

Cultivating clinical strength

The University of Florida College of Medicine includes the oldest and highest-ranked PA school in Florida. With more than 1,400 faculty in 28 departments, plus the School of Physician Assistant Studies, the College of Medicine is the largest of six health science colleges on a contiguous campus. Within walking distance of nine affiliated research institutes and centers, students are encouraged to explore the abundant interdisciplinary opportunities to advance biomedicine along the continuum from basic science research to patient care.



Embracing students

UF's PA school accepts students with varied majors who have completed all prerequisites and strives to attract students with varied life experiences and paths to medicine from many different backgrounds. The School of Physician Assistant Studies seeks highly engaged applicants who have a desire to learn as much as possible about health care through service and a commitment to the larger community prior to entering PA school. Providing superior patient care with a humanistic approach is the driving force behind the missions of the UF College of Medicine.

Innovating experiential learning

The George T. Harrell, M.D., Medical Education Building is home to UF's medical and PA students. The building is among the nation's premier medical education facilities, designed to support a modern and patient-centered curriculum. It fosters a collaborative and interprofessional learning environment, featuring state-of-the-art learning studios, student lounges, small-group study rooms and two floors of clinical simulation labs. The building maximizes natural light and a beautiful nature preserve surrounds it. Visit pa.med.ufl.edu/academics for an overview of our PA education curriculum. The PA school has been continuously accredited since 1973.

"The UF PA program is a dream come true. Our faculty, course directors, anatomy TAs and students have each taught me lessons on becoming the patient-centered physician assistant I aspire to be. While some lessons are in diagnosis and treatment, other lessons focus on treating patients with respect and compassion. It is impossible to be a good physician assistant without both. I am grateful for faculty and the programs they developed like the Learning Assessment Center, the Center for Experiential Learning and Simulation and the Equal Access Clinic, that encourage and shape us into well-rounded providers."

— **Bevin Amezcua**, president, class of 2025

#1 **UF's ranking among the nation's best public universities**
(Wall Street Journal Best U.S. Colleges)

#1 **Highest-ranked PA School in Florida**
(U.S. News & World Report)

#5 **PA profession's ranking on the list of best jobs in 2024**
(U.S. News & World Report)

#14 **UF's ranking among the best PA programs**
(U.S. News & World Report)

115+ **UF Health physician practices and outpatient locations**

SNAPSHOT

Class of 2025

56 students

35% men **65%** women

27% underrepresented minorities in medicine



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is the associate dean and Randolph B. Mahoney Director of the UF School of Physician Assistant Studies. She is a distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and a certified physician assistant. Her clinical experience is in women's health, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery and ophthalmology. She received her doctoral training from the Drexel University College of Computing and Informatics. Multak maintains professional affiliations with the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, the Physician Assistant Education Association, the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, the American Medical Informatics Association and the American Society for Information Science and Technology.

What are PAs?

PAs are licensed medical professionals who often serve as a patient's principal health care provider. With thousands of hours of graduate master's level medical training, **PAs** are able to practice in every medical setting and specialty, improving health care access and quality. **PAs** are certified as medical generalists with a foundation in primary care. **PAs** learn to make lifesaving diagnostic and therapeutic decisions while working in collaboration with other members of the health care team. This combination is a major source of their strength. Many **PAs** practice in two or three specialty areas in their lifetime, giving them the experience and flexibility to meet the changing needs of their patients, employers and communities.

What are general admission requirements for PA school?

There are more than 300 PA schools in the country, which follow the medical school model and range from 24 to 30 months in length. Admission is highly competitive and individual school requirements vary. A bachelor's degree with completion of courses in basic and behavioral sciences is required. Incoming PA students bring with them an average of more than 3,000 hours of direct patient care experience, PA shadowing and various other health-related experiences.

What does a two-year PA education include?

Classroom instruction in the first year involves a patient-centered approach and rigorous competency-based curriculum designed to teach and foster learning of the biomedical, clinical and psychosocial sciences. The second year of training involves more than 2,000 hours of clinical rotations in medical and surgical disciplines. The highest standards of professionalism, interpersonal communication and clinical skills are developed and integrated throughout PA school.

PAs make lifesaving and therapeutic decisions.

- Take medical histories
- Conduct physical exams
- Diagnose and treat illness
- Order and interpret tests
- Develop treatment plans
- Prescribe medication
- Counsel on preventive care
- Perform procedures
- Assist in surgery
- Do clinical research

