



JOINT MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES/ MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPARE FOR YOUR PA CAREER AT TOURO!

The Physician Assistant Profession

Physician Assistants (PAs) are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs work in primary care, specialty and sub-specialty practice and in both outpatient and inpatient settings. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and write prescriptions.

Within the physician-PA relationship, PAs exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. A PA's practice may also include education and teaching, research, and administrative services.



The Public Health Profession

The public health system is a complex network of organizations that coordinates efforts to protect, promote, and improve the health of the population as a whole. While governmental public health agencies (i.e., federal, state and local) play a pivotal role in the planning and delivery of public health services, many other organizations comprise the public health system, including health care providers and associations, faith-based organizations, businesses, and schools.

The core functions of public health professionals have been defined as assessment (community diagnosis); policy development and leadership and assurance of access to environmental, educational, and personal health services.

Core public health services provided to communities include communicable disease control, community assessment, community outreach and education, environmental health services, epidemiology and surveillance, food safety, health education, restaurant inspections, tuberculosis testing and most recently emergency preparedness and bio-terrorism response.

Physician Assistant and Public Health – Complementary Professions

The Joint Program provides training in clinical, preventative, and health promotion foundations and is committed to fostering the students' critical thinking and clinical reasoning necessary to be a competent clinician. These elements will prepare a future health workforce to understand that the wellness of one individual is linked to the wellness of their communities.

Mission

Through the integration of the Physician Assistant and Public Health disciplines, the mission of the Joint MSPAS/MPH Program is to:

- 1) educate quality PAs to work with underserved populations,
- 2) recruit applicants from these communities or individuals with a demonstrated interest in serving these communities, and
- 3) increase access to care for underserved populations

Curriculum

The Joint MSPAS/MPH Curriculum is an integrated, graduate-level curriculum that consists of instruction and clinical experiences in both the medical and public health disciplines. The program is 33 months in length (8 academic semesters) in which the first four semesters are didactic (pre-clinical and public health). The clinical phase spans 60 weeks, including the six-week public health field study. Students return to campus for the last eight weeks to complete their MPH Capstone and MSPAS Summative courses.

Graduates of the program receive a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and a Master of Public Health. Graduates are eligible for licensure to practice in all 50 states and Washington, DC upon passing the PANCE. The Master of Public Health degree prepares the graduate by developing public health knowledge and principles including disease prevention, health promotion, epidemiology, biostatistics, health care administration, and research study and design. The combined curriculum prepares graduates to better understand the link between an individual's health and their environment.





JOINT MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES/ MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PA Didactic Courses

Principles of Basic Science
Anatomy w/Lab
Principles of Pharmacology
Medicine I, II, III
Pharmacology I, II, III
Clinical Pathophysiology/Diagnostic Studies I, II, III
Clinical Applications I, II, III, IV
Maternal Child Health I, II
Topics in PA Practice I, II, III
Geriatrics
Orientation to the Clinical Year
Behavioral Medicine for Primary Care
Psychiatry for Primary Care
Emergency Medicine
Surgical Principles & Technical Skills
MSPAS Summative Course

PA Clinical Rotations

Primary Care I, II, III, IV (*series of four rotations*)
Emergency Medicine
Surgery
Elective I, II (*two rotations; may vary by student*)

Public Health Courses

Biostatistics
Behavioral and Social Aspects of Public Health
Environmental Health
Epidemiology
Health Policy & Management
Research Methods
Program Evaluation and Needs Assessment
Social Justice Seminar
Public Health Field Experience
MPH Capstone Course or Comprehensive Exam
Students can choose from three tracks, each of which requires three additional courses: Community Action for Public Health, Health Equity and Criminal Justice, and Global Health

Program Accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the TUC Physician Assistant Program. 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 September 2029.

The TUC Public Health Program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) through 2022.

Required Minimum Prerequisites for the 2020-2021

Admission Cycle (Class of 2024)

Prerequisites: Application is through CASPA. All prerequisites must be completed prior to submission of the CASPA application.

A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution received with minimum Cumulative and Science GPAs of 2.90 is required to apply to this program. Online courses are acceptable.

Applicants from all academic disciplines are welcome. Prerequisite courses must be completed with a C or better, or "Pass." C- will not be accepted. 1000 hours of any combination of direct patient care and healthcare experience are required, paid or volunteer.

8 semester/12 quarter units (including labs) in each the following:

- Biological Sciences (general biology, genetics, immunology, etc.)
- Chemistry (inorganic, organic, biochemistry)

4 semester/5 quarter units in each the following:

- Microbiology
- Human Anatomy (including lab)
- Human Physiology (including lab)

Human Anatomy and Physiology must be completed within 5 years of the expected year of matriculation, and may be taken as a combined course.

Other

- Statistics (3 semester/5 quarter units; no lab)

Meeting the prerequisites does not guarantee an interview. *Prerequisites are subject to change.* For detailed, current information on admissions requirements for the Joint Program, please visit our website at <http://paprogram.tu.edu>.

Success in Achieving Program Goals

The Program is pleased to report a first-time Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) pass rate of 93.5% by the Class of 2019. Of all the 547 graduates of the program, 542 (99.1%) have passed the PANCE, and are certified Physician Assistants. The national average for passing the PANCE in 2019 was 93%. The Joint Program alumni have met or exceeded the national average in four of the past five years.

For three current classes (2020-2022), 78.5% are from a medically underserved area, a disadvantaged background, and/or are from a ethnic or racial population that is under-represented in the PA profession.

Our alumni are working for a healthier, more equitable world: 76.2% work in either primary care or in a medically underserved area, and over a third, 34.2%, work in both.

Contact Information

Email: tucpa@tu.edu

<http://paprogram.tu.edu> • 707.638.5809