PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Master of Medical Science
HISTORY OF THE PA PROFESSION

• Created to improve and expand healthcare

• Started in 1965 at Duke University (Dr. Stead)
  – Vietnam era medics returning to civilian life, well-trained

• 1 PA Program in 1965, today there are 239 & counting
  – Over 120,000 PA’s today

• Master’s degree is entry-level education with accreditation & certification processes in place
DEFINITION OF A PA

PAs are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient’s principal healthcare provider. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative.

PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

SOURCE: American Academy of PAs (AAPA)
2019 Statistics

U.S. News ➔
#3 for 100 Best Jobs
#1 for Best Health Care Job
PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

• Traditional practices:
  – Internal medicine
  – Primary care
  – Family medicine

• Subspecialties:
  – Surgery
  – Pediatrics
  – Women’s health
  – Emergency medicine

• Non-traditional:
  – Transplant
  – Neurosurgery
  – Critical care medicine

• Hospital-based:
  – Residency support
  – Hospitalist
The Tufts University School of Medicine

Physician Assistant Program
PRINCIPAL FACULTY

• Beth Buyea, DHSc, PA-C – Program Director

• Joseph Sansone, MS, PA-C – Associate Program Director, Director of Clinical Education

• Rosanne Washington, MHS, PA-C – Director of Didactic Education

• Jeanine Carlson, MD – Medical Director

• Mark Freedman, MHP, PA-C – Principal Faculty

• Mercedes Colangelo, MPH, PA-C – Principal Faculty
MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote human health by providing excellent education to future physician assistants so that they are prepared to become integral members of the health care team. We fulfill this mission in a dynamic learning environment that emphasizes rigorous fundamentals, innovative delivery of the curriculum, and compassionate care to diverse patient populations. Our graduates will be prepared to participate in all aspects of the health care continuum, including disease management, health promotion and maintenance, and palliative care.
PROGRAM STATUS

• The TUSM PA Program has received **Accreditation-Continued** status by the Accreditation Review Commission for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)
  - Next validation review of the program will be March 2026

• Our sixth class (Class of 2020) of 50 students is currently in its clinical year and our seventh class (Class of 2021) of 50 students started the didactic year in January

• We will be enrolling another 50* students in January 2020
Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination
Five Year First Time Taker Summary Report

Program Name: Tufts University School of Medicine PA Program
Program Number: 6020
Report Date: 03-12-2019

Definitions of the report headings are provided at the end of the report.
All information is current as of the date the report was generated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class Graduation Year</th>
<th>Number of First Time Takers</th>
<th>Program First Time Taker Pass Rate</th>
<th>National First Time Taker Pass Rate for the Class Graduation Year</th>
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<td>Class of 2019</td>
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Five Year First Time Taker Average Pass Rate for Program: 100%
Five Year National First Time Taker Average: 96%
GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT RATE

• 6 months out → 95-100%

• Class of 2019 on track

• Over 50% work in MA

Figure shows results for app cycle 2019
SOURCE OF MATRICULATED STUDENTS

Figure shows results for CO2015--CO2022
WHY TUFTS?

• Part of the mission of the Medical School
  – Over 100 years of training clinicians

• Diverse curriculum and clinical resources
  – Student-focused education
  – Dedicated faculty

• Interprofessional experience
  – Medical School
  – Dental School
The M&V Building

PA OFFICE

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Tufts School of Medicine
STUDENT MEETING & STUDY AREAS
NEW GROSS ANATOMY LAB
Students are given a myriad of mock clinical situations
Students treat robotic patients
Students critique themselves and identify areas in need of improvement
Simulated cases mimic actual clinical scenarios from common to rare clinical cases
Helps link student training with clinical experience
Designed to enhance patient safety and the quality of care
DIDACTIC YEAR
CURRICULUM

• All courses are taken within the PA Program

• Attendance of all classes is mandatory

• You cannot transfer coursework taken elsewhere

• Need to be successful to continue to the next semester
  – Course grade of B- or better
  – GPA of 3.0
# FIRST YEAR COURSES

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<th>SEMESTER ONE</th>
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<td>JAN</td>
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PEER PRACTICE- Philosophy

• Practice your exam skills on fellow students who will then practice on you
• Learning what is like to be a patient as well as a clinician
• Some invasive procedures you will practice:
  • Phlebotomy (blood drawing)
  • Intradermal, subcutaneous and intramuscular injections
  • Peripheral intravenous lines
  • Casting & splinting

• Exemptions from procedures for medical reasons only
# SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>PA 235 Primary Care I Prof.</td>
<td>PA 215 Physical Diagnosis I</td>
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# FIRST YEAR SCHEDULE

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### Orientation Spring Summer Fall Finals PackRat Exam Clinical Orientation Holidays Snow Day

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CLINICAL YEAR

Month-long blocks

- Inpatient Internal Medicine
- Family Medicine/Ambulatory Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Surgery
- Behavioral medicine
- Women’s Health
- Emergency Medicine
- Orthopedics

- Selective - Inpatient Medicine
- Selective - Ambulatory Medicine
- Elective
CLINICAL AFFILIATIONS

• Drawn from TUSM and Tufts Medical Center affiliates and other major academic medical centers, community hospitals & private practices

• Dedicated to teaching & interested in academic medicine

• Potential for employment

• Most within 60 miles of downtown Boston

• You must have use of a car for the program!
**Major Clinical Affiliates**

- Beth Israel Deaconess
- Beverly Hospital
- Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Cambridge Health Alliance
- Lahey Hospital and Medical Center
- Lemuel Shattuck Hospital
- Lowell General Hospital
- MetroWest Medical Center
- South Shore Hospital
- Tufts Medical Center
Core rotations are usually within about 60 miles of Boston.
# SECOND YEAR SCHEDULE

## CLINICAL YEAR 2020-2021

### JANUARY 2020

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### AUGUST 2020

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### SEPTEMBER 2020

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### OCTOBER 2020

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**Individual rotation schedules are to be determined by the clinical preceptor on site.**

**AAPA Conference - May 16 - 20**
Preceptor and Clinical Coordinator must grant permission for student to attend

*Calendar is subject to change*
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

• GPA of 3.0 or better
• Successful completion of all clinical rotations
• Pass a comprehensive written examination
• Successfully complete an Objective Simulated Clinical Examination
• Complete and pass your Capstone Project
• Demonstrate professional performance
COMBINED PA/MPH Degree Program

• Students will graduate with two Master’s degrees: a Master of Medical Science (MMS-Physician Assistant Program) and a Master of Public Health (MPH)

• MPH year one (includes completing the Applied Learning Experience)
APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

“Perspectives on HIV Knowledge, Understanding, and Barriers to Therapy Adherence at Kopanong Hospital, Gauteng Province, South Africa”

“Donor Breast Milk Consumption Amongst Premature Neonates: A Quality Improvement, Quality Assurance Analysis of Feeding Trends in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit”

“The Opioid Epidemic on Nantucket: A Qualitative Analysis”
PA/MPH Overview

• **Year 1/MPH Year**- MPH credits to be completed in 12 months starting in January. Students must be in good academic standing in MPH program to proceed into the PA Program.

• **Year 2/PA Didactic Year**

• **Year 3/PA Clinical Year**
Admissions to PA/MPH Program

• In order to apply, you must apply through the PA Program via CASPA and indicate your intent to apply to the PA/MPH program on the application (you do not need to apply to both programs separately)

• Applicants for the combined program will defer their acceptance into the PA Program by one year

• Once you have applied to a degree path, you cannot change to the other if admitted.
BECOMING AN ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE

- Academic prerequisites
- Undergraduate record
- Direct patient care experience
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or MCATs
- References

These requirements are subject to change for future admission cycles.
ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES

• Bachelor’s degree in any area from an accredited institution

• Required:
  – Human Anatomy (1 semester for science majors)
  – Human Physiology (1 semester for science majors)
  – General Biology (2 semesters with labs)
  – General Chemistry (2 semesters with labs)
  – Microbiology (1 semester with lab)
  – Statistics (1 semester)

• Strongly Recommended:
  – Psychology
  – Biochemistry
  – Medical terminology (accepted students must complete before matriculating)

If taken as a combined course, 2 semesters are still required
UNDERGRADUATE RECORD

• Required Science and Prerequisite GPA of 3.0
  – Ideal minimum: at least a 3.2

• All prerequisites must be:
  – taken within 10 years of applying to the program
  – completed before submitting an application

• Required science prerequisites are recommended to be:
  – taken in a traditional, face-to-face fashion (on-line courses will be considered)
  – for science majors so they have sufficient breadth and depth

• Statistics may be taken within any discipline
UNDERGRADUATE RECORD (cont.)

- Courses from 2- and 4-year institutions, including IB course work are acceptable; academic rigor is considered.

- Advanced placement courses do not fulfill prerequisites - all prerequisites must be taken at the undergraduate or graduate level.

- If a prerequisite course is over 10 years old- you do not need to retake a course -a higher level course can fulfill a prerequisite and at least one lab within 10 years is required.

- ACE courses do not fulfill prerequisites.
DIRECT PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE

• Ideal >1500 hours; minimum 1000 hours completed before submitting an application

• Quality of the experience is most important
  – Highlight details of the experience in CASPA, to be corroborated by a supervisor’s reference letter

• Volunteer experience will be assessed on a case-by-case basis

• Training or internship hours cannot be counted

• PA Shadowing, while important, cannot be counted toward required hrs
PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCES

• Strong Patient Care Experiences require “hands-on” activities such as taking vitals, evaluating/triaging patients, bed side care, drawing blood, obtaining EKGs, etc.

• Examples:
  - Nurse
  - Dental hygienist
  - EMT or paramedic
  - Veterinary technician
  - Physical therapist
  - Respiratory therapist
  - ED technician
  - Patient care assistant
  - CNA
  - Nutritionist
  - Medical technologist
  - Other

• Experience opportunities can be found in nursing homes, ERs, hospitals, community health centers or private physician offices.
GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE)

• Must be taken within 5 years of applying
• GRE Code for Tufts PA Program - 0438
• MCATs may be substituted in lieu of GREs
• No preference - if neither taken, GRE is recommended
• No defined minimum score - competitive applicants have overall GRE scores above the 50th percentile and MCAT scores of above 26 if < Jan. 2015 (500 if > Jan. 2015)- will be weighed against other candidates
• Will not be waived if you have a master’s degree
REFERENCES

• Recommended references
  – Supervisor during your patient care experience
  – A professional (medical) colleague or PA who knows you well
  – Academic reference (college advisor or pre-med committee letter acceptable) or another clinician or supervisor

• Should attest to your clinical experience and ability to work in the health care field at a high level

• A committee letter will count as only one recommendation

• Letters from shadowing experience not accepted
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

• Application in CASPA opens **April 2020 (TBA)**

• Admission requirements - [http://medicine.tufts.edu/paprogram](http://medicine.tufts.edu/paprogram)

• Create an account on CASPA

• Request official transcript(s), GRE Score(s), references

• Upload resume to CASPA

• Complete the Patient Care Document and upload to CASPA
  (Qualtrics link to document is in CASPA)
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

• TUSM PA Program has a “Green” deadline, August 1, 2020

• Green Deadline means an application is “verified-by” the deadline

• Applicants should aim to have all items submitted by July 1, 2020 in order to meet the “verified-by” deadline of August 1, 2020.
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

CASPA Requirements:

• Application e-submitted in CASPA and application fee paid
  • Should include resume/CV and Patient Care document

• All official transcripts received by CASPA (May 2020 graduates: submit your transcript with application to meet first deadline then resend new transcript with degree conferral date to CASPA later, if necessary – even if it will be after July 1st)

• Minimum of two letters of recommendation received by CASPA (Note: Tufts requires three)
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

The following needs to be received by CASPA to meet Tufts’ requirements:

• 3rd letter of recommendation
• Official GRE/MCAT Scores
• TOEFL (if required)

No outstanding/incomplete application materials are allowed upon submission or after application deadline.
WHAT IS A COMPLETE APPLICATION?

- CASPA Application
- Official Transcript/s (all undergraduate and graduate)
- References (3)
- GRE Scores OR MCAT Scores
- Resume uploaded to CASPA
- Patient Care Document uploaded to CASPA
- TOEFL Scores (if applicable)
AFTER YOU SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

• CASPA will verify transcripts and send to Tufts PA Admissions
• Tufts PA Admissions Office will verify completeness and send to PA Admissions Committee
• Interviews (June – September)
  — Invitations for interviews will be emailed
  — Interview Day will include a presentation, student-led tour, and two individual interviews with faculty and alumni
  — Anticipate interviewing 150 candidates for 50 seats
  — Meeting minimum admission requirements does not guarantee an interview or admission to the program
• Admission decisions will be delivered via an email
## FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

### MPH Cost

The tuition for the MPH portion of the PA/MPH combined degree is **$30,624**

### PA Program Cost*

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<tr>
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<th>YEAR ONE**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition*</td>
<td>$48,930</td>
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<td>Student activity fee*</td>
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<td>Student health administration fee*</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<td>Technology fee*</td>
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<td>Student health insurance fee*</td>
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<td>Disability fee*</td>
<td>$69</td>
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<td>Textbooks/Medical Equipment</td>
<td>$1,875.00</td>
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<td>Laptop computer</td>
<td>$1500-2000</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<td>Room &amp; board</td>
<td>$18,900</td>
<td>$20,475</td>
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<td>Personal</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
<td>$2,649</td>
<td>$6,455</td>
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<td>Criminal background checks</td>
<td>$50</td>
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* Tuition and fees are adjusted annually. These are FY2020 costs.
PA Program Students
### Characteristics of Recently Matriculated Class

**Total Students = 50**

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<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Average Age</th>
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<td>28%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>25 (22-35)</td>
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<th>Residency</th>
<th>MA</th>
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<td>52%</td>
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<th>Mean GPA</th>
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<td>62\textsuperscript{nd} percentile</td>
<td>74\textsuperscript{th} percentile</td>
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<tr>
<th>Mean PCE Hours</th>
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Undergraduate Majors

- Aerospace Engineering
- Accounting
- Allied Health
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Athletic Training
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biomedical Science
- Business
- Chemistry
- Communication
- Criminology/Legal studies
- Dietetics
- Economics
- Engineering
- English
- Environmental Studies
- Exercise Science
- Fine Arts
- Government
- Health Policy and Management
- Health Sciences
- History
- Human Development
- Kinesiology
- Marketing
- Mathematics
- Microbiology
- Neuropsychology
- Neuroscience
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Philosophy
- Physiology
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Radiology
- Religion
- Sociology
- Spanish

and many more...
Direct Patient Care Experiences

- EMT/Paramedic
- MA, NA, LNA, CNA
- Research
- International health work
- Phlebotomist
- Emergency Room Technician
- Patient Care Technician
- Stress Test Technician
- Home Health Aide
- Clinical Care Technician
- Personal Care Assistant
- Medical Officer
- Optometric Assistant
- Dental Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Dermatology Technician
Getting Around the Area

• Public transportation
  – Subway: Tufts Medical Center (Orange line) and South Station (Red line) is a 5-10 minute walk from campus
  – Buses: Silver line buses from TMC and South Station, and local bus service
  – Commuter Rail: South Station

• Personal vehicle
  – Student parking access

• Bicycle

• Walk

• Uber
Where do students live?

- Allston
- Boston
- Brighton
- Brookline
- Cambridge
- Charlestown
- Chestnut Hill
- Danvers
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- East Freetown
- Georgetown
- Gloucester
- Jamaica Plain
- Malden
- Medford
- Needham
- Plymouth
- Quincy
- Randolph
- Revere
- Sandwich
- Somerville
- South Boston
- Taunton
- Tewksbury
- Upton
- Waltham
- Watertown
- Wellesley
- West Roxbury
- Wethersfield
- Weymouth
- Wrentham
A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE - Workload

• A typical day and week:
  29 hours per week of class
  4 hours studying/night
  1.3 hour rounds/week
  1.6 hours group projects/week

• Community Service
  40 hours required in the first year
  1.3 hour of community service/week
  1 hours Sharewood/week

• Is the workload what you expected?
  29% A little less
  57% Exactly as expected
  14% A little more
A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE
Life Outside of School

- Farmers markets: Local and Haymarket
- Exploring Boston: SoWa market, Newbury Street, North End, festivals
- Breweries (Trillium, SlumBrew, Aeronaut, Nightshift, Sam Adams, Harpoon)
- Food: restaurants, BBQs, food trucks
- Within 60 miles of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Western MA
- Volunteering
  - Sharewood
  - Barbara McInnis
  - Pine Street Inn
- Access to outdoors: running, walking, hiking, kayaking, bicycling
  - Charles River/Esplanade
  - Arnold Arboretum
  - Middlesex Fells Reservation
  - Harbor Islands
- Weekly yoga
- Museums: MFA, Museum of Science, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Natural History Museum, and more
- Sports fans
  - Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, Revolution
  - College sports
Where are they now?

Our graduates have gone on to work at various locations throughout the country.

Figure shows results for CO2015--CO2018
Q&A Time

PA Admissions contact: med-phpd@tufts.edu

PA Program contact: paprogram@tufts.edu

TUSM Financial Aid Office: med-finaid@tufts.edu

PA Program Website: http://medicine.tufts.edu/paprogram