

## **Student Guide for Selection into The MDC PA Program**

### **How Is Ranking Determined?**

The MDC PA program looks at many aspects of a candidate in determining selection. A computerized ranking system has been developed to assist the PA program select the very best candidates. The ranking system looks at the following 6 components of every candidate:

1. Natural Science GPA (On a 4.0 grade point scale)
2. Highest Degree completed
3. Admissions test scores (The PA-CAT)
4. Written Essay Score
5. Oral Interview score
6. Medical experience

### **How Are Points Awarded In Each Component?**

The program awards points to students depending on the highest level they achieve in each of the 6 components.

1. Natural Science GPA
  - a. 3.81 – 4.00
  - b. 3.61 – 3.80
  - c. 3.41 – 3.60
  - d. 3.21 – 3.40
  - e. 3.00 – 3.20
  - f. < 3.00 = Not eligible
2. Highest Degree Completed
  - a. Doctorate
  - b. Masters
  - c. Bachelors = Min Requirement
  - d. AA/AS = Not Eligible \* See new requirements on Home page.  
<https://www.mdc.edu/physicianassistant/default.aspx>
3. PA-CAT Test Score
  - a. Points awarded to candidates based on their score. As an example, a student who scores in the top 20<sup>th</sup>% may receive maximum points whereas a student who scored in the 50<sup>th</sup>% receives reduced points total. For more information visit <https://www.mdc.edu/physicianassistant/admission-requirements.aspx> or <https://www.pa-cat.com/>

4. Written Essay
  - a. Points awarded based on proper essay structure, grammar, spelling etc. For more information visit <https://www.mdc.edu/physicianassistant/admission-requirements.aspx>
  
5. Oral Interview
  - a. Points awarded for the oral interview including but not limited to Professionalism, Knowledge of the PA profession and Sciences, character, and communication skills. For more information please visit <https://www.mdc.edu/physicianassistant/admission-requirements.aspx>
  
6. Medical Experience
  - a. Points may be awarded based on training and experience. Verification of healthcare experience must be validated as indicated on the PA application. <https://www.mdc.edu/physicianassistant/pdf/pa-application-updated.pdf>

### **Final Selection**

Once all phases of the selection process have ended, a computer-generated ranking system is utilized to select the top 55 candidates. Selected Candidates will receive notification via email from the MDC School of Health Sciences department sometime between February-March. Because of the high volume of highly qualified applicants to the program and current seat limit of 55 per year, it is at times normal for applicants to apply more than once before they make selection. Applicants not selected are encouraged to roll their application over to the following application cycle. Information regarding roll-over application instructions will be sent via email. Good luck!