Do you want to provide medical care to patients?
As a physician assistant, you'll gain skills to care for patients as their principal healthcare provider. What sets physician assistants or PAs apart from medical doctors and other advanced practice clinicians is that they are trained as generalists and have the ability to advance or transition into other specialties at any point in their professional career.

UW-La Crosse has a master’s level professional PA program that is a partnership with Gundersen Medical Foundation, Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences, and Marshfield Clinic Health System. The program emphasizes clinical training at partnering institutions in Wisconsin, Minnesota and northern Iowa. An accredited program since 1997, students have maintained 100% pass rate on the national certification exam and graduates have no trouble finding work as PAs post graduation. Tuition is lower than many programs across the tri-state area.

What is a physician assistant?
A PA is an advanced practice provider on a medical team who diagnoses and treats patients. Students studying to become PAs experience an intensive training program that includes didactic and clinical instruction to prepare them to practice medicine in collaboration or under the supervision of a physician.

Physical therapy jobs
Graduates are able to provide medical care to patients as PAs in a wide array of specialties, in-patient and out-patient.

- Primary care such as family medicine, women’s health and pediatrics
- Specialties such as internal medicine, emergency medicine and general surgery
- Sub-specialties such as gastroenterology, cardiology and surgical sub-specialties (cardiovascular, neurosurgery)

Admission requirements
The rigor and intensity of the program, and the level of skills and responsibility necessary for practice as a physician assistant, require the program to accept candidates who have demonstrated a strong academic background, along with excellent interpersonal skills and maturity. Prior health-care experience is also an indicator of a career commitment suitable to clinical practice.

The program’s admission process considers each applicant’s strengths and selects for admission those best qualified to meet the program’s mission. Application to the physician assistant program is competitive with a class of 28 students admitted annually from an applicant pool of greater than 300. All students admitted to the graduate level program will already hold a baccalaureate degree and are expected to have some health care experience.

More information about admission can be found online at www.uwlax.edu/grad/physician-assistant-studies.
What distinguishes UWL's Physician Assistant program?

- **Accredited program**
  The program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) since 1997.

- **Small class sizes**
  Because of the small class sizes, students get to know faculty and have more opportunities to actively participate and ask questions as part of their education. Faculty are committed to student success.

- **Partnership program with clinical institutions**
  The program is a partnership between the university and three well-respected clinical institutions that provide the vast majority of clinical rotations for students.

- **Excellent job placement**
  Since 2006, 100% of the program’s graduates have been hired as PAs. The majority of graduates choose to remain and work in the tri-state region and mentor students during clinical training.

- **Top ranked program nationally**
  The program was recognized in 2019 as the #15 PA program in the United States by *U.S. News and World Report*.

- **100% success rate on national certifying exam**
  Graduating classes have a 100% success rate on the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE) for more than 10 years.