



Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program at The University of Texas Education and Research Center at Laredo

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies in the School of Health Professions at UT Health San Antonio has developed an opportunity for selected students to complete their physician assistant coursework in Laredo, Texas, at The University of Texas Education and Research Center at Laredo.

Who is eligible to apply?

All program applicants meeting admission requirements are considered eligible and should express their desire to attend the UT Center at Laredo on the CASPA application. Applicants who demonstrate an interest in aiding and supporting a medically underserved population will be given special consideration. Up to 12 qualified students will be admitted to the program in Laredo, and final selection will be made by the admissions committee.

What is the admissions process for the Laredo program?

Applicants requesting consideration for either campus option (San Antonio or Laredo) will complete the same CASPA application, the Altus Suite of online assessments (Casper and Snapshot), program-specific supplemental application and pay the same supplemental application fee. All applications must be completed and submitted by the specified program application deadline. After reviewing applications, the admissions committee will invite a total of 144 prospective students to visit the campus for an in-person interview. After the interviews, the admissions committee will conduct a final review of applicants, and candidates will be notified of the final decision and assigned a program location. Prospective students will be required to indicate acceptance to the assigned program location by signature on the Letter of Intent.

How does the Laredo program differ from the San Antonio program?

Both program location options will consist of 30 months of didactic instruction and supervised clinical experiences. The didactic component is completed over the course of 14 months, and the clinical component consists of 16 months of full-time, community-based clinical experiences. While efforts will be made to place students in clinical sites located in the Laredo community, placement is based on the needs of the student and availability of the preceptors. Clinical placements can occur anywhere across the state of Texas, and travel must be expected.

How much does it cost to attend the Laredo Campus Program?

Students attending classes at either the San Antonio or Laredo campus will pay the same university tuition based on the number of credits they are enrolled in each semester. Please refer to the Cost of Attendance at <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/health-professions/programs/physician-assistant-studies-ms/tuition-fees>. When required to attend meetings or classes on the Long Campus in San Antonio, the School of Health Professions will offset the cost for expenditures made by the students in the Laredo Campus Program. All students are responsible for their own travel, food and lodging while attending supervised clinical experiences and should plan for financial expenditures accordingly.

What will participation in the Laredo Campus Program be like?

Students will receive instruction equivalent to that of San Antonio campus students. All education courses will be delivered through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous modalities including the following: in-classroom/in-person, video, audio and web-based formats in an environment that is comfortable, safe and conducive to interactive learning. Instruction may be delivered in the traditional lecture, team, case-based or problem-based methodology. Activities will include lecture attendance, individual assignments, problem/case-based and team-based learning sessions, flipped classroom experiences, small/large group discussions and interprofessional learning opportunities.

Each course will require students to take web-based exams or demonstrate competency of material by an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). Technology and support required in the delivery of instruction will be provided. The students will have full access to their classmates, course instructors, advisers and program staff. This contact will either be in person or, when necessary, by other technological means (e.g., Skype, Zoom, email, phone call, etc.).

What happens after I am accepted to the Laredo Campus Program?

Students will participate in a one-week program orientation. Attendance is mandatory. During that time, students will be introduced to the program staff, faculty and fellow students. Briefings will include orientation to the UT Health San Antonio Physician Assistant Studies Program and school policies, academic plan of study, the CANVAS learning management platform, skills for success and student resources. Students at the Laredo campus will also receive an orientation to the Laredo campus and Laredo community resources. This program has a dedicated faculty member on site who will be assigned as your adviser and provide the necessary support for program success.