

# PA *at FSU*



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
SCHOOL OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE

[med.fsu.edu/PA](http://med.fsu.edu/PA)

## STUDENT-FOCUSED, PATIENT-CENTERED

Everything at the College of Medicine revolves around the mission: to develop exemplary physicians and PAs who practice patient-centered health care, discover and advance knowledge, and respond to community needs, especially through service to elder, rural, minority and underserved populations.

The college values diversity, mutual respect, teamwork and open communication.

Rather than compete against each other, students here cooperate with each other so that everyone succeeds.

Each class is divided into Learning Communities to encourage small-group sessions, camaraderie and support.

Throughout their training, students have access to both standardized and simulated patients in the Clinical Learning Center. They also have regular, hands-on, one-on-one clinical experience with community physicians and actual patients.

On-site student support services include faculty advising, a dedicated student support coordinator, a program psychologist and counseling services.

A fully digital textbook and research library provides 24-hour internet access at no additional charge to the student.



### STATEWIDE SUPPORT

Students spend the first half of the PA program at the main campus in Tallahassee, studying basic and behavioral sciences.

They spend the second half getting clinical experience at one of six College of Medicine sites around the state. There they complete clerkships in emergency medicine, family medicine, general surgery, geriatric medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry and women's health, plus an elective clerkship.

“The community-based medical education program has been very successful both at providing a high-quality clinical education to our M.D. students, and at helping to influence our graduates to eventually practice in these communities. The PA program design is built along the same principles and we expect similar results.”

– *Interim Dean Alma B. Littles, M.D.*  
*College of Medicine*

## WHY CHOOSE FSU'S PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM?

The Florida State University Physician Assistant Program is intended for people with a commitment to practice patient-centered health care with elder, rural, minority and underserved populations throughout Florida. The program includes 72 semester hours of didactic coursework and 39 hours of clinical clerkships for a total of 111 semester hours over 27 months (seven semesters). Successful students will earn the *Master of Science in Physician Assistant Practice* degree.

- The PA program is part of the College of Medicine.
- It's one of only 13 colleges of medicine in the country with a geriatrics department.
- Anatomy education includes a full dissection lab experience.
- All PA faculty members practice clinically.
- All biomedical sciences faculty members have extensive research backgrounds in the areas they teach.
- All required textbooks are available electronically, at no additional cost to the student.
- Clinical clerkships are typically within one hour's drive.
- PA students have a dedicated Learning Community (LC).
- PA students have a dedicated student support coordinator and program psychologist.
- The PA program is a partner of the FSU Veterans Alliance and includes five faculty members who are military veterans.



*At its September 2022 meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) extended Accreditation-Probation status for the Florida State University School of Physician Assistant Practice program sponsored by Florida State University until its next review in September 2024.*

*Probation accreditation is a temporary accreditation status initially of not less than two years. However, that period may be extended by the ARC-PA for up to an additional two years if the ARC-PA finds that the program is making substantial progress toward meeting all applicable standards but requires additional time to come into full compliance. Probation accreditation status is granted, at the sole discretion of the ARC-PA, when a program holding an accreditation status of Accreditation - Provisional or Accreditation - Continued does not, in the judgment of the ARC-PA, meet the Standards or when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.*

*Once placed on probation, a program that fails to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and is subject to having its accreditation withdrawn.*

*Specific questions regarding the Program and its plans should be directed to the Program Director and/or the appropriate institutional official(s).*

*The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-florida-state-university/>.*

“It’s great to have M.D. students and PA students on the same campus. Most of these medical students, when they’re practicing physicians, are going to be working with PAs. So developing that sense of teamwork early is going to be important to their career as well.”

– Benjamin Smith, DMSe, PA-C, DFAAPA  
Program Director/Associate Dean, PA program



## ABOUT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Florida State, one of the state's two preeminent universities and a Carnegie I Research Institution, offers leading undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. Many consistently rank among the nation's top 25 public universities, including those in physics, chemistry, statistics, ecology and evolutionary biology, meteorology, political science, psychology, sociology, criminology, information, creative writing, public policy, business and law.

Florida State's arts programs — dance, film, music and theater — rank among the finest in the world.

The university is home to the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, which holds the most world records for the most powerful magnets on earth. Other research centers, such as the Center for Advanced Power Systems, are supported by the U.S. Departments of Defense and Energy. Together, they place Florida State at the cutting edge of research and its application to industry.

## LOOK US UP

Want to know more about the PA program and the College of Medicine? Roam around our website, [www.med.fsu.edu](http://www.med.fsu.edu).

- Visit the Video Library.
- Explore the dropdown menus.
- Watch the videos from the regional campuses.
- Read the student profiles.
- Discover the role of research here.
- Check out the PA faculty.
- Study the FAQs.

If you've done all that and still have questions, let us know. Send an email to [PAinfo@med.fsu.edu](mailto:PAinfo@med.fsu.edu).



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