

Interested in becoming a Physician Assistant but don't have enough clinical hours?

Applications for
both programs
are due
August 1

Consider the Exercise Science for Clinicians Graduate Certificate

- There is a high demand for Physician Assistants (PAs) in the health care job market resulting in an extremely competitive application process. One important reason applicants do not receive an interview, or are not accepted after an interview, is a lack of high-quality, hands-on patient experiences. This is a particular problem for students in undergraduate science disciplines who decide to explore the PA career pathway (as opposed to the medical school pathway) late in their undergraduate careers as they often have extensive research experience but lack significant hands-on patient care experience.
- The PA program at Northeastern currently requires significant hands-on clinical experience at the time of application. The Exercise Science for Clinicians Graduate Certificate will permit highly qualified applicants to apply to the PA program with their hands-on patient care experience requirement pending. Matriculated students will complete all requisite hands-on patient care hours in pre-approved exercise science clinical environments while in the certificate program, allowing them to begin the PA program having fulfilled the required patient care experience requirements. It is important to note that students applying for the Exercise Science Certificate Program do not receive preferential status in the PA Program admissions process and are considered for admission in the PA Program alongside all other applicants.
- Applicants admitted to the PA Program who have successfully completed this pathway will enter the PA Program with the regular cohort. Additionally, students will enter with significant graduate work in exercise science and physiology, ideally preparing them for success in the rigorous PA Program.

How it works: Admissions

- Applicants should be in process of completing prerequisite coursework for **BOTH the PA Program AND the Exercise Science Graduate Certificate Program**.
 - i. PA Program prerequisites: <https://bouve.northeastern.edu/physician-assistant/ms/prerequisites/>
 - ii. Exercise Science Certificate prerequisites: <https://bouve.northeastern.edu/health-sciences/programs/exercise-science-for-clinicians/>

- Interested applicants must apply to **BOTH the PA Program AND the Exercise Science Certificate by August 1.**
 - i. PA Program applications must be submitted through CASPA which can be found here: [https://help.liaisonedu.com/CASPA Applicant Help Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center)
 - ii. Exercise Science applications must be submitted through: https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=neu-grad
- Applications will be reviewed and invitations to interview will be extended to exceptional candidates in mid- to late August.
- Exceptional applicants may be recommended for conditional admission to the PA Program and admission to the Exercise Science for Clinicians Graduate Certificate.
- Upon successful completion of the certificate curriculum (including achieving a GPA of greater than or equal to 3.5 in all coursework and completing all required, pre-approved clinical hours), students will be eligible to matriculate in the PA Program for the following Fall semester.
- After completing the PA curriculum, qualified students may elect to take additional courses and fulfill the program requirements to complete a Master's in Exercise Science. This will prepare them for ACSM certification to become a certified clinical exercise physiologist.
- **It is important to note that students accepted into the Exercise Science Graduate Certificate Program will have to matriculate prior to receiving acceptance from the Physician Assistant Program. The PA Program will interview candidates and render decisions in early September within the University period for withdrawal from classes without penalty.**

<u>Application and Admissions Timeline</u>		
	<u>Exercise Science Certificate</u>	<u>Physician Assistant</u>
Application Deadline	August 1	August 1
Interview	August	Early September
Notification of Application Status	Mid- to late August	Late August - Early September
Matriculation Date	Early September	Late August of the following year (contingent upon successful completion of the Exercise Science Certificate Program with a GPA= \geq 3.50)

How it works: Curriculum

The certificate will take one year to complete and will require a total of 7 courses (21 semester hours) and includes the following courses:

1. **Advanced physiology** (2 courses or 6 SH) provides the knowledge foundation for the understanding of advanced principles of exercise physiology on acute and chronic responses to endurance and strength exercise in major body systems with a focus on cardiopulmonary system under health and disease conditions.
2. **Assessment and prescription** (2 courses or 6 SH) provides the hands-on skills in measurement, assessment and implementation of exercise and physical activity for health improvement and disease intervention.
3. **Internship** (2 courses or 6 SH) provides the experiential learning opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills in health care and to gain hands-on experiences and patient skills in clinical settings.
4. **Elective** (1 course or 3 SH) provides students the flexibility to either gain more knowledge and skills in exercise science or help to fulfil the prerequisite courses required by the PA program.

Sample Curriculum Plan

Fall Semester

Course	Title	Day/Time	SH
EXSC5210	PA and Ex: Measurement, Testing and Prescription	T 4-6:30	3
EXSC 5200	Cardiopulmonary Physiology	R 4-6:30	3
	Elective		3
	TOTAL		9

Spring Semester

EXSC 6202	EKG & Clinical Assessment and Prescription	W 4-6:30	3
EXSC 5220	Adv. Exercise Phys.	Thr 4-6:30	3
EXSC 6300	Internship I		3
	TOTAL		9

Summer Semester

EXSC 6300	Internship II		3
	TOTAL		3

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