- The student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under mentally and emotionally stressful situations.
- The student must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice.
- The student must behave in an ethical and moral manner that is consistent with professional values.
- The student must be able to accept constructive criticism and appropriately respond through modification of his/her behavior.

Additional Information:

In the first year of the Program, all PA students are required to attend all classes and educational sessions, master physical examinations skills, complete all laboratory exercises, attend assigned patient interactions, and complete BLS. In the clinical year, students must successfully complete all assigned rotations, which may include extended hours of instructions, evenings, nights, and weekends. Students must be able to transport themselves to all training sites. It is the responsibility of each applicant to affirm that they meet these technical standards upon entrance to the Physician Assistant Program. During enrollment, the program's Promotion, Retention, and Disciplinary (PRD) committee will monitor students for continuing compliance with technical standards. The faculty of the Physician Assistant Program recognizes its responsibility to present candidates for the MSPAS degree that have the knowledge and skills to function in a wide variety of clinical situations and to render a broad spectrum of patient care.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for applicants with documented disabilities who can meet the academic and technical standards required for admission or participation in all educational programs and activities. These accommodations must be accomplished without altering the essential requirements of our medical education. Any student with accessibility needs should contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) located on the main campus in the Vera Low Center at 731-352-6375 or email disabilityservices@bethelu.edu for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:

Bethel University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented disabilities.

If you have a diagnosed disability, or if you believe that you have a disability that might require reasonable accommodation in this program, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services, at (731) 352-6375 or email disabilityservices@bethelu.edu.

Documentation of your disability and required forms from the Office of Disability Services must be completed before you receive accommodations each semester.

Bethel University policy states that it is the responsibility of the student to contact instructors to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, experiences, and assignments.

Furthermore, the PA Program policy states that students should self-disclose any disabilities to the office of Disability Services in a timely manner to receive any accommodations.

Any medically documented disability will be reported to the Program Director through Disability Services as necessary. Disability accommodations must be accomplished without altering the essential requirements of our medical education. Any student with accessibility needs should contact the Office of Disability Services.

Office of Veteran Affairs:

Bethel University is here to assist veterans, reservists, guardsmen, active-duty service members, and dependents with the education benefits they have earned through service. BUMilitary@bethelu.edu.

For additional information, please visit [Bethel University Office of Veteran Affairs](#)

International Student Affairs:

Bethel University's [Office of International Students](#) is here to assist international students with their immigration needs.

An international student is defined as a person who wants to come to the United States to enroll in a degree-seeking program.

If a student has questions or concerns about immigration matters, please e-mail the Primary Designated School Official for international program at hodgest@bethelu.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

Bethel University does not discriminate and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or military service, either in the admission of students, in employment, or in the administration of any of its educational policies, programs, or activities. In conformity with Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Bethel University does not, within the context of its religious principles, heritage, mission, or goals, discriminate on the basis of sex in the area of employment, admission, educational programs, or other activities. Bethel University complies with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the IRS Anti-Bias Regulation, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For questions regarding Title IX and its application and to make reports and complaints about conduct that may constitute sexual discrimination, please contact the Bethel University Title IX Coordinator, the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

Rachael Brooks
Title IX & Prevention Services Coordinator, Bethel University
731-352-4246
325 Cherry Ave., McKenzie, TN 38201
brooksra@bethelu.edu

For Bethel's Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Policy, please visit <https://www.bethelu.edu/about/title-ix-and-prevention-services>.

Inquiries regarding other types of discrimination can be addressed to the Chief Academic and Compliance Officer:

Phyllis Campbell
Chief Academic and Compliance Officer
731-352-4046
325 Cherry Ave., McKenzie, TN 38201
campbellp@bethelu.edu

Didactic Year Attendance Policy:

Classroom attendance, either in person or virtual, and attendance at all educational experiences is required, except for emergencies. The final determination of "true emergency" will be at the discretion of the Program Director and/or Associate Program Director.

If a student must leave the program during the day when class is in session, the student must sign out and notify the Academic Director and/or Academic Manager. The student may be required to present a medical excuse upon returning to the classroom.

When a student is sick during any PA Program class or mandatory attendance for scheduled event and does not provide the Academic Manager with a doctor's excuse, a personal day will be used for that day's absence. If the student has already used a personal day, then a doctor's excuse is mandatory.

The following absences are **NOT** considered emergencies: business appointments, routine dental, pregnancy, medical appointments, vacations, weddings, graduations, social events, or other personal/family events. Please schedule events during breaks or weekends.

Personal Day:

Students are allowed one (1) personal day per semester during the Didactic Year. Personal time off **cannot** be scheduled during exams, checkoffs, or guest lectures. Additionally, some classroom assignments **cannot** be made up (i.e. case studies).

From time to time, in-class assignments are required. If a student schedules a personal day during one of these in-class assignments, the student will receive a zero for the assignment.

Before scheduling a personal day, the student must discuss it in advance with the instructor and Academic Director.

To schedule personal time off, the student must complete the Request for Personal Day form which is available on the class's Google site. Once completed the student is responsible for obtaining the instructors' signatures, with whom the classes will be missed, and the Academic Director's signature. Once all signatures have been acquired, the completed form is turned into the Academic Manager.

Please Note:

The responsibility of notifying the instructors and Academic Director of anticipated absences rests entirely on the student.

Illness:

An illness can be approved with a medical excuse note. This is the only way the student can make up assignments or exams. An option to attend a virtual class may be offered to students with extended absences due to illness. To attend class virtually the student must provide a medical excuse note for the dates/times absent.

If a student must leave class following an exam due to illness, a medical excuse must be obtained for the student's exam grade to be released.

CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance:

The program continually monitors the risk of respiratory viruses and follows CDC and Bethel University protocols.

These viruses include COVID-19, RSV, and Flu.

The student is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Any student with pre-existing conditions or medical concerns that need to attend virtually is provided an alternative space within the PA building to participate in each class.

To be considered for alternative space, contact in writing via email the reasoning to the Academic Director and Program Director.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the procedure for all absences.

Students must obtain a medical excuse, and arrangements will be made to attend class virtually during their isolation time frame.

If identified as a “close contact” to a COVID case, the student will follow CDC and university recommendations. Based on those recommendations if the student is not required to quarantine at home, arrangements will be made for an alternative space at the program. If identified as a “close contact” to a COVID case and required to quarantine at home, the student must provide a medical excuse for the period absent. During this time, the student will be allowed to attend class virtually.

For all absences, the student **MUST** notify the Academic Director and Academic Manager the night before or at least 15 minutes before the start of class the day of the absence by email. The student must also call (731) 407-7660 and leave a voicemail.

This must be done for each day absent unless there is a prolonged absence with a return date established.

Sending a message through a classmate or family member is NOT acceptable. Medical excuses must be completed by a licensed physician, PA, or NP and submitted to the Academic Manager. This cannot be issued by a family member. An excuse from a nurse is not an acceptable excuse.

All absences will be placed under review. After the review of a student's absence or excessive absences, a meeting with the Promotion/Retention/Disciplinary (PRD) committee may be scheduled.

Pregnancy:

A student who is or becomes pregnant at any time during the didactic year may require accommodation. The appropriate accommodation is worked through the Disabilities Coordinator, in conjunction with Title IX, through Bethel University. As with all students needing accommodation for medical conditions, a statement from the obstetrician regarding the student's ability to continue in the PA Program may be required.

Progression to Clinical Year and Graduation Requirements:

To qualify for progression to Clinical Year, the student must satisfy ALL the following requirements:

- All Didactic course work in the PA Program curriculum has been completed with a grade of “B” or higher.
- A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in PA Program coursework has been achieved.
- Documentation of immunizations, annual TB screening, and Influenza Vaccination is completed.
- Documentation that Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) training is completed.
- Drug screening and criminal background check clearance is obtained.
- Successful completion of all competency skills (e.g., BLS, ACLS, etc.).
- Verification of ability to meet the technical standards.
- Continued enrollment in a health insurance program.

To qualify for progression and graduation with the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) degree, students must:

- Follow the approved course of study and satisfactorily complete all courses.
- Complete all courses with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, with no course or clinical rotation grade below 80%.
- Demonstrate proficiency in all PA competencies.
- Settle all financial accounts with the university.
- Successfully complete the Summative Evaluation upon completion of the Clinical Year.
- Must be recommended for graduation by the PA program's PRD committee and the Dean of CHS and approved by CHS faculty.

PA Course Information:

Below is an example of the Didactic Course offering for PACO 2028. Please note the semester these courses are offered is subject to change for future PA Classes.

BethelUniversity
College of Health Sciences

Physician Assistant Program
2026-2028 Course of Study

COURSE NAME	COURSE NUMBER	CREDIT HOUR	SEMESTER OFFERED
Clinical Medicine I	701	8	Spring 2026
Clinical Medicine II	702	8	Summer 2026
Clinical Medicine III	703	8	Fall 2026
Pharmacology I	710	3	Spring 2026
Pharmacology II	711	3	Summer 2026
Pharmacology III	712	3	Fall 2026
A&P with Lab I	717	2	Spring 2026
A&P with Lab II	718	2	Summer 2026
A&P with Lab III	719	2	Fall 2026
Pathophysiology I	723	2	Spring 2026
Pathophysiology II	724	2	Summer 2026
Pathophysiology III	725	2	Fall 2026

Physical Diagnosis I	730	3	Spring 2026
Physical Diagnosis II	731	3	Summer 2026
Physical Diagnosis III	732	3	Fall 2026
Clinical Skills I	740	3	Spring 2026
Clinical Skills II	741	3	Summer 2026
Clinical Skills III	742	3	Fall 2026
Lab Diagnostics I	750	2	Spring 2026
Lab Diagnostics II	751	2	Summer 2026
Lab Diagnostics III	752	2	Fall 2026
Medical Terminology	760	1	Spring 2026
EKG	761	2	Summer 2026
Behavioral Medicine	762C	3	Summer 2026
Radiology	763	2	Fall 2026
The PA Profession	770	2	Spring 2026
Genetics	780	2	Spring 2026
Geriatrics	781	2	Fall 2026
Pediatrics	782	2	Fall 2026
Evidence-Based Medicine	795A	1	Fall 2026
Family Medicine I	801	5	Varies
Family Medicine II	802	5	Varies
Internal Medicine	803	5	Varies
Emergency Medicine	804	5	Varies
General Surgery	805	5	Varies
Mental/Behavioral Health	811	5	Varies
Family Medicine/Pediatrics	813	5	Varies
Family Medicine/Women's Health	814	5	Varies
Elective Clinical Experience I	901	5	Varies
Elective Clinical Experience II	902	5	Varies

Elective Clinical Experience III	903	5	Varies
The Business of Medicine	816	3	Spring 2028
Summative	815	3	Spring 2028

Student Participation in Evaluation of Program:

The PA program is committed to delivering a curriculum that will prepare the student to deliver optimal health care in an ever-changing environment. In our commitment to the process of continuous quality improvement, students are involved in course evaluations, supervised clinical practice evaluations, and faculty evaluations at the end of each semester. As a future health care provider, the evaluation process will be a part of every continuing medical education course in which the practitioner participates to maintain their Physician Assistant license. Students are required to complete these evaluations for didactic courses and supervised clinical experiences. Students are also expected to complete a survey 6 months after graduation which is valuable feedback in the evaluation of the program.

Clinical Year Overview:

The Clinical phase of the PA Program consists of 11 rotations that must be completed to satisfy degree requirements. The eight (8) core rotations consist of seven (7) directed rotations from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), with a second Family Medicine rotation. The remaining 3 rotations are electives that can be completed in disciplines of the core rotations or subspecialties of Internal Medicine or Surgery. Rotations are scheduled by the clinical department at qualified locations with an available clinical site. Elective rotations may be completed in a student's hometown or hub area as available.

Core Rotations:

Students may complete the eight (8) Core Rotations near Bethel's PA Program or may be placed in another hub area.

A "hub" is an area where BUPAP has established preceptors, who are willing to take our PA Students every year.

If BUPAP is unable to place a student at a rotation in the assigned hub, due to the lack of availability of preceptors, the student may be relocated to another hub to complete that rotation.

The BUPAP Clinical Dept. realizes this is an inconvenience, so they strive to keep students in their assigned hub.

However, occasionally students may have to relocate, so the PA Clinical Department asks that they please be prepared for that possibility. Please note that the PA Clinical Department attempts to keep relocations to a minimum.

Elective Rotations:

Elective Rotations may be completed in a student's hometown or hub area when allowed by state law and facility policies.

Please keep in mind that there are some states in which a student will be unable to complete rotations; these will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The BUPAP Clinical Department will assist with identifying and confirming elective preceptors.

Elective Rotations completed with Family Medicine and other Core Rotation preceptors, must be completed as the first elective, due to the high demand of preceptors during the first two rotations for the Second-Year Clinical Students. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Clinical Director, prior to setting up the elective.

It is imperative for the student to understand that he or she will be responsible for all expenses associated with travel, housing, meals, etc., for the entire Clinical Year. BUPAP is NOT responsible for expenses incurred by the student during clinical rotations.

Students need to be sure to include this in their budget plans at the start of the PA Program! Federal aid recipients may use their financial aid to cover any expenses associated with travel, meals, transportation, housing, as well as other miscellaneous expenses encountered during clinical rotations.

Return to Campus (RTC):

Clinical year students will complete a "Return to Campus" event at the end of each rotation. These events are held either virtually or in-person as scheduled.

Return to Campus events include end of rotation exams, case presentations, reviews, lectures, and clinical skills practice.

PA Faculty Advisors will meet with each individual student to discuss the rotations and or any issues/concerns encountered.

Clinical Year Course Offering:

Please see below for a list of courses offered during the Clinical Year:

Clinical Course Offering

Course	PAS #	Credit
Family Medicine I	801	5
Family Medicine II	802	5
Internal Medicine	803	5
Emergency Medicine	804	5
General Surgery	805	5
Mental/Behavioral Health	811	5
Family Medicine/Pediatrics	813	5
Family Medicine/Women's	814	5

Elective Clinical Experience I	901	5
Elective Clinical Experience II	902	5
Elective Clinical Experience III	903	5
The Business of Medicine	816	3
Summative	815	3
Total Clinical Hours		61

BUPAP Student Work Policy:

Didactic Year:

Students enrolled in the PA Program are not prohibited but are *strongly* discouraged from working during the didactic year, due to the intense and rigorous nature of the program.

Students are not allowed to work for the program.

If the student chooses to work and is unable to fulfill program requirements due to a work conflict, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Clinical Year:

Students enrolled in the BUPAP are prohibited from working during the clinical year, due to the intense and rigorous nature of the program.

Students are not allowed to work for the program.

Students are not to receive or accept compensation for any work performed within the preceptor's clinical site or practice. Students may only render services as part of the clinical phase of their education.

If a student chooses to disregard the work policy and is unable to attend scheduled clinical rotations due to a work conflict, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Students must not substitute for, or function as, instructional faculty at the PA Program.

Program Competencies for the PA Student:

The Bethel University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP) Competencies for the PA Student represent the requisite medical knowledge, interpersonal, clinical, and technical skills, professional behaviors, and critical reasoning and problem-solving abilities each student must demonstrate in order to graduate from BUPAP. The development and framework of these competencies was informed by the Cross-Org Competencies Review Task Force's "Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession" (2021), the PAEA's "Core Competencies for New Physician Assistant Graduates" (2018), BUPAP's former Competencies for the PA Student (2022), and the mission and values of BUPAP. These competencies are an aggregate of the BUPAP's former competencies. BUPAP's Competencies for the PA Student are organized into 7 domains outlined below:

1. Medical Knowledge (MK)

PLO 1. Apply the medical knowledge about established and evolving biomedical and clinical sciences to patient care across the life span. (OSCE, OB, ePACKRAT, EOC Exam, PALS)

2. Interpersonal and Communication Skills (ICS)

PLO 2. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration. (OSCE, OB, PALS)

3. Patient Care (PC)

PLO 3. Demonstrate patient care that includes person- and setting specific assessment, evaluation, and healthcare that is evidence-based, supports patient safety, and advances health equity. (CRPS) (OSCE, OB, ePACKRAT, EOC Exam, PALS, CS)

4. Clinical and Technical Skills (CTS)

PLO 4. Attain proficiency to safely perform clinical and technical skills for entry level practice. (CS, EOC Exam)

5. Professionalism (PRO):

PLO 5. Demonstrate a commitment to practicing medicine and advocate for the patient within a moral, ethical, and legal framework. (OSCE, OB, EOC Exam, ePACKRAT)

6. Quality Improvement (QI):

PLO 6. Demonstrate the ability to learn and implement quality improvement practices by engaging in self-assessment for the purpose of self-evaluation, lifelong learning, and practice improvement. (Selfassessment, Summative Advising, Final PRD, PANCE Preparation)

7. Society and Population Health (SPH):

PLO 7. Integrate the knowledge of the social determinants of health from the influences of the ecosystem of person, family, population, environment, and policy into patient care decisions. (EOC exam, ePACKRAT)

Educational Philosophy:

The Bethel University Physician Assistant Program understands that the field of medicine is constantly evolving. Our Educational Philosophy strives towards training and educating PA students to become life-long learners adept at critical thinking and able to work within a collaborative environment. It assures that we provide a creative and supportive educational environment for individual learning and growth within a structured curriculum. The role of the instructor is to guide and collaborate with the student, objectively evaluate the student, select and present important material, and model the professional behavior based upon the competencies of the PA Profession. The education of the PA student is a reciprocal interaction among faculty and students. The PA Program seeks continuous quality improvement and welcomes the ideas of all who participate in the program.

BUPAP Goals:

- Maintain continuous accreditation with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.
- Recruit and admit highly qualified applicants from diverse backgrounds.
- Attract and graduate students who exhibit a servant's heart.
- Maintain a level of first time PANCE pass rates at or above the national average.

Additional Information about PAs:

What is a Physician Assistant?

PAs (physician associates/physician assistants) are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting.

Established in 1967, the PA profession currently has more than 178,700 PAs practitioners in the U.S., engaging in more than 500 million patient interactions each year.

Trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professionals, PAs are dedicated to expanding access to care and transforming health and wellness through patient-centered, team-based medical practice.

PAs practice in every specialty and work setting. Being a physician associate is regularly ranked among the top 5 healthcare, STEM, and overall jobs in the U.S.

Prospective PAs can choose from among 308 accredited master's degree level programs in the U.S. Programs take 3 academic years or 27 months, and PA candidates are also required to engage in 2,000 hours of clinical rotations as well as passing a certification exam, among other requirements.

Following graduation from an accredited PA program, PAs must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) that tests them on everything from taking a patient history to diagnosing and treating complex medical issues. To maintain certification, PAs document continuing education hours (CMEs) and must pass a recertification exam every 6 to 10 years.

The PA profession is one of the fastest growing in the country. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the profession to grow by 26.5% 2022 and 2032, significantly faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for PAs is so high that three quarters of PAs receive multiple job offers upon graduation.

PAs practice in every state, medical setting, and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality. To learn more please visit: [NCCPA Website](#) and [AAPA Website](#)

Historic Precedents:

For centuries, providing medical care to remote populations where none existed, and meeting military and public health needs, has been nationally concerning. The use of non-physicians to provide health care services has an extensive history. Among the more noteworthy experiments were efforts to deliver services to the Russian wilderness, the communes of rural China, the frontiers of the American West, and to Native-American villages in Alaska.

Military necessity, especially in times of war, led to the use of non-physicians to provide acute care at army

bases and on warships in France, England, and Post-Revolutionary America. The United States Public Health Service also found a need to use former military corpsmen in aiding with medical care in prisons. Also, advanced, highly technical surgical procedures, developed in mid-20th century, led innovators to train technicians to assist in Urology and Cardiovascular Surgery.

In the 1940s a unique event took place, when a highly respected general practitioner in rural North Carolina, trained his own “doctor's assistant” to care for his patients, while he was away furthering his medical education.

Remarkably, that partnership received great praise from organized medicine. A road had been mapped and was soon to be paved by pioneer educators.

PA Profession:

The PA profession was created to improve and expand health care. In the mid-1960s, physicians and educators recognized there was a shortage of Primary Care Physicians. In 1965, to help remedy this, Eugene A. Stead Jr., MD, of the Duke University Medical Center, put together the first class of Physician Assistants. He selected four Navy Hospital Corpsmen, who had received considerable medical training during their military service. Stead based the curriculum of the PA Program on his knowledge of the fast-track training of doctors during World War II. The first Physician Assistant class graduated from Duke University PA Program on Oct. 6, 1967.

The PA concept was lauded early on and gained federal acceptance and backing as early as the 1970s as a creative solution to physician shortages. The medical community helped support the new profession and spurred the setting of accreditation standards, establishment of a national certification process and standardized examination, and development of continuing medical education requirements.

The PA concept has grown substantially since its creation in the 1960s. As of January 2025, there are 310 ARC-PA accredited PA Programs throughout the country.

Today's PAs are educated in graduate-level programs, averaging 27 months in length with 2,000 hours of clinical rotations. PAs practice medicine in all 50 states, Canada, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Ghana, and South Africa.

PAs practice in every setting and medical and surgical specialty, improving access to care for patients across the U.S. or more on the history of the PA Profession, please visit the [PA Historical Society Website](#)

PA Programs Status at Present – (January 2025)

- **Number of Accredited PA Programs: 310**
- **Number of Accredited PA Programs in TN: 11**
- **Number of Certified Physician Assistants: More than 178,700**

History of Bethel University



Bethel College was established in the flourishing frontier town of McMoresville in 1842. An outgrowth of McMoresville Academy or the "Brick Academy," the school was founded as Bethel Seminary, and operated under the fostering care of West Tennessee Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Bethel College was granted a charter by the State of Tennessee in 1847. Bethel was primarily devoted to the training of young men for the ministry but was open to other young men who were interested in higher learning. Reuben Burrow was Bethel's first president. He served as president for 20 years, during which time he also served as fundraiser, member of the Board of Visitors, head of the Theology Department, and teacher.

The Civil War brought hard times for Bethel College and McMoresville. The area around McMoresville was equally divided between the Union and Confederacy, and at times Bethel was occupied by each of the armies. The buildings were used as barracks and much of the physical equipment was destroyed by soldiers. Not only were the laboratory and classroom equipment lost but the student body was also decimated, as most of the young men were serving in either the Northern or Southern armies. When the war was over, Bethel had lost its endowment.

Following the Civil War, Bethel reopened in 1865, under the administration of Rev. Mr. B.W. McDonald, and for the first time, women were permitted to attend classes.

In 1872, while Rev. W.W. Hendrix was serving as Bethel's President, the building of the railroad missed McMoresville, resulting in Bethel College being moved from McMoresville, TN to McKenzie, TN.

On August 1, 2009, Bethel College became Bethel University.

To learn more on the history of Bethel University, please visit the [Bethel University Website](#)