

SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & HEALTH STUDIES

Shawn O'Rourke, PhD, Dean; Karl F. Kozlowski, PhD, Associate Dean;
Kimberly Walkow, Executive Associate

Bagen Hall 205 | 2001 Main Street | Buffalo NY 14208 | 716-888-2160 | Fax:
716-888-2145

Mission Statement

The faculty of the School of Behavioral & Health Studies, in concert with our students, alumni, and the community, seek to prepare highly effective, socially committed professionals who value the Jesuit traditions demonstrated through their own *cura personalis*, work towards social justice, and leadership through service. The mission of the unit is to prepare professionals who possess content, and professional **knowledge**; use their gifts in the **service** of others; and demonstrate **professionalism** and **leadership** in their field.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The School of Behavioral and Health Studies offers curricula leading to graduate degrees and advanced certificates in a number of areas within the departments of Counseling and Human Services, Kinesiology and Physician Assistant Studies.

Counseling and Human Services

The Department of Counseling and Human Services offers programs in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling designed to prepare humanistic, competent, professional counselors.

Kinesiology

The Department of Kinesiology offers a program in Exercise Science and Sports Performance which trains students in the areas of exercise as medicine, with an emphasis on clinical exercise science, health behaviors, pre-habilitation and strength and conditioning.

Physician Assistant Studies

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies offers a master's degree program consisting of didactic (classroom) training, clinical training, and a final phase of summative review and evaluation in preparation to become a physician assistant.

Admission

Applicants for admission to graduate work in the School of Behavioral and Health Studies may be accepted as matriculants (master's degree/advanced certificate candidates) in a particular program, or as non-matriculants. Except in unusual cases, non-matriculants may take no more than 9 credit hours before matriculation is required.

Admission Procedures

All applicants for admission to a graduate program must submit:

- One copy of official undergraduate transcripts indicating the receipt of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning
- Letters of recommendation

Graduate Application

Counseling and Kinesiology Applicants

Admission will require a 2.70 cumulative undergraduate GPA. Applicants who have an undergraduate GPA below a 2.70 may be required to meet additional requirements in order to provide evidence of their ability to be successful in graduate studies (i.e., personal interview, additional coursework).

Physician Assistant Studies Applicants

Please refer to the Physician Assistant Studies website (<https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/graduate/physician-assistant-studies/>) for specific information regarding the CASPA application process and admissions.

Transfer Credits

No more than six credits of graduate coursework will be accepted in transfer from other institutions. The grades must have been at least "C" and must have been earned within the five-year time limit for completion of degree requirements. All transfer credits must coordinate with the student's program of study at Canisius University, as approved by the program director. Any exceptions to the above may only be made with the approval of both the program director and the associate dean.

Master's degrees

Majors	Department
Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Counseling
Exercise Science	Kinesiology
Physician Assistant Studies	Physician Assistant
School Counseling	Counseling

Advanced Certificates

Majors	Department
Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Counseling
School Counseling	Counseling
Sports Performance	Kinesiology

Accreditation

Counseling

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), a specialized accreditor in the field of counseling, accredits the two counseling programs leading towards a Master of Science degree. CACREP has reaffirmed the accreditation of these programs through October 2033, with progress report required by May 15, 2026.

Physician Assistant Studies

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **Canisius University Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **Canisius University**. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to

comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be July 2035. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation Standards and ARC-PA policy.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website (<http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-canisius-college/>).