

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
Physician Assistant Program

Emory University Physician Assistant Program

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1

Comparison


Patient Care Options	MD/DO	Nurse Practitioner - NP	Physician Assistant - PA
<u>Average Annual Salary</u>	Primary Care \$220,500	\$126,000	\$130,000
Licensing	Independent, Supervises team under State Medical Board	Independent license under State Nursing Board	Licensed under physician supervision, under State Medical Board
Years Training	4 yrs College 4 years Medical School 3 - 4 years Residency 12 years total	4 years Nursing School 2 years NP program 6 years total Or any 4 yr degree + 1 yr accelerated RN Then 2 yr NP program - 7 year total	4 years College 2 - 2.5 years PA program 6 years total
Clinical Training	9 - 10,000 hours	700 hours	2,000 hours
Degree	Medical Doctor -MD or DO	Masters - now moving to Clinical Doctorate	Masters 100%
# programs	136 MD/26 DO	400	310
Specialized certifications, tests	Yes, USMLE 1 and 2 then after residency Locked in specialty	Yes- Board exam, Locked in specialty	Yes- Board exam, Can migrate specialties Not Anesthesia
Medical Model	Biomedical model	Biopsychosocial nursing model	Biomedical model

2

MD vs. PA in 2024 Post Pandemic



MDs are not happy - Changes in Burnout and Satisfaction With Work-Life Balance
Physicians - 53% have Burnout and Depression in Medscape report



PA Happiness - Physician Assistants are **87% Happy** about career choice
Medscape report

3

Career as a PA in 2025

100 Best Jobs

No single job beats all of us, but many of the best ones have a few attributes in common: They pay well, challenge you year after year, match our talents and skills, aren't too stressful, offer room to advance throughout our careers, and provide a satisfying work-life balance. Job seekers also often consider whether a position is demand-led, U.S. News used these qualities to rank the 100 Best Jobs of 2025. You can also explore the [Best-Paying Jobs](#) and other more specific career ratings. For more information on how we rank, read the [How Jobs Are Ranked](#) page.

PA is #3 of all US Jobs



4

Career as a PA in 2025 Physician Assistant Overview

BEST JOBS USNews

Overall Score 7.2 / 10
#2 in Best Health Care Jobs | #3 in 100 Best Jobs | #3 in Best STEM Jobs

Nurse Practitioner
#1 in Best Health Care Jobs

Nurse practitioners perform a lot of the same duties as physicians; they perform physical exams, order lab tests and analyze results, prescribe medicines and authorize treatments. These professionals usually have a specialty, such as adult and geriatric health, pediatric health or mental health. [Read More](#)

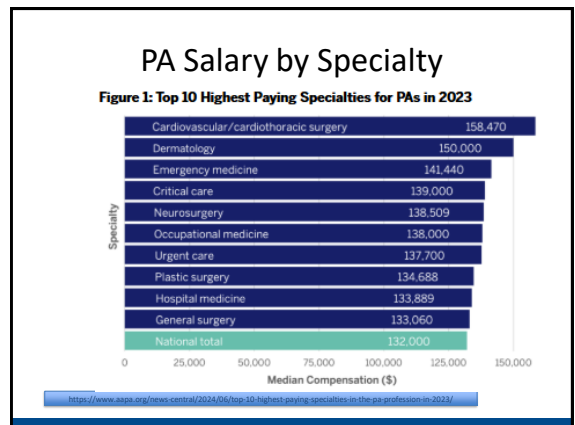
Projected Jobs: **135,500**
Median Salary: **\$126,260**
Education needed: **Master's**

Physician Assistant
#2 in Best Health Care Jobs

Physician assistants diagnose illnesses, develop and carry out treatment plans, assist in surgeries, perform procedures and guide patients. [Read More](#)




Projected Jobs: **43,700**
Median Salary: **\$130,020**
Education needed: **Master's**

5



6

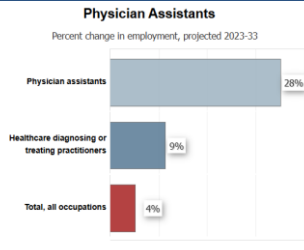
PA Career

-  **Working interdependently with physicians:** History & physical exams, order & interpret studies (ECG, X-ray, CT, labs), assess & diagnose, perform procedures, assist in surgery, prescribing in all 50 states
-  **Migratory:** Change specialty without re-training (except anesthesia)
-  **Other opportunities:** Research, Administration, Public Health, Education, Leadership

7

PA Job Growth

Physician Assistants
Percent change in employment, projected 2023-33



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program
<https://www.bls.gov/osh/healthcare/physician-assistants.htm#tab-6>

8

US PA Program Rankings #4 out of 306 schools



Physician Assistant Schools

- Duke University
Durham, NC
#1 in Physician Assistant
[Save](#)
- Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX
#2 in Physician Assistant (in)
[Save](#)
- University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA
#2 in Physician Assistant (in)
[Save](#)
- Emory University**
Atlanta, GA
#4 in Physician Assistant
[Save](#)
- George Washington University
Washington, DC
#5 in Physician Assistant (in)
[Save](#)

9


ARC-PA Accreditation until 2033

<https://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation/accredited-programs/>

GA	Augusta University	Continued	View	11/1/1973	Jun-29
GA	Brenau University	Professional	View	9/26/2020	Jun-23
GA	Emory University	Continued	View	9/1/1973	Mar-33
GA	Morehouse University	Continued	View	8/7/2007	Sep-27
GA	Morehouse School of Medicine	Professional	View	9/28/2018	Sep-23
GA	South University in Savannah	Continued	View	10/1/1967	Sep-25
IA	Des Moines University	Continued	View	4/1/1963	Sep-25
IA	Northwestern College	Professional	View	9/26/2019	Sep-24
IA	St. Ambrose University	Continued	View	3/7/2014	Mar-29
IA	University of Dubuque	Continued	View	3/12/2016	Mar-11
IA	University of Iowa	Continued	View	3/1/1973	Mar-33
ID	Idaho State University	Continued,LD	View	4/1/1967	Mar-25

10

Learn about #EmoryUnited



www.EmoryPA.org

11


Emory's Beginnings

- 1967: Inception as Cardiac Care Medical Specialist at Grady Memorial Hospital with J. Willis Hurst, MD
- 1971: Degree-granting Program Began
- 1973: First Graduating Class
- 1988: 1st Primary Care Masters Degree PA Program in US
- 2021: 50 Year Anniversary

[Emory History link](#)

Awards a Master of Medical Science Degree

Focus on patient-centered, team based medical practice and underserved populations




Eugene A. Stead
BS and MD from Emory University
Chairman, Emory Department of Medicine (1942-46)
Dean of School of Medicine (1943-46)

12

Emory's Beginnings

1957 The Department Home Builder

Dr. J. Willis Hurst, a cardiologist and good friend of Dr. Eugene Stead, became the Chairman of the Department of Medicine in 1957 serving until 1966. Dr. Hurst was responsible for the creation of the predecessor of the Emory Physician Assistant Program, modeled after a program Dr. Stead had created at Duke. Dr. Hurst's program, initially a hospital-based cardiology specialty program, was located at Grady Memorial Hospital.



Dr. Eugene A. Stead and Dr. J. Willis Hurst

13

Emory PA Program Mission

The Emory Physician Assistant Program recruits, educates and mentors a diverse group of students to become highly regarded physician assistants providing compassionate health care of the highest quality.

14

Emory PA Program Mission and Values

Mission

- The Emory Physician Assistant Program recruits, educates and mentors a diverse group of students to become highly regarded physician assistants providing compassionate health care of the highest quality.

Values

- We value the highest standards of professionalism and team-based medicine with a commitment to the medically underserved. Graduates are prepared to practice evidence-based primary care and preventive medicine and engage in lifelong learning.

15

Emory PA Program Goals

- Support students' journey to become well prepared, certified PAs by providing a high-quality, evidence-based curriculum and diverse clinical training opportunities
- Recruit, mentor, and support a diverse student body
- Promote opportunities for community engaged learning, service, and outreach to underserved populations

16

Emory Application Requirements

- Any Baccalaureate degree from regionally accredited institution. Applicants graduating from international institution must have min of 24 semester credits as a full-time student at a US or Canadian regionally accredited institution.
- A cumulative and science GPA of 3.0/4.0
- NO GREs PCAT or other tests required
- CASPA & Supplemental Applications (\$70.00 fee)
- Applicants must meet the Emory PA Program Technical Standards
- Minimum of 2000 hours direct patient care experience at time of application submission

17

Prerequisite Courses


- Statistics - 3 semester credits
- Natural sciences - min 23 semester credits or 34.5 quarter hours – **Can be online courses**
 - Biology with lab - 4 semester/6 quarter hours
 - General Chemistry with lab(s) - 8 semester/12 quarter hours
 - Organic or biochemistry, not a survey course - 3 semester/5 quarter hours
 - Anatomy & Physiology (I and II) - 8 semester/12 quarter hours

18

Applications for Class of 2027

Applicants on CASPA

- **Total Applicants** 2864
- **Total Completed** 1558
- **Interviews** 214 over 18 zoom MMI sessions
- **Dual Degree** 6 for class of 2027 1 for Class of 2028
- **Total Class Size** 55




19

Class of 2025 vs. 2026 vs. 2027

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
# of students: 53	# of students: 57	# of students: 55
Male 15%, Female 85%	Male 19%, Female 81%	Male 11%, Female 89%
Diversity = 37% (Non-White)	Diversity = 42% (Non-White)	Diversity = 54% (Non-White)
Advanced Degree = 4%	Advanced Degree = 9%	Advanced Degree = 11%
Dual Degree MPH-PA = 3	Dual Degree MPH-PA = 0 (7 for 2027)	Dual Degree MPH-PA = 7 (1 for 2028)
Veterans = 1%	Veterans = 4%	Veterans = 4%
Average age: 25.2 (22 – 41)	Average age: 24.3 (21 – 33)	Average age: 24.6 (22 – 36)
GPA	GPA	GPA
Total 3.80	Total 3.80	Total 3.70
Science 3.80	Science 3.80	Science 3.60
Health Care Experience 5,462 hrs (Range 2000 – 33,000)	Health Care Experience 4,192 hrs (Range 2105 – 12,732)	Health Care Experience 5,199 hrs (Range 2100 – 13,910)
Humanitarian vol. 1,031 hrs (Range 49 – 9,514)	Humanitarian vol. 815 hrs (Range 24 – 4,686)	Humanitarian vol. 644 hrs (Range 0 – 3,194)

20


Health Care Experience



MA	10
EMT	4
MA/Scribe	4
Paramedic	3
PCA	3
Clinical Research Coord	2
MA/Scribe/Ophth Tech	2
Scribe/MA	2
Clinical Care Tech	1
Clinical Dietitian	1
Exercise Physiologist	1
Exercise Specialist	1
MA/Cardiac Tech/Ophth	1
MA/EMT	1
MA/Endo Tech/Surg Tech	1
MA/Patient Care Coord	1
MA/PCT/NREMT-B	1
MA/Pharm Tech	1
MA/PT Tech	1
Nursing Asst	1
Ortho Tech	1
PCT	1
PCT/EMT-B	1
PT Aide/Clinical Researcl	1
PT Tech	1
Resarch Asst/Scribe	1
RN	1
Surgical Tech	1
VAD Engineering	1
Athletic Trainer - Certifie	1

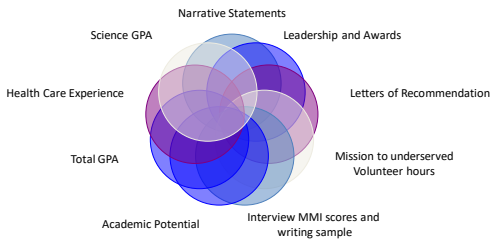
21

Why Emory?



22

Holistic Approach to Applications



No pre testing with GREs or PCAT

23

MMI Interview Format on Zoom

5 scenarios (verbal responses) - 7 minutes each + 25 minute writing sample

Interviewers blinded to CASPA information
Decreased bias
Equal opportunity to share yourself




Ali S, Sadiq Hashmi MS, Umair M, Beg MA, Huda N. Multiple Mini-Interviews: Current Perspectives on Utility and Limitations. *Adv Med Educ Pract*. 2019;10:1031-1038. Published 2019 Dec 12. doi:10.2147/AMEPS181332

24

Collaboration



NO competition in the classroom – everyone helps everyone

[The School of Medicine Center for Holistic Student Success](#)

Buddy system

Small group society with 2 faculty advisors

Diverse student body with peer teaching/tutoring

25

Dual Degree Option

One of 11 [Dual PA-MPH](#) programs adding 1 extra year at [Rollins School of Public Health](#)

Planning a Dual PA-MBA option with Goeizatta Business School



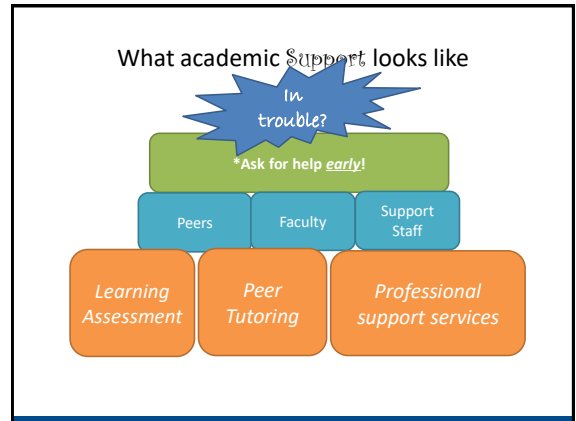
Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences
Biostatistics
Environmental Health
Environmental Health and Epidemiology
Global Environmental Health
Epidemiology
Global Epidemiology
Health Policy
Health Care Management
Global Health

26

Class Involvement

President	AAPA Rep	Admissions - Interviews
Vice President	GAPA Rep	Public Health
Secretary	Interdisciplinary Liaison – Allied health Counsel	Philanthropic
Treasurer (2)	Pre- PA recruiting	HSTAT - Emory
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee	Preventive Med	H2H 5K Lead
Orientation Committee	Historian	Portal de Salud
Honor Council (2)	Social Committee	POCUS group
Farmworkers Rep (2)	Birthday Committee	Critical Care group
Good Sam Coordinators (4)	Graduation Committee	Emergency Med group
Global Health /EPASI	Public Relations	Intermural sports


27




28

Active Learning

Anatomy Dissection Lab




Skills Labs



29

Active Learning

OSCE Suites



Point of Care Ultrasound



30

POCUS – Point of Care Ultra Sound



[Butterfly IQ](#) - \$2700

31

Curriculum – 29 Months



FOUNDATIONS
1 Semester
Aug - Dec



DIDACTIC
3 Semesters
Jan - Dec




CLINICAL
3 Semesters
Jan - Dec

32

Foundations Phase (Fall 1)

- Anatomy with Dissection Cadaver Lab and Hololense [HoloAnatomy VR](#)
- Introduction to Physical Assessment (IPA)
Complete physical examination
- Foundation of Medical Science (FMS)
Introduction to pharmacology, genetics, medical microbiology, and ultrasound
- Biomedical Ethics
- Medical Communications
Complete medical history and documentation



33

Didactic Module Phase

Spring 1 **Modules:** Psychiatry, Dermatology, Hematology/Oncology, ENT/Pulmonology, Cardiology
Courses: Community & Social Medicine, Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Summer 1 **Modules:** GI, GU, Endocrinology, Orthopedics/Rheumatology
Courses: Professional Issues I

Fall 2 **Modules:** Neurology, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Geriatrics
Courses: Professional Issues II

Summative Testing and Skills Demonstration

34

Didactic Module Threads


Basic Science	Threads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anatomy Review Biochemistry Genetics Immunology Microbiology Nutrition Physiology Pathophysiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Determinants of Health POCUS Pharmacology IPEX - Patient Encounters Skills Labs Preventive Medicine Interprofessional simulation

35

Didactics

Putting it Together


- Case Based Learning
- Team Based Learning
- OSCEs
- Patient Interactions
- Community Outreach



36

Weekly Learning Society

8-9 Students with 2 Faculty Advisors




Weekly format: Case discussions, Clinical reasoning, Peer mentoring

37



Clinical Year

A total of 10 rotations
(5 weeks each)
7 Core rotations
3 Elective rotations






1 Elective rotation can be split into 2 (2 week and 3 week) totaling 4

38

7 Core Clinical Rotations

1. Emergency Medicine
2. Family Medicine
3. Hospital Internal Medicine
4. OB/GYN
5. Pediatrics
6. Psychiatry
7. General Surgery


- One Rotation will be outside of Metro Atlanta (housing provided)
- Electronic patient/procedure logging
- End of rotation days every 5 weeks
- PAEA End of Rotation Exams
- 1 New site option
- Emory PA National Board Review Course Access

39

3 – 4 Elective Rotations

3 Elective Rotations 5 weeks each
May split 1 into 2 two as 3/2 week rotations

Academic Elective	Nephrology
Addiction Medicine	Neurology
Cardiothoracic Surgery	Neurosurgery
Cardiology	Oncology
Dermatology	Orthopedics
ENT	Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Gastroenterology	Radiology
Geriatrics	Urology
Infectious Diseases	Etc.



40

Academic Health Care System



41

Grady Hospital



800 bed Level 1 Trauma Center, Burn Unit, Stroke Center, Sickle Cell Center, Outpt Surgery Center

Video link <https://youtu.be/kdy4GozMTVI>

42

Emory Farmworker Project

- Since 1996 over 40,000 patients served
- 2 weeks in June, 1 fall weekend
- Interdisciplinary care with medical interpreters, PT, RN, MD, PharmD, and Counseling students
- [Link](#)




43

Emory Farmworker Project




44

Good Samaritan Clinic

Student-Run Clinic


- Interdisciplinary training of PA and medical students
- One weekend a month
- Serving the working poor, low income, and uninsured patients



45

Masters Thesis

3 semester course series



Thesis Paper Presentation

46

29 Months – Emory PA Graduate



47

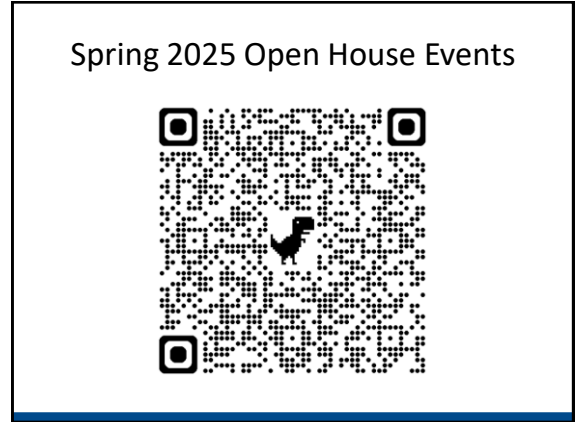
What makes a Strong Candidate?

-  **Solid clinical experience** – AT-C, RN, Combat Medic, then EMTs, Respiratory therapist, Rad Tech, Ultrasound, Med Tech, Counselor, Social work, Speech pathologist, then MA, Scribe Pt Assistant, Clinical research assistant
-  **Community service** – Missions, underserved populations, health care, out of comfort zone, speaking another language
-  **Leadership** – Captain of team, TA, Proctor, team leader, Student government, business, military...
-  **Honors** – Publications, academic awards, community service awards, scholarships
-  **Personal Statement** – talk about your journey to decide PA, missions, work related PA encounters... For supplemental, please talk about the school and why them. Visit the school and talk with students.


48



49



50

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51