Admissions Criteria and Requirements

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The admissions committee will base all decisions upon the applicant's overall and science grade point averages (GPAs), the personal interview, personal and professional references, GRE scores, knowledge of the profession and the applicant's written personal statements. Consistent with the College's mission, applicants from the Appalachian region (TN, KY, VA, NC, GA, AL, WV) are given preference in the admissions process.

It should be noted that the application process is very competitive and that completion of all prerequisites does not guarantee an interview for or acceptance to the program.

BASIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES

Candidates for admission to the LMU-SMS PA program must meet the following requirements:

1. **Baccalaureate degree** earned prior to matriculation from a regionally accredited university or college. Applicants must have official transcripts submitted directly to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at [https://portal.caspaonline.org//](https://portal.caspaonline.org/).

2. **Prerequisite courses** completed with a grade of "C" (we do not accept prerequisite courses with a grade of “C-“, “D”, or “F”) or better from a regionally accredited college or university: [https://www.lmunet.edu/school-of-medical-sciences/pa-harrogate/admissions/](https://www.lmunet.edu/school-of-medical-sciences/pa-harrogate/admissions/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course(s)</th>
<th>Number of courses/semesters</th>
<th>Minimum number of total credit hours</th>
<th>Clarification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Biology with lab</td>
<td>Two (2)</td>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>Online accepted Spring 2020-Spring 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General/inorganic Chemistry with Lab</td>
<td>Two (2)</td>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>Online accepted Spring 2020-Spring 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry I &amp; II with Lab OR may substitute Biochemistry*</td>
<td>Two (2)</td>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>*Biochemistry online or traditional may be substituted for Organic Chemistry II only. Biochemistry, either as a recommended or substitute class, is strongly recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy with Lab</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Online accepted Spring 2020-Spring 2021. Should cover all organ systems. Combined human anatomy and physiology courses should have a minimum of eight (8) credit hours, have taken place over one-two semesters and include a lab Online accepted Spring 2020-Spring 2021 .</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Courses that cover all human systems are strongly encouraged. May be taken as an on-line course from an accredited school with an official transcript. No certificates accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology with Lab</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Online accepted Spring 2020-Spring 2021 Courses that cover all human systems are strongly encouraged. May be taken as an on-line course from an accredited school with an official transcript. No certificates accepted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Should cover the full spectrum of psychologic development from childhood to advanced age. A course in abnormal psychology is encouraged, however, other courses focused on human cognition and motivation are also accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A writing intensive course, such as English composition, is required. However, a literature-based course will be considered for the second. Courses not listed as a math or science course must have course objectives that show coverage of descriptive and inferential statistics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology elective</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Two (2)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>College Algebra or higher.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTICE:** Science prerequisite courses Online accepted Spring 2020-Spring 2021. Non-science courses, such as English, Psychology, Medical Terminology, may be taken as an online course.

3. **Patient Contact Hours:** A minimum of 150 hours of verifiable direct patient care must be completed by April 15 in either a volunteer or paid capacity. The admissions committee recognizes direct patient care experience to include: Directly taking vitals, taking or recording patient histories, assisting in surgeries, procedures such as drawing labs, giving injections, etc. Medical assistant, physical therapist/PT aide/assistant, respiratory therapist, occupational therapist, EMT/paramedic, LPN, RN, NP, CNA, nurse’s aide, phlebotomist, medical corpsman, pharmacist assistant, hospital social worker, psychologist, x-ray tech, ER tech, peace corps volunteer, clinical health education, athletic trainer, hospice (if experience includes direct patient care), dietician, scribe, dental assistant/hygienist. Others may be considered if emailed with detailed information.

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In addition, a minimum of 40 hours of verifiable time must be completed shadowing a Physician Assistant (PA) with at least 20 of those hours spent shadowing a PA in a primary care setting (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics or Emergency Medicine/Urgent Care). If an applicant is working/volunteering directly with a PA in a primary care setting then the minimum total time that must be completed prior to matriculation is 160 total hours. Though not required, it is strongly encouraged that at least half of the required, aforementioned time be completed by the time of the applicant’s interview date. If accepted into the program, all Patient Contact Hours must be completed by April 15.

Individuals may apply to the LMU-SMS PA Program even though prerequisite courses or Bachelor's degree have not been completed; however, all prerequisite courses and Bachelor's degree must be completed prior to matriculation.

Applicants who have taken their prerequisite courses at different regionally accredited colleges or universities must have all official transcripts submitted directly from those colleges or universities to CASPA.

Because of the rapid evolution of the basic sciences and the rigor of the program, it is highly recommended that applicants who have completed the pre-professional basic science prerequisite coursework greater than five years prior to application may want to review materials if accepted into the program.

Strongly recommended additional courses which will strengthen an application include: biochemistry, biostatistics, advanced psychology, cell biology, embryology, epidemiology, histology, immunology, parasitology, pathogenic bacteriology, abnormal psychology, human sexuality, physics, technical writing, advanced chemistry and quantitative analysis. Applicants who have taken these courses will be given preference.

It is required that the applicant has an overall and science grade point average of at least 2.8. If the GPA is below 2.8 and the applicant has taken graduate courses, the program will add up to 15 credit hours of relevant graduate classes. In order to be competitive, most students will have cumulative and science GPAs of at least 3.2.
Applicants with Foreign Coursework

Applicants who wish to use coursework completed outside the United States must submit their transcripts for evaluation to one of the following services:

World Education Services
P. O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0745
212.966.6311
www.wes.org

Josef Silny & Associates
7101 SW 102 Avenue
Miami, FL 33173
305.273.1616
www.jsilny.com

A course-by-course evaluation is required and all coursework must be designated as undergraduate, graduate or professional. The LMU-SMS PA program will only honor evaluations from one of the above services. The completed evaluation must be sent to CASPA by the applicant after the course work has been evaluated by either one of the above services mentioned.

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited United States school.

Applicants are also required to submit two required letters of reference which should be submitted to CASPA. References should be as follows: At least one letter/reference must be from a physician assistant (PA). A second letter must be from an additional physician assistant, or physician, dentist, podiatrist, or optometrist, academic advisor, science/mathematics professor, or current/recent employer. If invited to interview, applicant can only be considered for an alternate and not for full acceptance until letters are received.

Applicants must take the general test component of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) within five years of the application date and have official scores sent to the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) and use the Designated Institution (DI) Code 0565 for LMU-SMS PA program (Lincoln Memorial-SMS PA CASPA). Educational Testing Service (ETS) will transmit official GRE scores electronically to the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) up to twice a week for all test takers who designate LMU-SMS PA program as a score recipient.

An applicant whose native language is not English needs to submit scores from the combined TOEFL and TSE examination unless the applicant is a graduate of a U.S. college or university.
The minimum required score for the IBT (Internet Based Testing) is 79 and a minimum score of 26 is required for the speaking component.

Meet all the technical standards for admission to the PA program.

Complete the **supplemental application**. Additional materials to be included with the supplemental application include:

- a complete curriculum vitae or resume
- TOEFL scores (if applicable)
- check/money order payable to Lincoln Memorial University of $50 for the supplemental application fee.

Please use the application **checklist** to ensure that you have included everything required for your application.

**LMU-SMS PA Admissions Office**
800.325.0900, ext. 6669 (toll-free)
423.869.6669 (direct)
PAAdmissions@LMUnet.edu