

Pre-Physician Assistant

DIVISION OF
NATURAL
SCIENCES

PROGRAMS OF STUDY:



B.S. in Biology
B.A. or B.S. in Biochemistry
B.S. in Neuroscience

Most PA schools require applicants to have hands-on patient care, which would include working as a CNA, EMT, phlebotomist or paramedic. However, some schools allow shadowing a physician's assistant to count for clinical experience hours. Some schools prefer students to have a combination of these experiences.

PLACES FOR SHADOWING/VOLUNTEERING INCLUDE:

- Blount Memorial Hospital
- American Red Cross
- Maryville Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center
- Asbury Place
- Clover Hill Senior Living

Will Maryville College prepare me for a physician's assistant (PA) program ?

Maryville College students have stellar placement into PA schools due to the rigorous academic program, the emphasis on undergraduate research and the personal reference letters made by their faculty. During their tenure at MC, students are advised to gain hands-on healthcare experience. This hands-on experience combined with the rigorous academic coursework and undergraduate research provides Maryville College students ideal preparation for PA school. Letters of recommendation – written by faculty members who have gotten to know students personally throughout their academic career – also help strengthen PA school applications.

MEET A RECENT GRAD



Shannon Reagan Huffer '20

Currently: Physician Assistant at the Pediatric Center of Tullahoma, Tenn.

Shannon, a standout on the MC women's soccer team and the Scots' first student-athlete to earn an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, just completed her Physician Assistant Master of Science in Medicine (M.S.M) degree at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee, and has accepted a position with the Pediatric Center in her hometown of Tullahoma.

Her acceptance into the program at Trevecca was helped by an impressive academic career and a Senior Study that was as relevant as it was interesting: Surface disinfection of public spaces. In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Shannon used three relatively common strains of bacteria to inoculate three surfaces commonly touched in public settings and then compared the efficacy of two commercial electrostatic sprayer systems on the bacteria.

"When I was thinking about potential Senior Study topics, I knew that I definitely wanted to do a microbiology project that would somehow relate to public health," she said. "After completing the research, I was confident that I had an aptitude for studying topics related to public health and medicine."

She is thankful for the people across campus who made her research a success. "My academic advisor, Dr. Jennifer Brigati, provided encouragement, support and guidance throughout the process; Dr. Jeff Bay, chair of MC's Division of Mathematics & Computer Science and professor of statistics, helped me conduct and interpret the statistical analyses of her data; and Reggie Dailey, director of the Physical Plant, donated chemical disinfectants and target surfaces for the project," she said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

visit maryvillecollege.edu/pre-pa or call 865.981.8092



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