

## **Instructions for applying:**

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1. A complete application package contains:
  - a) completed application form
  - b) \$55.00 non-refundable application fee
  - c) official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
  - d) GRE scores
  - e) three (3) letters of recommendation
  
2. GRE scores (no more than 5 years old on January 15, the application deadline) should be sent to the codes given in the application form. In addition, unofficial scores and percentiles should be written in the application form, or sent by email ([pamela.vollmer@duke.edu](mailto:pamela.vollmer@duke.edu)) if the scores are not complete at the time of application. The MCAT is not accepted in lieu of the GRE.
  
3. **THIS REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN WAIVED FOR THE 2021 ADMISSIONS CYCLE**  
A minimum of 10 hours shadowing in anatomic pathology, specifically surgical pathology (preferably in more than one setting), or surgical pathology laboratory work experience is required. Autopsy shadowing is also preferred, but not mandatory.
  
4. Internet-based TOEFL or academic IELTS scores (no more than 2 years old), required for international students whose native language is not English, should be sent to the codes given in the application form.
  
5. Candidates who receive their baccalaureate degree from institutions outside the United States must submit a transcript evaluation showing degree equivalency and course by course subject matter description.
  
6. The deadline for receipt of complete applications is **January 15 of each year**. An email will be sent to each applicant in early January informing them of the status of their application, including any missing components.
  
7. Only completed application packets will be reviewed and considered by the admissions committee after the application deadline.
  
8. Following the review of completed applications during the last two weeks of January, selected candidates will be invited for an interview. We will interview from the second week of February through the third week of March; consequently, candidates should be free to travel to Durham, NC, sometime during this period. The final class will be selected by the 1st week in April, and all applicants will be notified immediately thereafter.



**DUKE UNIVERSITY**  
School of Medicine  
Pathologists' Assistant Program

*Office use only*  
*Date received:*  
*Application fee paid:*  
*ID #:*  
*Application #:*

**Application for Admission**  
**Class beginning August 20\_\_\_\_\_**

This application must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of \$55.00 in check or money order (not cash), payable to **Duke University Medical Center**. The completed application form and fee and all other application materials must be sent to the following address:

**Pamela Vollmer, PA(ASCP)**  
**Pathologists' Assistant Program Admissions**  
**Duke University School of Medicine**  
**Box 3712**  
**Durham, NC 27710**

The physical address for FedEx, UPS and other carriers is **Davison Building Second Floor Green Zone Room 227MC**.

**The application deadline is January 15** for each admissions cycle. All application materials must be in the Pathologists' Assistant Program Office by this date.

Please direct all questions to Pamela Vollmer: [pamela.vollmer@duke.edu](mailto:pamela.vollmer@duke.edu)  
919-684-2159

**Duke University Nondiscrimination Statement**

Duke University is committed to encouraging and sustaining a learning and work community that is free from prohibited discrimination and harassment. The university prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex, genetic information, or age in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid, employment, or any other university program or activity. The university also makes good faith efforts to recruit, employ and promote qualified minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans. It admits qualified students to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students.

The university also does not tolerate harassment of any kind. Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct are forms of sex discrimination and prohibited by the university. Duke University has designated Dr. Benjamin D. Reese, Vice-President for Institutional Equity, as the individual responsible for the coordination and administration of its nondiscrimination and harassment policies. The Office for Institutional Equity is located in Smith Warehouse, 114 S. Buchanan Blvd., Bay 8, Durham, North Carolina 27708. Dr. Reese's telephone number is (919) 684-8222, and his email address is [ben.reese@duke.edu](mailto:ben.reese@duke.edu)

Questions or comments about harassment or discrimination can be directed to the Office for Institutional Equity, (919) 684-8222. Additional information, including the complete text of the harassment policy and appropriate complaint procedures, may be found by contacting the Office for Institutional Equity, or visiting its website at: [www.duke.edu/web/equity/](http://www.duke.edu/web/equity/)

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, you can contact the appropriate federal office by visiting the website: [wdcrobc01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm](http://wdcrobc01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm) for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

The questions (see \* below) concerning ethnic origin, age, gender, and national origin on this application form are for the purpose of meeting Federal reporting requirements.

## Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Last	First	Middle
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Social security number \_\_\_\_\_ \*Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

\*Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ \*Gender \_\_\_\_\_

\*Ethnic origin \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone or best telephone contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address (if different from mailing address) Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously applied to this program? \_\_\_\_\_ (year) \_\_\_\_\_

Will you seek financial aid? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please give details in an attached statement

## Academic Background

List all colleges and universities attended. Transcripts of ALL college or graduate level work and health profession education must be submitted and forwarded by the institution to the Pathologists' Assistant Program in sealed envelopes or by email to be considered an official document. Use additional sheet, if necessary.

Institution	Location	Dates of attendance	Major	Credits	Degree/date	GPA



## Score Information—Academic IELTS

Test date	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall Band score

## Shadowing and Work Experience

**Shadowing Experience**—List your anatomic pathology shadowing experience, starting with the most recent. Use additional sheet if necessary.

1. Health Care Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title (MD or PA) of Practitioner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Duration \_\_\_\_\_

2. Health Care Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title (MD or PA) of Practitioner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Duration \_\_\_\_\_

3. Health Care Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title (MD or PA) of Practitioner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Duration \_\_\_\_\_

4. Health Care Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title (MD or PA) of Practitioner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Duration \_\_\_\_\_

**Health Care Work Experience**—Describe your health care work experience, listing the most recent first. Use additional sheet if necessary.

1. Institution/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of employment \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/week \_\_\_\_\_

Description of responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Positive aspects \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Negative aspects \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Institution/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of employment \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/week \_\_\_\_\_

Description of responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Positive aspects \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Negative aspects \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Institution/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of employment \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/week \_\_\_\_\_

Description of responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Positive aspects \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Negative aspects \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Health Care Employment Experience**—List your other employment experience over the past 10 years, beginning with the most recent. Use additional sheet if necessary.

Dates	Institution/Firm	Job Title	Description of work

## Essay Questions

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Please answer the following Essay Questions on a separate sheet. They may be either typed or hand written.

1. In addition to academic and professional health background experiences, the admissions committee of the Pathologists' Assistant Program is interested in life experiences that have been formative to your growth as a person and in definition of life goals. In 500 words or less, please describe any experience of personal significance to you.
2. Many times application forms leave a candidate feeling that important areas of concern have been omitted. Please make any additional statement that you feel is indicated. (This question is optional and is intended only to give each candidate full opportunity for self-expression.)
3. In 250 words or less, please provide a narrative describing your interest in the profession of pathologists' assistant and your interest in the Duke Pathologists' Assistant Program in particular.

## Letters of Reference

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List the individuals you have asked to recommend you:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title and relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title and relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title and relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Pathologists' Assistant Program

***To the best of my knowledge, the information on this application is true and accurate.***

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

By submitting an application for admission, I understand and agree that the personal data included with my application will be collected by Duke, or on its behalf, during the admissions process. I understand and agree that this data will be used for the primary purposes of considering my application for admission to Duke, providing me with information regarding engagement opportunities, evaluating my eligibility for financial aid, responding to records requests and, if I am admitted, facilitating my education. To help achieve these goals or to comply with legal obligations, I agree that my data may be shared internally among different Duke Departments and offices, or with Duke contracted or approved third parties. I have reviewed the [Duke University Privacy Policy](#) and permit Duke to collect and use my personal data in accordance with that policy.



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## **Tips from Pam Vollmer for Applying to the Duke Pathologists' Assistant Program**

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### ***Your application***

The application deadline is **January 15** of each calendar year. ALL application materials must be in my office by the deadline. This includes the application form and fee, all transcripts, official report of GRE scores and 3 letters of recommendation.

Please plan ahead—do not wait until the last minute to send in an application. And remember that if you send the items by the US Postal Service, even by one of the expedited options, it still has to go through the Duke University Medical Center Post Office and subsequently arrive at the Pathology Department mail room before it gets to me, which often takes a week or more. Application materials sent by regular mail should be sent no later than December 15 to ensure safe arrival by the deadline. If the deadline is on a weekend, be certain that your materials are set to arrive no later than the Friday before; you cannot count on there being someone in the program office to receive a weekend delivery.

If you have been accepted in another program and you have firmly committed to that program and no longer wish to be considered for the Duke Program, please let me know so that I can withdraw your application. The application review subcommittee spends a lot of time reviewing each application folder, and discussing the relative merits of the candidates, so we would appreciate the courtesy.

Send all application materials to me at the following address:

**Pamela Vollmer PA(ASCP)**  
**Pathologists' Assistant Program-Admissions**  
**Duke University School of Medicine**  
**Box 3712**  
**Davison Building, Room 227 MC**  
**Durham, NC 27710**

Alternatively, application materials other than the application fee which must be submitted by hard copy, may be sent electronically to my email address: [pamela.vollmer@duke.edu](mailto:pamela.vollmer@duke.edu)

If you wish to send your application by FedEx, UPS or any other non-USPS company, the physical address (the carriers won't accept parcels without one) is the "Davison Building, Room 227 MC" part of the address listed above. Do not request Saturday delivery, even if the deadline is on Saturday or Sunday—you cannot count on there being anyone in the office to receive it on a weekend.

Do not send any correspondence or application materials to the general Duke Graduate School Admissions Office—the site is off the main campus and it will be almost impossible to

retrieve any materials from them; it will delay the processing and submission of your folder to the admissions committee, or possibly derail your application altogether.

If you must send your application at the last possible minute, make certain that it is completely in order. If you are sending your transcripts and letters with the application form, they must be in sealed envelopes inside the packet to be considered “official” (see below). If they have been sent separately, check with me by email to be sure that I have received them.

## **Questions**

I am always happy to answer an applicant’s questions. Because many candidates over the years have repeatedly asked the same questions, we created the “FAQ” (frequently asked questions) sheet which is on our website. Be sure to check this tab—you may find a quick answer to some concerns you have. If you don’t find the information there, always feel free to email me (much easier and more efficient than trying to catch me by telephone). If you come up with a good question, you might find yourself quoted in future editions of the FAQs!

Although I prefer and will respond quickly to email, you are welcome to call my office phone or cell if you need to discuss an emergent issue; if I am unable to take your call, I will respond to voice mail as soon as possible. Please answer your phone when I call you back!

## **Specific details**

### *1. The application form*

- Write neatly and legibly—if I need to get in touch with you, I must be able to read your email address and telephone number
- The application form on the website is in the form of a PDF; if you would like a Word copy, email me and I will forward it to you
- Fill in all the information requested
- Duke has a non-discrimination policy regarding age, gender, ethnicity and national origin. These questions are asked on the application form because we are required to capture this information, which is reported in aggregate, on all applicants. All institutions which receive federal funds are mandated to fulfill this requirement. Admission decisions are based on the individual’s qualifications only.
- If you have any convictions, including underage drinking, comment on these in an attached statement. Criminal background checks are done on all accepted candidates, so omitting this from your application is not wise.
- Please try to keep your essays close to the word limit
- Essays may be hand written or they may be typed on a separate sheet
- List your shadowing experiences on the application form where indicated and include the details in your essay 3. Don’t make the admissions committee look too hard for the information, and do not fail to mention that you have shadowed. Shadowing in anatomic pathology (Specifically gross surgical pathology) or surgical pathology laboratory work experience is required for admission.
- Remember to sign the form on the last page

### *2. The application fee*

- Send a check or money order (NOT cash)
- The fee is \$55.00 (US funds)
- The check should be made payable to “Duke University Medical Center”
- If you are submitting the application form by hard copy rather than by email, the payment must be included with the application form

- Don't forget to sign the check; if using a money order, please fill in all the required information and remember to sign it

### 3. *The transcripts*

- Send all of your transcripts from each institution attended, even if those classes are included as transfer credits on transcripts at a different institution; include all undergraduate, graduate and any health care profession education
- Many institutions are now able to submit official transcripts electronically—this is an excellent option, very rapid and efficient; have the transcripts sent to my email address: [pamela.vollmer@duke.edu](mailto:pamela.vollmer@duke.edu). Hard copy transcripts must be received in sealed envelopes whether they are submitted by the applicant or separately from the institution; otherwise, they cannot be considered to be “official”
- Only one transcript need be submitted per institution, unless you are actively enrolled and have semester updates

### 4. *The recommendation letters*

- Letters should be written on the individual recommender's letterhead
- They must be received in sealed initialed envelopes or sent as an email attachment from the recommenders' corporate, personal, or edu email address to be considered “official”
- Do not send photo-copies of letters that have been used for other purposes
- The greeting of the letter should refer to me or our Program Director, Dr. Bentley, and should specifically comment on your qualifications for the Pathologists' Assistant Program. Letters which refer to a candidate's desire to attend medical school or acquire a PhD, suggest that the applicant is not actually committed to becoming a Pathologists' Assistant, and will detract from the application.

### 5. *GRE scores*

- Applicants must submit GRE scores no more than 5 years old by the application deadline, regardless of prior education or experience. **Please note that we no longer accept the MCAT in lieu of the GRE.**
- If you have not completed the GRE prior to the application deadline, do not apply to the program. You will not be a competitive candidate; your application will not be complete and it will not be submitted to the admissions committee.
- The official scores are unlikely to appear in the Duke system until several weeks have elapsed—if you take the test shortly before the deadline, you must send me an email to let me know what your preliminary Verbal and Quant scores are. If you do not, I will not be able to send your application to the admissions committee for review.
- Do not report your scores inaccurately on the application form
- The scores expire 5 years (to the date) after the exam is taken; the scores must be no more than 5 years old on January 15 of the year in which you wish to matriculate; for example, if you wish to apply for the class beginning in August of 2020, you should have taken the GRE no earlier than January 15, 2015.
- Have the ETS send your scores to Duke University (Institution Code 5156). Most Department Codes will work—anything sent to Duke will be available to me—but Allied Health (Departmental Code 0601) or Health and Medical Sciences-Other (Department Code 0699) are most accurate.

### ***If you were not accepted last year and are re-applying to the program:***

- We retain application materials for 2 years. Non-expired GRE scores, unchanged transcripts and the original 3 letters of recommendation will be carried over to the new application.
- Submit a new application form and fee
- Submit any new or updated transcripts and test scores
- Submit one additional letter of recommendation to update your folder