

Physician Assistant Profession

Physician assistants (PAs) are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. Within the physician/PA relationship, PAs are responsible for making medical decisions and providing a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. Physicians are consulted as needed and ultimately are responsible for the care provided by the physician/PA team.

Careers

Physician assistants work in clinical settings as part of a medical team. Graduates have the ability to enter a medical field with excellent income potential and exciting work that allows them to switch specialty fields without further training. Our graduates have a 100% placement rate and average starting salary of \$95,000 when entering the job market.

Being a PA also can allow for a more flexible schedule and more available time for family and other interests outside of work.

Care settings

- · Primary care clinic
- Private practice
- Hospital emergency room
- · Nursing home
- · Rural clinic
- Patient's home

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Why Iowa?

Unique Integrated Curriculum

Our curriculum is the only PA program in the country that is integrated with the medical school classes. We are also connected with the health sciences campus, including University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, one of the nation's largest academic medical centers.

Nationally Ranked

By U.S. News & World Report as one of the top two PA programs since 2001. The program is currently ranked #1.

Highly Selective Admission

The class of 2020 admitted 25 out of 963 applicants.

High Scores

Historically, our students have scored in the top 5-10% on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam, and have achieved a first-time pass rate of 100% since 1996.

100% Employment Rate

Within six months of graduation

Accredited

By the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant



Admissions

The University of Iowa participates in the Physician Assistant Education Association's Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants.

All application materials, including GRE or MCAT scores, recommendations, and college transcripts must be submitted before the deadline. Applications are accepted only from U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Applications are accepted from the date the CASPA Application Portal opens until October 1.

Scholarships

Several small scholarships based on financial need and/or merit are available through the University of Iowa. Several national scholarships are available, such as the National Health Service Corps scholarships or those through national PA organizations. For general financial aid information, refer to the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Curriculum

- The PA program is 28 months in length.
- 1.5 years didactic course work
- 1 year clinical rotations

Clinical Rotations

Students complete a total of 48 weeks of clinical rotations. 36 weeks are spent in core rotations and 8 weeks on electives of the student's choice during the clinical year. Many clinical rotations are available both domestic and international. Students pay their own way, but housing may be provided.

Core Rotations (four weeks)

- Emergency Medicine
- Family Practice I
- · Family Practice II
- Gynecology
- Pediatrics
- · Psychiatry

Core Rotations (six weeks)

- Internal Medicine
- Surgery

Elective Rotations (two to four weeks)

Students select in specialty fields

Post-Graduate Training

Graduates may elect to continue their education in the following areas:

Advanced Studies

- Health management and policy
- Integrative physiology/exercise science
- Preventive medicine

PA Residency Programs

These programs are usually 12-18 months long.

- Anesthesiology
- Emergency medicine
- Intensive respiratory care/critical care medicine
- Neonatology
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Occupational health
- Orthopedic surgery
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Rural primary care
- Surgery

CONTACT

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