

# Early Assurance Program

## Idaho State University's Physician Assistant Program

In 2020, the Idaho State University Physician Assistant Program received a federal grant to increase the recruitment of PA students who intend to work and live in rural areas after PA school. The Early Assurance Program allows rising undergraduate juniors and seniors at The College of Idaho to apply for early acceptance into the Idaho State University Physician Assistant Program. Students receiving this award will receive a provisional offer of admission to the ISU Physician Assistant program under the Early Assurance Program. Formal acceptance to the ISU Physician Assistant program is contingent upon completion of the post-acceptance requirements.

### Requirements to apply:

1. Undergraduate students who have completed a minimum of 24 credits at The College of Idaho and will be a junior or senior.
2. Applicants must be on track towards completing prerequisite coursework as defined in the ISU Academic Catalog for admittance in the physician assistant Program.
3. Students with a cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.5 and grades of B or better in any pre-PA coursework taken prior to scholarship application. Prerequisite retakes are allowed.

### Application materials:

1. Submit a 3-minute (or shorter) video addressing the following: Grit/Perseverance and Social Justice. Tell us about a time in which you persevered and what kept you going. What happened? How did you show perseverance? And, what was the result of your perseverance? How do you define social justice? Tell us about an action that you took to advance social justice that you are proud of.
2. Submit a 3-5-minute video in the language of choice. Demonstrate proficiency in speaking a language other than English. Tell us where you grew up, who was in your family, and what some typical activities were in your day. Feel free to provide detail on some specific memories (e.g., a memorable celebration, a funny story, a special family relationship that shaped you). If the applicant has an ACTFL OPI rating, they may submit that in lieu of the video.
3. Submit a brief essay in English (500 words maximum) addressing the following: How would you describe your cultural background? How does your cultural background inform your world views? How does your cultural background inform your health beliefs, and health practices?
4. Submit one or two letters of reference. Strong letters will address at least two of the following: Your dedication to your community; Your persevering character; Your intent on becoming a primary healthcare provider in a rural or health disparities; or Your commitment to work with populations that experience health disparities. Letter(s) of reference cannot be from a family member or member of the clergy.
5. Submit a copy of your resume or curriculum vitae.
6. Submit a copy of your college transcripts.

## Post-acceptance requirements:

Following acceptance of the Grit Scholarship, the recipient must complete the following to maintain a provisional offer for admission to the ISU Physician Assistant Program:

- Obtain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 per semester.
- Receive a B or better in all pre-PA coursework.
- Recipient should be on track to have a cumulative prerequisite course GPA of 3.5 by time of application to PA school.
- Students are allowed to retake prerequisites but must maintain a 3.0 GPA or better each semester.
- If the scholarship recipient does not earn a B or better in prerequisite courses, the scholarship committee will be evaluate recipient for continuation in the Early Assurance Program.
- Enroll in a one credit pre-PA undergraduate course each semester.
- Complete at least one clinical shadowing internship per year.
- Participate in scholarship mentorship program.
- Meet the requirements for acceptance into the PA program as defined in the Idaho State Univesity Academic Catalog.
- Complete the following by November 1:
  1. Take the GRE general test by November 1
  2. Submit your CASPA application for the ISU Physician Assistant Studies program through CASPA by November 1
  3. Submit your ISU Graduate School application by November 1