You can be a key part of the solution to today's health care challenges. Our Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies prepares you for success in one of the nation's most rewarding and fastest-growing fields.

A young profession that has become indispensable
For nearly a century, health care reformers have had a persistent goal: to serve more patients at a reduced cost. The explosive growth in the number of physician assistants over the last decade has put that goal within reach. Physician assistants work to treat and prevent illness and injury under the supervision of medical doctors. The PAs order tests, prescribe medications, conduct exams, counsel patients on preventive care, and even assist in surgery. Today, more than 93,000 physician assistants are practicing medicine in the U.S. The number is projected to grow to 120,000 within a decade. It is the third fastest-growing occupation in the nation.

A special approach to graduate study
The program educates caring and skillful practitioners who contribute to the public good every day by serving patients with profound dedication and compassion. Our distinctive, relationship-centered approach to graduate study means that you'll gain not only professional skills but also a deep understanding of group dynamics and the interpersonal subtleties of today's multidisciplinary health care teams. You'll learn to communicate effectively with patients, and prepare to navigate the profession's social, legal and ethical complexities. In the classroom and in clinical settings, you'll prepare to play a vital role in positively transforming the way our nation provides health care.
A high-tech, high-touch program of study

Physician assistants begin practice after two years of professional school. The profession does not require an entrance test (such as the MCAT) or a residency. In your first year, you’ll study anatomy, pharmacology, physiology, diagnostic methods, evidence-based medicine and other topics. In your second year, you’ll complete hospital and clinical rotations in specialty disciplines such as surgery, pediatrics, internal medicine and emergency medicine. You’ll enjoy access to cutting-edge learning technologies and learn to employ medical informatics to improve patient outcomes. What’s more, you’ll become part of a welcoming community that intentionally includes military veterans and members of groups long underrepresented in health care.

Where will your master’s degree take you?

The options may surprise you. Physician Assistants work wherever doctors are found—and many places where they are not found, including underserved rural areas and urban neighborhoods. They are key contributors to the most advanced and distinguished health-care systems in the country, such as the Mayo Clinic. They work not only in general medicine but also in a wide array of specialties. Our program is designed to give you maximum professional flexibility—preparing you to thrive in fields as diverse as research, emergency medicine, women’s health, and surgery and its subspecialties. You’ll be ready to respond effectively to both current and emerging health care needs.

Our goal: your success

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“Physician Assistants are essential members of today’s health care teams. They work closely with physicians but can be trained in half the time. They sustain the quality and extend the reach of health care, even as they substantially lower its cost. Our program offers a new and distinct approach to preparation for a rising profession.”

Eric Johnson, MS, PA-C
Director, Physician Assistant Studies Program