INFORMATION LETTER

Date: November 2026

To: Students Entering the Physician Assistant Program in 2027

From: School of Health Professions

On behalf of the administration, faculty, and staff of the School of Health Professions, it is my honor to welcome you to Baylor College of Medicine. We are anticipating your arrival for Orientation and Registration on Monday, June 21, 2027. Classes will begin on June 23, 2027.

Your enrollment will begin a partnership between you and our faculty that will lead to your completion of the Master of Science degree some two and one-half years from your matriculation date.

The information in this letter is updated annually at different times during the year. Please access the links on the homepage of the accepted applicant website regularly as you near your matriculation date to make sure you have the most current information.

Please contact your program's administration if you have questions or concerns about our plans. I look forward to your being part of the "Baylor Family."

Eric Storch, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, School of Health Professions

CONTACT INFORMATION

Physician Assistant Program (713) 798-3663
Registrar's Office (713) 798-7766
Health Professions Administration (713) 798-4613

Please let us know if we can provide further assistance to you.

NEW STUDENT INFORMATION

Congratulations and welcome! We are excited about your arrival here at the start of the new academic year on June 21, 2027. The information provided through this website will assist you in making the transition to being a student at Baylor College of Medicine.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

All incoming health professions students are required to attend the New Student Registration and Orientation on Monday, June 21, 2027. Students should plan to be in the Houston area by June 18. Although some classes may have remote components, most coursework will occur on campus.

All students will be issued a BCM student photo ID. Pictures for a class composite will also be taken. The photos will be head and shoulder shots and thus attire is business casual.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ORIENTATION

Tuesday, June 22, 2027, is your second day of orientation activities devoted entirely to the Physician Assistant Program.

TRANSPORTATION/PARKING

On Monday, June 21, 2027, parking is available in the Yellow Garage (refer to campus map on accepted applicant webpage). Garage parking is $19/day. You will be expected to bear this initial cost of parking. Additional information about parking and transportation will be provided during the first day of orientation.

Please read and follow the below sections carefully. Each paragraph contains information that needs to be addressed prior to matriculation

!!!MUST DO BEFORE YOU ARRIVE!!!

FINANCIAL AID

Many financial aid opportunities are offered through the College. Financial Aid materials are available to you at https://www.bcm.edu/education/financial-aid. We will include $2,000 in every eligible first-year student's financial aid allocation to purchase a new computer or upgrade your current computer. If you already own a computer or can purchase a computer or an upgrade for less than $2,000, you should decline all or part of your financial aid allocation so you borrow only what you actually need (*see Smart Phone below). Be aware that half of your financial aid award is available in August and half in January. Be sure to read the Health Professions and Graduate Student Application Instructions before beginning your application packet.

VETERANS' BENEFITS

The Office of the Registrar assists active duty military service members, veterans and their eligible dependents and spouses in obtaining their educational benefits and acts as a liaison to the regional VA office to process enrollment certifications. For more information, contact the Office of the Registrar.

IMMUNIZATIONS/HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

The state of Texas requires all students in health care fields to be immunized against certain diseases before beginning study in their field. **Prior to matriculation, you are required to submit copies of your actual immunization records or actual lab tests indicating immunity.** A link to Occupational Health is provided on the accepted applicant webpage or here. Please note that students must have received a bacterial meningitis vaccination dose or booster in the last five years (not applicable to students 22 years of age or older). **All students must have complete records on file in Occupational Health by the end of May 2027.** Failure to do so may affect your ability to matriculate.

I understand that, in addition to BCM requirements, I must comply with affiliated institution's requirements before and during clinical rotations. I understand that BCM cannot guarantee that alternate locations will be available if I am prevented—by affiliate vaccination or other requirements—from performing my course of study, clinical rotations, or other program-required training. I understand and agree that this potentially renders me unable to complete my course of study or receive degrees or certifications demonstrating training completion.

FINAL TRANSCRIPT

A copy of all your college/university final transcripts is required for our records. For students completing courses and/or degrees in the Spring 2027 semester, it is essential that you arrange to have a copy of your final transcript sent to the PA Program office immediately following your graduation or the end of the semester. Inform your institution that the mailing address is One Baylor Plaza, MailStop BCM115, Houston TX, 77030, Attn: PA Program.

NAME CHANGE

Name changes will need to go through the Registrar's Office **after matriculation is completed.** The Registrar cannot process the change until the student officially matriculates. The name change request form can be found at https://www.bcm.edu/education/registrar/personal-information-change.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT/CPR CERTIFICATION

Prior to matriculation, you must have completed a course leading to certification that follows either the American Heart Association or American Red Cross guidelines. Online courses without practical experience are not acceptable. Current BLS certification must be through June 2028 or later. PA students are **REQUIRED** to bring a copy of your card to the PA Program orientation.

COMPLIANCE TRAINING

You will be required to complete online training modules before your matriculation date of June 21, 2027. These modules have to do with HIPAA, BCM Social Media Policy, Confidentiality Policy, and other compliance issues. An email will be sent to you one month prior to matriculation with links to the training. Your BCM username and password will also be provided in the email.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees information can be found on the Financial Aid website at **https://www.bcm.edu/education/school-of-health-professions/tuition-and-fees**.

HEALTH INSURANCE (INCLUDES COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL)

Every BCM student is automatically enrolled in the health care program for students each academic year. The Student Account Services Offices adds the premium charges to each student's account as of July 1. Health Insurance is billed to you every 6 months. You can choose to include your spouse and/or child for an additional fee. ***Students also have the option to waive coverage if you have insurance through another health plan***. The program will be explained in more detail at new student orientation and waivers for coverage will be provided at that time.

Information and costs associated with the Student Health Insurance Plan can be found at **https://www.bcm.edu/careers/benefits/student-benefits**

MINIMUM COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS 2026-2027

All incoming learners and/or any current learner replacing a laptop at BCM are required to have a laptop computer commencing in Fall 2027. In addition to testing, the laptops will prove useful in accessing Baylor College of Medicine's resources, the TMC Library, digital recordings of lectures and other instructional resources. The classes
that you take at BCM are paperless; therefore, you must have a computer to access class materials including course notes, presentations and classroom recordings. In addition, most exams at BCM are administered over wireless networks at the College. Many learners use both a

laptop and a tablet – the laptop for note-taking and the tablet for study on the go.

Most laptops purchased in the last three years will be more than adequate for the exam testing applications with the possible exception of adequate RAM. It is recommended that consideration be given to upgrading the computer's RAM to at least 8 GB.

The campus has no preference for a particular computer manufacturer provided the computer supports either the Microsoft or Apple operating systems. Learners at Baylor College of Medicine are required to provide their own laptops for these examinations. Please do not buy a Chrome Netbook because it will NOT work for your wireless exams.

The minimum technical requirements of the laptop can be found at Minimum Computer Recommendations HERE These are MINIMUM and RECOMMENDED laptop specifications which work best in the BCM computing environment. These specifications should be used as guidance when making decisions on bringing a laptop to BCM.

A word about mobile devices…
Tablets and smartphones are amazingly useful learning tools, although they are not a replacement for a laptop computer. Many of the on-line educational resources available at BCM and elsewhere are accessible via these mobile devices.

Remote Internet Access
A high-speed internet connection (cable modem, fiber or DSL) is required of all learners to access BCM curriculum resources off- campus.

Many course materials, including streaming video files, are accessible through the College's electronic course support system and Blackboard. Streaming video does not display over a dial-up line. Many course materials contain images that download more quickly and efficiently over a high-speed connection. Please carefully explore your ISP solution. No matter which one you choose, we strongly suggest that you look closely at their reputation for reliability and customer support (not just price).
Click here for ExamSoft Minimum Computer Requirements. The majority of your exams will be taken on ExamSoft.

For further technical information or questions, please contact: Education Technology at ed-tech@bcm.edu

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN JUNE!