



# 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.





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## 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  
PA Profession and Practice  
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 between the Community Track (Health Equity and Criminal Justice Emphasis available) and the Global Health Track, each of which requires three additional courses*

## Program Accreditation

The ARC-PA has granted **Continued Accreditation** to the PA Program sponsored by Touro University California. Continued accreditation is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA *Standards*. Continued 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 comprehensive review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2019.

## Required Minimum Prerequisites for the 2018-2019

### Admission Cycle (Class of 2022)

**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 3.00 is required to apply to this program.

Applicants from all academic disciplines are welcome. Prerequisite courses must be completed with a C or better; C- will not be accepted. 1000 hours of direct patient care 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 (including labs) in each the following:

- Microbiology
- Human Anatomy
- Human Physiology

*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 97.3% by the Class of 2017. Of all the 459 graduates of the program, 457 (99.6%) have passed the PANCE, and are certified Physician Assistants.

For three current classes (2019-2021), 70.7% are from a medically underserved area, a disadvantaged background, and/or are from an ethnic or racial population that is under-represented in the PA profession.

Of the 334 alumni whose work information we have, 50.1% work in a medically underserved area. Over one quarter (25.4%) work at a federally-designated site that specifically serves medically underserved populations. Over half (52.7%) of our alumni work in primary care, and nearly a third (33.2%) work in primary care in medically underserved areas.

## Contact Information

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