Objectives

- Admissions
  - Prerequisites
  - Selection Factors
  - CASPA
  - Interviews
  - Things that make you go hmmmmmmm

- Curriculum

- Financial Aid and Scholarship
Methodist University at a Glance

- MU Enrollment: 2,400
- PA Program: 1 of 5 grad programs at MU
- MU PA Program began in 1996, third established program in the state.
- One of 8 programs in NC
- Accredited by the ARC–PA
- Over 600 applications were received for 2014–2015
- 40 seats available
Prerequisite Requirements Degree

- Bachelor’s degree
- No specific major is required
- Degree must be completed by start date
# Coursework Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Hour Req.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology w/lab</td>
<td>4 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology w/lab</td>
<td>4 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 additional Biology courses</td>
<td>8 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Chemistry I &amp; II with labs</td>
<td>8 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry I &amp; II with labs</td>
<td>8 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Algebra or higher</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Psychology courses</td>
<td>6 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
<td>1 semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prerequisites Cont. Coursework

- C or better in each course
- Coursework must be completed by start date
- May be in the process of completing coursework while applying
- Enhance your application and preparation! Take as many prerequisites at the university level
- Online classes and CC course are not encouraged for Biology and Chemistry requirements
Clinical Experience

- 500 hours required

- Recommend being certified in an area (CNA, EMT, etc). Shadowing does count and is recommended.

- Hrs. combined with administrative duties will not count.

- Documentation of hours is not required

- Deadline=July 15 of the year planning to enter
Verbal Ability, Quantitative Ability and Analytical Ability

Send scores to CASPA via code: 0399

297 or higher is recommended

Ways to prepare:
- Study books
- Online/In-the-classroom prep courses
- ETS practice tests
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive Factors</th>
<th>Non–Cognitive Factors/Enhancers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall GPA: 3.0 +</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite GPA: 3.2 +</td>
<td>Volunteer/Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE: 297 +</td>
<td>Holding down a job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCE: Amount and quality</td>
<td>Exceeding recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence to handle the curriculum</td>
<td>Quality time with PAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistent, upward trend in academic performance</td>
<td>Strong LORs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Heavy Emphasis on....

- Microbiology
- Anatomy and Physiology
- 8 s.h. of Biology

- General Chemistry I and II
- Organic Chemistry I and II
- Biochemistry

- GRE scores

BIOLOGY GPA NEEDS TO BE 3.2+

CHEMISTRY GPA NEEDS TO BE 3.2+
## Averages: Class of 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall GPA</th>
<th>Prereq. GPA</th>
<th>GRE</th>
<th>HCE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International Applicants and the TOEFL

- Transcripts must be evaluated by WES to determine equivalency of degree in the US.

- All prerequisite coursework must be completed in the US regardless if already taken in your country. There are no exceptions to this rule.

- Applicants must submit scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in addition to the GRE
Centralized Application Service for PAs (CASPA, www.caspaonline.org)

August 2016 entry
- CASPA opening date: 4/22/2015

Deadline: January 15, 2016
- Rolling admissions
Tips for completing the CASPA application
◦ 20 hours to complete
◦ 1 month for verification and to be mailed
◦ Log on to CASPA at least once weekly to reference your application status.

Items to be sent to CASPA:
◦ Official College Transcripts
◦ GRE scores
◦ 3 letters of recommendations
Avoid statements like:

- Ever since I was 5 I played with a dr’s kit...
- Playing the game of Operation made me want to be a doctor...
- I remember when I was 2 I read my mom’s anatomy book...
- On a dark and stormy night I remember the screams...
- I didn’t get into medical school so I guess I’ll shoot for PA school...

- Avoid the humble brag or ‘woe is me’
- Avoid restating your resume
- Don’t rely on your mom or dad
- Do not use contractions
Main topic: Why do you want to be a PA?
- Address the profession correctly, not Physician’s Assistant
- How your health care experience (HCE) and non-related HCE prepared you for PA school
- Don’t circle the airport—get to the point
- Briefly address any academic hiccups and how you overcame
- Your interest in a particular field of medicine (i.e. primary care)
- The benefits of PAs in our current healthcare system…and challenges they face now and in the future
- Be mature
- Have an advisor, career services, or writing center proofread
Letters of Recommendation (LOR)

- 3 are required
- 1 academic, 2 clinical/professional references
- No more than 5 letters—we know how great you are by then
- These people won’t help you very much
  - Your best friend’s dad who is a doctor and who has known you since you were born
  - Your personal doctor, PA or dentist
  - A family who you used to babysit for
  - A provider who provided no supervision in clinical setting
  - A parent
  - A high school teacher or coach
  - A professor whose class you failed

Johnny is the best ever!
Make sure GRE scores are on the way or have been received

Program will email a letter stating:
- Deficiencies
- You have not been extended an interview (for those that do not meet selection factors)

Applicants should address, in writing, any deficiency that is not noted as “planned”

Applications are reviewed within 7–14 days
Interviews 2015–2016

- Will begin in June 2015
- Most competitive apps. are interviewed
- All applicants must be interviewed to be accepted
- Prepare for your interview as much as you prepare your application
Interview Day Sample

- 8:00 am–8:30 am: Admissions Overview
- 8:30–9:00 am: Breakfast/Meet and greet
- 9:00 am–12:00 pm: Interviews* and tour

*4 individual interviews
Interview Prep

- Consider doing a mock interview

- Be able to communicate the following:
  - Understanding of the physician/PA relationship
  - The current state of the health care system and how PAs will benefit the system.
  - Your preferred learning style
  - How your health care experience (HCE) and non-related HCE prepared you for PA school
  - Talk about yourself without rambling (know your strengths and weaknesses)
  - How you handle stress, failure or a disagreement with someone who was superior
  - Why you want to come to our program
  - Medical ethics
# Interviews Dos and Don’ts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do...</th>
<th>Don’t...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dress professionally</td>
<td>Wear shoes you can’t walk in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrive on time (Early is on time, on time is late)</td>
<td>Arrive late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage yourself– we want to know you</td>
<td>Being a hermit, appearing bored, or aggravated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make eye contact and be nice to EVERYONE</td>
<td>Arrogance or being overly casual rather than professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be yourself</td>
<td>Don’t take questions too personally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let the faculty ask questions</td>
<td>Assuming there’s no room for improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know your weaknesses and be prepared to address them</td>
<td>Let your nerves get the best of you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be nice to everyone</td>
<td>Assuming you’ve got in the bag because you have a perfect application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Curriculum

- Program is 27 months in length
- Full time program– no working
- One start date a year (late August)
- Divided into two phases:
  - Didactic Phase
  - Clinical Phase
Didactic Year
Didactic Phase: 3.5 semesters

- See [website](#) for course outline
- Cadaver lab experience
- Principal faculty, local physicians and alumni teach throughout the year
- Students are expected to be available Monday–Friday 8–5
CLINICAL PHASE
Clinical Phase

- 3.5 semesters in length

Rotations
- Internal Med I: 5 weeks
- Internal Med II: 5 weeks
- Pediatrics: 5 weeks
- OB/GYN: 5 weeks
- Emergency Med: 5 weeks
- Orthopedics/Psych: 5 weeks
- General Surgery: 5 weeks
- Family Med. I: 5 weeks
- Family Med. II: 5 weeks
- Elective: 5 weeks
Clinical Extras

- Expect to do most rotations in Fayetteville or within a 75 mile radius from campus.

- Clinical Coordinators set up rotations

- Major hospitals in surrounding areas are:
  - Womack Army Medical Center
  - Cape Fear Valley Medical Center
PANCE and Job Placement

- Prep for the PANCE:
  - PACKRAT (mock PANCE taken twice)
  - Outside review
  - Comprehensive Program Review

- Class of 2014 first time pass rate = 95%
  - 75% are practicing in NC
  - Over half are entering primary care
Tuition and Fees

2015–2016 Costs

Didactic year:
- Tuition: $43,640
- Lab Fee: $3,260

Clinical year:
- Tuition: $32,730
- Lab fee: $2,445

Total: $82,075 ($11,725/semester)

Other required fees:
- Graduate Student Activity Fee: $82/year
- Graduate Fee: $150 (at end of program)
- Student Health Insurance: Optional
Financial Aid Process

- FAFSA form
- School code: 002946
- Unsubsidized Loan
  - $20,500 max amount per year
  - Not credit based
- Grad PLUS Loan
  - $40,105 max amount per year
  - Credit based loan

Max. amount for PA students in federal loans: $60,605

Some alternative loans have lower interest rates. Most students use federal loans above.
Other Notable Scholarships

- National Health Service Corps
  - nhsc.hrsa.gov
  - Late March opening date

- Forgivable Education Loans for Service
  - For NC residents
  - cfnc.org/fels
  - Opens February or March, deadline April 1
Admissions Dos and Don’ts

**Do:**
- Read all correspondences carefully
- Apply early—deadlines are misleading
- Check your email on a regular basis (including junk mail)
- Be professional and polite when you call or email
- Be patient—You’re not knocking on the door of the funeral home

**Don’t**
- Constantly call or email about your application
- You’re an adult now so don’t have mom or dad call on your behalf—I have a good memory!!
- Ignoring the fact that you need to respond to our invitations. Professional courtesy is always expected.
Contacting Program

Contact:
Jennifer Mish
jmish@methodist.edu
(910)630-7615

Website:
www.methodist.edu/paprogram
www.physicianassistantforum.com

“Ask a PA Admissions Director”