

Division of Physician Assistant Studies



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY

Division of Physician Assistant Studies



Physician Assistants are integral members of the health care team, working with physicians and others to meet the needs of patients in a variety of settings. You'll serve in all medical specialties, treat illnesses and injuries and educate patients on wellness and disease prevention. You'll exercise autonomy in decision-making and provide a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic services, including prescribing medications. Physician assistant practice is patient-care centered but may include national and international opportunities to serve in clinical, educational, research and administrative roles.

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Ranked first in Virginia and tied for 20th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, Shenandoah's eight-semester, 30-month, accredited program combines classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences and provides an integrated, case-based curriculum leading to preparation to take the national certification examination.

The program integrates graduate-level critical thinking and analysis, problem solving, scientific inquiry, hands-on experience in full-dissection cadaver anatomy, self-directed learning and the effective use of modern technology for professional practice that includes elements of research, leadership, education, and continued enhancement of the physician assistant profession.

The program offers clinical rotations in medically underserved communities. You can further enhance your learning with elective course opportunities such as Care of Vulnerable Populations, Medical Nutrition, Ultrasonography and Public Health.

Physician Assistant/Master of Public Health Dual Degree

This program emphasizes a medical curriculum that prepares students to apply broad knowledge and basic skills in public health. The dual program requires two additional full-time semesters to complete both degrees. Public health courses are delivered fully online. There is also an option to complete the MPH on a part-time basis.

Physician Assistant/Performing Arts Medicine Certificate

Students in the Physician Assistant Studies program also have the opportunity to earn a 15-credit Performing Arts Medicine Certificate. The certificate educates health care professionals on how to assess and manage injuries and disorders specific to those in the performing arts.

Doctor of Medical Science

The Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) program is a doctorate made for physician assistants to provide the advanced skills needed in today's dynamic health care environment. It is offered 100% online in 7-week accelerated courses and may be completed in one semester as a full-time student or up to 24-months as a part-time student.



Key Features

- Program ranked **first in Virginia** and **20th in the United States** by U.S. News & World Report
- Multimodal, case-based **small group learning**
- **Compassionate**, accessible faculty mentors
- **Hands-on experiences** in clinical settings
- **Practical experience** through international learning opportunities
- Opportunities for **student leadership** and service in surrounding communities
- **Two locations:** Health Professions Building in Winchester, Virginia and Scholar Plaza in Loudoun County, Virginia

Our nationally recognized program offers two site locations:

- **Health Professions Building in Winchester, Virginia**, where you can study in the scenic and historic Shenandoah Valley
- **Scholar Plaza in Loudoun County, Virginia**, where you can immerse yourself in the dynamic, suburban lifestyle of Northern Virginia, near Washington, D.C.

Reputation for Excellence

The PA program is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top programs in the nation. Our renowned faculty members enjoy local and national reputations, and many serve in leadership roles in state and national organizations. Graduates experience strong placement rates and typically score above the national average on the national certification exam.

Curriculum Prepares You for Practice

Shenandoah provides an integrated, case-based curriculum focused on critical thinking and high-quality patient care. You'll benefit from mobile technologies that enhance learning, while small classes and faculty mentors create a close-knit, supportive learning environment that prepares you for professional practice. You'll learn in an interprofessional environment as a member of a collaborative health care team.

Opportunities to Gain International Practice Experience

Through international learning experiences, you'll gain opportunities to apply what you've learned in practical, real-world settings. Working with faculty members, physicians and fellow students, you'll provide invaluable medical services as part of an interprofessional team that makes a difference to underserved populations.

"I initially chose SU because it was ranked highly on a national level for my program (PA), and I had family and friends who had lived in this area and said it was a great place to live. I ultimately decided on SU after interviewing for their PA program because of the compassion and love for their students demonstrated by the faculty."

— Hyrum Snell PA-S
Physician Assistant Studies '23

CONTACT US

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