

University of Iowa

# Physician Assistant Program



## Quick Facts

- 28-month program unique in U.S. in integrating curriculum with the medical school classes during first 1½ years
- 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 process: Class of 2020 admitted 25 out of 963 applicants
- Connected to University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Iowa's only academic medical center
- Historically, our students have scored in the top 5-10% on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam and achieved a first-time pass rate of 100% since 1996
- Employment rate of 100% within six months of graduation
- Accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant

## 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

## Why Choose Iowa

The University of Iowa's program is ranked first in the nation among PA graduate programs.

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.

## 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 ½ 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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