



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Physician Assistant (PA)?

PAs are highly trained and licensed medical professionals who practice medicine as an integral part of modern healthcare teams with physicians and other clinicians. PAs are graduates of accredited PA educational programs who have passed a nationally certified board exam and are state-licensed to practice medicine in collaboration with a physician(s).

### What is the class size?

The MTSU PA Studies Program will enroll a cohort of thirty (30) students annually.

### How long is the program?

The MTSU PA Studies Program totals twenty-seven (27) months in length. The curriculum is divided into four (4) semesters of didactic education and three (3) semesters of supervised clinical practice experiences and associated coursework.

### Can students provide and/or solicit clinical sites and/or preceptors?

Students are **not** required to provide or solicit clinical sites and/or preceptors. The program will coordinate clinical sites and preceptors for all required rotations. However, students may be permitted to suggest a clinical site(s) or preceptor(s) to the program. Suggested clinical sites or preceptors must meet all program expectations and ARC-PA Standards. As such, all clinical site and preceptor suggestions are not guaranteed, remaining subject to approval by the MTSU PA Studies Program. Please refer to the Student Solicitation of Rotations Policy in the MTSU PA Studies Student Handbook for further clarification and details.

### Can a PA student work while in the program?

The MTSU PA Studies Program actively discourages employment during the entire length of the program. Please refer to the Student Employment Policy in the MTSU PA Studies Student Handbook for further clarification and details.

### What are the policies for immunizations and health screenings for PA studies students?

Policies for immunizations and health screenings are based on current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for health professionals and applicable state-specific mandates. Please refer to the Immunizations and Screening Policies section of the MTSU PA Studies Student Handbook for further clarification and details.

### Does the MTSU PA Studies Program currently have international rotations? If so, what travel health policies are required?

MTSU does not currently offer supervised clinical practice experiences in international locations.



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### What are the MTSU PA Studies Program's policies for addressing student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards?

The MTSU PA Studies Program has a comprehensive policy regarding student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including prevention methods, procedures for care and treatment after exposure, incident reporting, and financial responsibilities. Please refer to the Immunizations and Screening Policies section of the MTSU PA Studies Student Handbook for further clarification and details.

### Can principal faculty, the program director and/or the medical director act as health care providers for students in the program?

Faculty and staff members of the MTSU PA Studies program are prohibited from acting as healthcare providers for students except in an emergency situation.

### If an enrolled PA student is experiencing personal issues that may impact their progress in the program, how does the program support the student?

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to meeting students' needs, whether intellectual, social, psychological, or physical. The MTSU PA Studies Program provides timely access and/or referral to services the help address any personal issues that may impact progress in the PA program. Please refer to the Personal Issues Policy in the MTSU PA Studies Student Handbook for further clarification and details.

### Does the MTSU PA Studies Program have a geographically distant campus?

The MTSU PA Studies Program does not have a geographically distant campus.

### Does the MTSU PA Studies Program award or grant advanced placement to students?

The MTSU PA studies program does not award or grant advanced placement to students. Please refer to the Transfer Students and Advanced Placement Policy in the MTSU PA Studies Program Student Handbook for further clarification and details.

### Does the MTSU PA program allow an applicant to defer an offered seat to the next cohort?

Any potential student may defer an acceptance to the PA program for one cohort cycle. This acceptance deferral will only be allowed when:

1. the accepted student places an initial seat deposit at the time of offered acceptance and then,
2. a second deposit is received after the first interview day for the next cohort cycle.

Each seat deposit will be equal to the required deposit for the cohort of students at each specific time. If the seat deposits are not received in the time frame allotted, the acceptance will be forfeited, and the program will maintain the deposits previously paid. Each deposit received for accepted students will be applied to the student's tuition upon matriculation.