

**EMORY UNIVERSITY**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Family and Preventive Medicine  
Physician Assistant Program

# Emory University Physician Assistant Program

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## 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 <b>12 years total</b>	4 years Nursing School 2 years NP program 6 years total  Or only 4 yr degree + 1 yr accelerated RN Then 2 yr NP program -> 7 year total <b>720 hours</b>	4 years College 2 - 2.5 years PA program 6 years total
Clinical Training	9 - 10,000 hours	720 hours	2,000 hours
Degree	Medical Doctor -MD or DO	Masters - now moving to Clinical Doctorate	Masters 100%
# programs	136 MD/26 DO	400	312
Specialized certifications, tests	Yes, USMLE 1 and 2 then after residency <b>Locked in specialty</b>	Yes- Board exam, <b>Locked in specialty</b>	Yes- Board exam, <b>Can migrate specialties Not Anesthesia</b>
Medical Model	Biomedical model	Biopsychosocial nursing model	Biomedical model

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## 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](#)

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## 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 in demand. 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 rankings. For more information on how we rank, read the [Best Jobs Methodology](#).

**PA is #3 of all US Jobs**

**BEST JOBS**  
USNews

**100 Jobs** [View All Jobs](#) [Compare](#) [Sort by Best Pay](#)

**Find a Job**  
All Jobs

**Rankings**  
For 100 Best Jobs

**Salary**  
\$0 - \$200,000+

**Specialty**  
☐ Anesthesiology  
☐ Dermatology  
☐ Emergency Medicine  
☐ Endocrinology  
☐ Geriatrics  
☐ Hematology  
☐ Infectious Disease  
☐ Internal Medicine  
☐ Obstetrics and Gynecology  
☐ Oncology  
☐ Orthopedics  
☐ Pediatrics  
☐ Radiology  
☐ Surgery  
☐ Trauma  
☐ Urology  
☐ Vascular Medicine  
☐ Other

**Nurse Practitioner**  
#1 in 100 Best Jobs  
These 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](#)

**IT Manager**  
#4 in 100 Best Jobs  
Our increasingly digital workplace demands more IT managers, who coordinate computer-related activities for an organization. Tasks include analyzing and recommending computer needs, installing and maintaining computer hardware and software, securing an office network, procuring documents and looking for new technologies and upgrade opportunities. [Read more](#)

**Physician Assistant**  
#3 in 100 Best Jobs  
Physician assistants diagnose illnesses, develop and carry out treatment plans, assist in surgeries, perform procedures and guide patients. [Read more](#)

**Projected Jobs**  
126,500  
Median Salary  
\$126,260  
Education Needed  
Masters

**Projected Jobs**  
42,700  
Median Salary  
\$130,020  
Education Needed  
Masters

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## 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

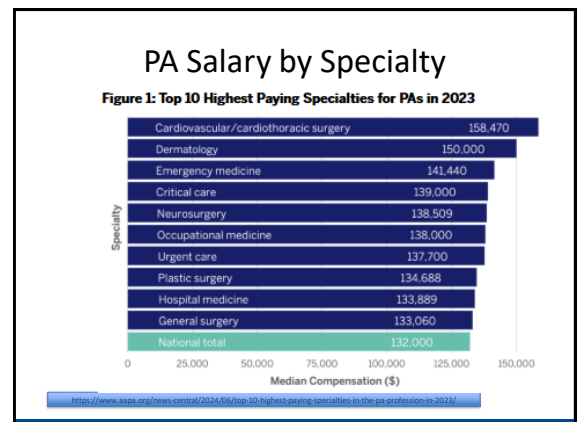
**Nurse Practitioner**  
#1 in Best Health Care Jobs  
Nurse practitioners perform a lot of the same duties as physicians; they perform physical exams, order lab tests and analyze results, prescribe medicines and authorize treatments. These professionals usually have a specialty, such as adult and geriatric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

**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**  
135,900  
Median Salary  
\$126,260  
Education Needed  
Master's

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

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## 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)



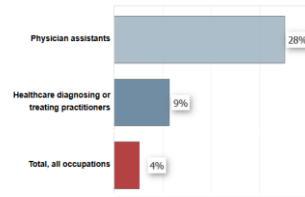
**Other opportunities:** Research, Administration, Public Health, Education, Leadership

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## 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.html#tab-6>

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## 2025 US PA Program Rankings - Emory is #8 out of 312 schools



- One of the first 6 PA programs in 1971
- Top ten ranking over several years
- Based in a large academic medical center

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## ARC-PA Accreditation until 2033

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

GA	Augsburg University	Continued	View	11/1/1973	Jun-29
GA	Brescia University	Functional	View	9/26/2020	Jun-23
GA	Emory University	Continued	View	9/1/1973	Mar-33
GA	Morehouse University	Continued	View	9/7/2007	Sep-27
GA	Morehouse School of Medicine	Functional	View	9/28/2018	Sep-23
GA	South University in Savannah	Continued	View	10/1/1997	Sep-25
GA	Deis Moines University	Continued	View	4/1/1993	Sep-25
IA	Northwestern College	Functional	View	9/28/2019	Sep-24
IA	St. Ambrose University	Continued	View	3/7/2014	Mar-29
IA	University of Dubuque	Continued	View	3/12/2016	Mar-31
IA	University of Iowa	Continued	View	3/1/1973	Mar-33
ID	Idaho State University	Continued	View	4/1/1997	Mar-25

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## Learn about #EmoryUnited

**www.EmoryPA.org**

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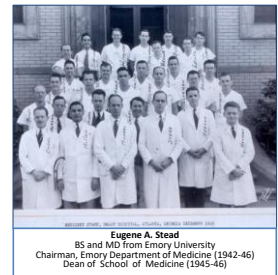
## Emory's Beginnings

- 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 at Emory
- 1988: 1<sup>st</sup> 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



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## 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 1986. 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

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## 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.

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## Emory PA Program 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.

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## Emory PA Program Goals

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

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## 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 total 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

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## 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

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## 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



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## Class of 2025 vs. 2026 vs. 2027

### Class of 2025

# of students: 53  
Male 15%, Female 85%  
Diversity = 37% (Non-White)  
Advanced Degree = 4%  
Dual Degree MPH-PA = 3  
Veterans = 1%  
Average age: 25.2 (22 – 41)  
GPA

	Total	Science
Total	3.80	3.80
Science	3.80	3.80
Health Care Experience	5,462 hrs	
(Range 2000 – 33,000)		
Humanitarian vol.	1,031 hrs	
(Range 49 – 9,514)		

### Class of 2026

# of students: 57  
Male 19%, Female 81%  
Diversity = 42% (Non-White)  
Advanced Degree = 9%  
Dual Degree MPH-PA = 0 (7 for 2027)  
Veterans = 4%  
Average age: 24.3 (21 – 33)  
GPA

	Total	Science
Total	3.80	3.80
Science	3.80	3.80
Health Care Experience	4,192 hrs	
(Range 2105 – 12,732)		
Humanitarian vol.	815 hrs	
(Range 24 – 4,680)		

### Class of 2027

# of students: 55  
Male 11%, Female 89%  
Diversity = 54% (Non-White)  
Advanced Degree = 11%  
Dual Degree MPH-PA = 7 (1 for 2028)  
Veterans = 4%  
Average age: 24.6 (22 – 36)  
GPA

	Total	Science
Total	3.70	3.70
Science	3.60	3.60
Health Care Experience	5,199 hrs	
(Range 2100 – 13,910)		
Humanitarian vol.	644 hrs	
(Range 0 – 3,184)		

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## 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 Research	1
PT Tech	1
Research Asst/Scribe	1
RN	1
Surgical Tech	1
VAD Engineering	1
Athletic Trainer - Certified	1

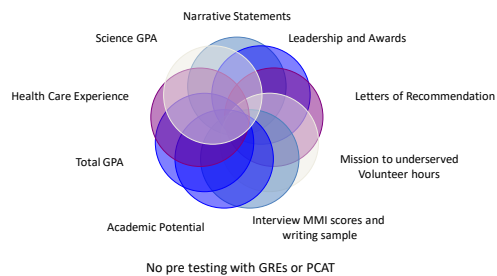
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## Why Emory?



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## Holistic Approach to Applications



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## 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



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## 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



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## 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

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## 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 SK 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

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What academic ~~Support~~ looks like



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## Active Learning

Anatomy Dissection Lab



Skills Labs



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## Active Learning

OSCE Suites



Point of Care Ultrasound



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## POCUS – Point of Care Ultra Sound



[Butterfly IQ](#) - \$2700

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## Curriculum – 29 Months



**FOUNDATIONS**

1 Semester

Aug - Dec



**DIDACTIC**

3 Semesters

Jan - Dec



**CLINICAL**

3 Semesters

Jan - Dec

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## 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



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## Didactic Module Phase

<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Modules:</b> Psychiatry, Dermatology, Hematology/Oncology, ENT/Pulmonology, Cardiology <b>Courses:</b> Community & Social Medicine Epidemiology & Biostatistics
<b>Summer 1</b>	<b>Modules:</b> GI, GU, Endocrinology, Orthopedics/Rheumatology <b>Courses:</b> Professional Issues I
<b>Fall 2</b>	<b>Modules:</b> Neurology, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Geriatrics <b>Courses:</b> Professional Issues II Summative Testing and Skills Demonstration

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## Didactic Module Threads

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

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## Didactics

Putting it Together

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



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## Weekly Learning Society 8-9 Students with 2 Faculty Advisors



Weekly format: Case discussions, Clinical reasoning, Peer mentoring

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## Clinical Year

### A total of 9 rotations

(5 weeks each)

7 Core rotations

2 Elective rotations



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

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## 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

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## 3 – 4 Elective Rotations

2 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.



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## Academic Health Care System



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## Grady Hospital



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



Video link <https://youtu.be/kdy4GozMTvI>

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## 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
- **Emory Farmworker project has won the top national award for Interprofessional Education for 2025**, from the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health and the Interprofessional Collaborative.
- [Link](#)



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## Emory Farmworker Project



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## 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



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## Masters Thesis

3 semester course series



Thesis Paper Presentation

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## 29 Months – Emory PA Graduate



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## 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.

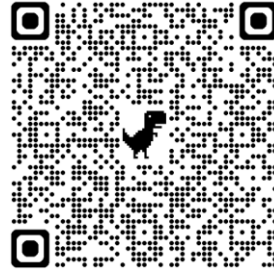
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## Spring 2025 Open House Events



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Department of Family and  
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### Emory University Physician Assistant Program

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