



HLC Accreditation 2016-2017

Evidence Document

College of Health Professions

Department of Physician Assistant

Physician Assistant Graduate Degree Program

Additional information: See more information at the program web pages at:
<http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=pa> (Accessed April 25, 2016.)



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PA student awarded prestigious scholarship

Attend Information Session

PA student receives scholarship to further her degree

Physician Assistant
Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0043
316-978-3011
physician.assistant@wichita.edu

Department of Physician Assistant

With more than 150 years of combined clinical and more than 85 years of healthcare education experience, the department of Physician Assistant (PA) at Wichita State University has a highly competitive master's program ranked in the top 35 percent of the nation.

Choose from a wide variety of rotation options including an international rotation. Students gain a competitive advantage by learning from practicing faculty who care about their achievement. Our dedicated faculty, program affordability, strong community affiliations and location are key reasons our program has a 20:1 applicant ratio. A rewarding career as a PA offers graduates the opportunity for an excellent salary. Strong demand for PA continues to grow.

» [Learn more about Department of Physician Assistant](#)

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About the Program

The Physician Assistant (PA) program at Wichita State University is the only one of its kind in Kansas. It prepares students to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed physician.

One of the key advantages of attending Wichita State is our location in Kansas' major medical and metropolitan center.

- We offer one of the largest university-based programs for health professionals west of the Mississippi.
- Our location provides a wide base for training in one of the area's many medical facilities.
- Students get the chance to learn from top professionals in the state.
- Of the more than 1,400 program graduates, 56% work in rural communities; 47% in primary care; 39% in medically underserved areas.

A successful student will demonstrate critical thinking abilities, sound judgment, exemplify medical ethics and utilize interpersonal skills. An attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality, and a commitment to patient welfare are essential attributes for students to demonstrate.

ARC-PA Accreditation

The ARC-PA has granted Continued Accreditation to the Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Wichita State University. 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 March 2018.

Program Outcomes

Vision

Excellence in physician assistant education

Mission

Transform students into highly competent physician assistants

Guiding Principles

Main Office[Ahlberg Hall](#)

Room 325

316-978-3011

[physician.assistant](mailto:physician.assistant@wichita.edu)[@wichita.edu](mailto:physician.assistant@wichita.edu)

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[Message from Program
Director](#)

- Foster an enthusiastic learning environment committed to student success
- Promote patient-centered collaborative care
- Model and cultivate compassion
- Respond to the need for primary care providers in Kansas
- Encourage health care for rural and underserved populations
- Emphasize evidence-based practice and promote lifelong learning

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WSU Department of Physician Assistant Report Card

[Click to view
Pass Rate Summary](#)[Download Program
Report Card \(PDF\)](#)*Report Card Last Updated September 2015***Excellence in PA Education since 1972**

- One of the oldest PA programs in the nation, we have graduated more than **1,400** PAs since **1972**
- The Program's rigorous and ongoing self-assessment process helps us identify and correct Program weaknesses
- We have **high expectations** of ourselves and students and we **work hard to help our students achieve excellence**

NCCPA Certification Exam (PANCE) - Pass Rate for First-Time Takers

Year	WSU Ave	National Ave
2011	93% ↑	91%
2012	94% ↑	93%
2013	98% ↑	94%
2014	98% ↑	95%
2015	98% ↑	pending
5-Year Average	96% ↑	93%

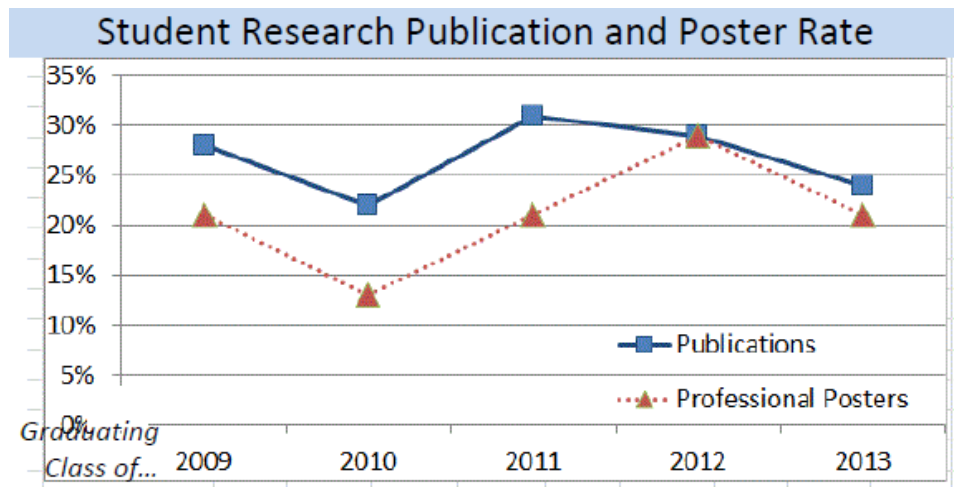
Our students also perform above the national average on other standardized measures of medical knowledge such as the PACKRAT and End-of-Rotation exams

Enthusiastic Learning Environment

- Our student exit survey show **87%** of our graduates were **satisfied or highly satisfied** with their education and **92%** felt we met our goal of transforming them into **highly competent PAs**
- Student ratings for **85%** of PA courses and **83%** of faculty are at or above University averages (last 3-yrs)

- Faculty make themselves **available to the students**
- We use **simulation** to augment classroom instruction

Outstanding Research Curriculum



*Due to publication lag time, most recent 2 classes are not yet reported

- We have a long, successful record of student research and publication – **arguably the strongest in the nation**
- Clinical research has the power to improve patients' lives and at WSU, many of our students contribute to that body of knowledge by co-authoring with faculty
- Student research publication rate is **27%** (5-yr ave)
- Professional poster presentation rate is **21%** (5-yr ave)

Experiential Learning Credit System (PA Passport)



Becoming an excellent PA involves more than treating a disease. Every WSU PA student engages in experiential learning in research, service, professionalism, and interprofessional education.

Service-Learning Leaders

To provide excellent healthcare we must attempt to meet and understand the needs of the patient, family, and community.

Every WSU PA student performs volunteer community service.

- Our rate of **100%** engagement far exceeds the College rate of 50% and the University rate of 25%.
- **Faculty-led initiatives** include the Senior Mentor Program; Give-Kids-a-Smile fluoride varnish clinic; United Way Homeless Count; Ready Set Fit health education for elementary

children; Sports Physicals provided for free at a socioeconomically disadvantaged rural county; and others

- Every year our **students leave their mark by taking the initiative** to develop their own opportunities to engage with and support the community

Collaborative Interprofessional Care

- Providing excellent healthcare requires a patient-centered, evidence-based, interprofessional **team approach**
- **Every WSU PA student** engages in opportunities to **learn about, from, and with other healthcare professionals** during their didactic education and on clinical rotations

Primary Care, Rural, & Underserved

- Learning medicine in rural areas allows our students to **see it all** and **really get to know their patients** and community
- **Every WSU PA student** completes at least 12 weeks of rotations in **primary care** and 12 weeks in **rural areas**
- Our graduates practice in **rural and underserved** communities at almost **double the national average**

Satisfied Employers

Most Recent Employer Survey Data (2012)

- 4.8 Overall preparation as a PA
- 4.8 Medical knowledge
- 4.8 Patient management skills
- 4.5 Clinical skills
- 4.7 Continuous learning and skill building
- 4.3 Evaluating medical literature
- 4.8 Seeks consultation when appropriate
- 4.5 Interactions with other healthcare professionals
- 4.5 Interactions with patients
- 4.5 Leadership skills
- 4.5 The PA's overall contribution to your practice
- 4.8 Probability of hiring a WSU PA if you had an opening

Likert scale ranges from 1 (low) to 5 (high); 44% response rate

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Master of Physician Assistant

The Master of Physician Assistant (MPA) degree at WSU is a rigorous 26-month graduate program that prepares students to function as generalist PAs, who possess a wide array of knowledge in primary care. Students in this program are required to demonstrate a range of physical, cognitive and behavioral abilities and skills necessary to perform successfully in various clinical situations.

During the course of this program, students are trained and educated to serve where healthcare need is greatest; this includes underserved populations, in rural areas, and with minorities and older adults.

Key Program Features

- **Graduate in just 26 months from an accredited and affordable program.** Our Program tuition and even out-of-state tuition compares very favorably with programs across the nation. Our 26-month program allows students to begin clinical rotations in just 13 months and graduate in 26 months. The lock-step curriculum means you start and graduate with the same team of students.
- **Excellent NCCPA pass rate and high Program graduation rate.** Our graduates exceed the national pass rate on the PANCE and also perform above the national average on other standardized measures of medical knowledge such as PACKRAT and End-of-Rotation Exams. Our 5-year mean graduation rate is also above the national average.
- **Clinical Education in rural and underserved communities.** We have long-standing and strong community affiliations with preceptors across Kansas. Learning medicine in rural areas allows our students to see it all and really get to know their patients and community. Every WSU PA student completes at least 12 weeks of rotations in primary care and 12 weeks in rural areas. Our graduates practice in rural and underserved communities at almost double the national average.
- **Expand your research potential.** Our students aren't just consumers of medical literature, they become contributors to the body of medical literature. Since 2006, our students have co-authored with faculty over 40 journal articles and book chapters and have presented over 50 scientific posters, arguable the strongest record of student publication in the nation.

Main Office

Ahlberg Hall 325
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physician.assistant@wichita.edu

ADMISSION INFO:**Quick Facts & Features**

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Program Quick Facts

Program Entry Point	Summer
Program Length	26-months; 1st year (1st 13 months/didactic year) and 2nd year (2nd 13 months/clinical rotations)
Study Plan Options	Full-time, lock step, Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
CASPA Application Deadline	Complete and Verified by October 1st
Class Size	48
Application Ratio	20:1
Minimum GPA to apply	3.00 overall and a science GPA of 3.00
Average GPA of applicants	3.50
Average GPA of accepted students	3.60
Average age range of students	26-40 years old
Examinations	Not required: GRE (Graduate Record Examination)
Degrees required	Bachelor's degree in any field plus completion of program prerequisites
Professional Certification(s) and License(s) needed to practice	National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

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