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 300+
• Over 140,000 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)
Job Forecast

PA Profession in the News

#3 Best 100 Jobs List
US News & World Report 2020

#2 Best Healthcare Jobs List
US News & World Report 2020

#7 Highest Paying Jobs In America
Forbes 2019

#5 Fastest Growing Jobs In America
Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019
Where do you find PAs?

PAs practice in every work setting

- 37% - Hospital
- 5% - Urgent Care Center
- 4% - Other*
- 54% - Outpatient Office or Clinic

2020 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.

PAs practice medicine in all specialties

- 21.1% - Primary Care
- 12.4% - Internal Medicine Subspecialties
- 9.5% - Emergency Medicine
- 1.5% - Pediatric Subspecialties
- 26.9% - Other*
- 28.7% - Surgical Subspecialties

2020 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.
The Tufts University School of Medicine

Physician Assistant Program
LEADERSHIP

• Beth Buyea, DHSc, PA-C – Program Director
• Joseph Sansone, MS, PA-C – Associate Program Director
• Rosanne Washington, MHS, PA-C – Director of Didactic Education
• Scott Epstein, MD – Medical Director

CORE FACULTY

• Mark Freedman, MHP, PA-C – Principal Faculty
• Mercedes Colangelo, MPH, PA-C – Principal Faculty
• Haili Dunbar, PA-C – Principal Faculty
• Rayne Loder, MHS, PA-C – Principal Faculty
Our Mission

...to educate a diverse body of students who will learn to participate in all aspects of the health care continuum, including disease prevention and management, health promotion and maintenance, and end of life care.

As patient advocates, they will be integral members of the health care team, improving access to care for all populations and across all communities they serve.
Program Values

We fulfill this mission with a commitment to the following values:

• Competence
• Humanism
• Cultural humility
• Professionalism
• Social responsibility
Program Competencies

- Patient-centered Practice Knowledge Competency (PCPK)
- Society and Population Health Competency (SPH)
- Health Literacy and Communication Competency (HLC)
- Professional and Legal Aspects of Health Care Competency (PLAHC)
- Health Care Finance and Systems Competency (HCFS)
- Interprofessional Collaborative Practice and Leadership Competency (ICPL)
- Self-assessment and Ongoing Professional Development Competency (SAPD)
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
  • Physical Therapy Program
CURRICULUM

• All courses are taken within the PA Program

• Class attendance is expected

• Need to be successful to continue to the next semester
  • Course grade of B- or better
  • GPA of 3.0
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER ONE</th>
<th>SEMESTER TWO</th>
<th>SEMESTER THREE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>MAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine I</td>
<td>Internal Medicine II</td>
<td>Internal Medicine III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care I</td>
<td>Primary Care II</td>
<td>Primary Care III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Anatomy I</td>
<td>Clinical Anatomy II</td>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology I</td>
<td>Pharmacology II</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Diagnosis I</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis II</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Medicine</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Practice</td>
<td>Women's Health</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Principles of Electrocardiography*</td>
<td>Phys &amp; Occ Med*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Physiology</td>
<td>Emergency Med I*</td>
<td>Emergency Med II*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging*</td>
<td>Procedures Workshop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = half semester course
PEER PRACTICE-Philosophy

• Practice your exam skills on fellow students who will then practice on you

• Learning what it is like to be a patient as well as a clinician

• Some minimally invasive procedures you will practice:
  • Phlebotomy (blood drawing)
  • Intradermal, subcutaneous and intramuscular injections
  • Peripheral intravenous lines
  • Casting & splinting
### Typical Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>PA 213</strong> Professional Practice&lt;br&gt;Prof. Buyea&lt;br&gt;No Class: Jan 18, Feb 15, April 19</td>
<td><strong>PA 203</strong> Internal Medicine I&lt;br&gt;Dr. Carlson</td>
<td><strong>PA 203</strong> Internal Medicine I&lt;br&gt;Dr. Carlson</td>
<td><strong>PA 215</strong> Physical Diagnosis I Lab&lt;br&gt;Group 1&lt;br&gt;Prof. Freedman&lt;br&gt;8-9:45pm</td>
<td><strong>PA 201</strong> Clinical Anatomy I&lt;br&gt;Dr. Johansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>PA 208</strong> Medical Physiology&lt;br&gt;Prof. Olgun/Danelsen&lt;br&gt;No Class: Jan 18, Feb 15, April 19</td>
<td><strong>PA 215</strong> Physical Diagnosis I Lecture&lt;br&gt;Prof. Freedman</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PA 235</strong> Primary Care I&lt;br&gt;Prof. Washington/Faculty&lt;br&gt;10:11-45am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>PA 201</strong> Behavioral Medicine&lt;br&gt;Dr. Gabriel Tobia&lt;br&gt;No Class: Jan 18, Feb 15, April 19</td>
<td><strong>PA 201</strong> Clinical Anatomy I&lt;br&gt;Dr. Johansen&lt;br&gt;1:30-2:20pm Group 1&lt;br&gt;2:30-3:20pm Group 2&lt;br&gt;3:30-4:20pm Group 3 Asynchronous 50min lecture for all groups</td>
<td><strong>PA 206</strong> Pharmacology I&lt;br&gt;Dr. Aboujaly</td>
<td><strong>PA 215</strong> Physical Diagnosis I Lab&lt;br&gt;Group 3&lt;br&gt;Prof. Freedman&lt;br&gt;1-2:45pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>PA 218</strong> Nutrition&lt;br&gt;Prof. Kane</td>
<td><strong>PA 218</strong></td>
<td><strong>PA 215</strong> Physical Diagnosis I Lab&lt;br&gt;Group 2&lt;br&gt;Prof. Freedman&lt;br&gt;10:11-45am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50 AM</td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peds Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Medical Grand Rounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Year
CLINICAL ROTATIONS – 11 total

CORES
• Inpatient Internal Medicine
• Family Medicine
• Pediatrics
• Surgery
• Behavioral medicine
• OB/GYN
• Emergency Medicine
• Orthopedics

Additional Rotations
• Selective - Inpatient Medicine
• Selective - Ambulatory Medicine
• Elective
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
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
• Meet all Program Competencies
• 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)

- 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
"Improving Preventive Health Screening and Treatment in Patients with Opiate Use Disorder"

"COVID-19 and Addiction Treatment: An Assessment of the Quality and Efficacy of Telehealth Practices for Addiction Services in an Outpatient Opiate Treatment Program"

"Improving Food Access at Food Pantries in San Diego, CA"
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.

- Once you have applied to a degree path, you cannot change to the other if admitted.

- Applicants for the combined program will defer their acceptance into the PA Program by one year.
BECOMING AN ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE

1. Academic prerequisites
2. Undergraduate record
3. Direct patient care experience
4. References

*These requirements are subject to change for future admission cycles
# 1. Academic Prerequisites

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

- **Required (within 10 years):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th># of Semesters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Biology (Bio I/Bio II) with lab</td>
<td>2 semesters or 3 trimesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Chemistry (Chem I/II) with lab</td>
<td>2 semesters or 3 trimesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology (separate or AP I/AP II)</td>
<td>2 semesters or 3 trimesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology with lab</td>
<td>1 semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>1 semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Strongly Recommended:**
  - Psychology
  - Biochemistry
  - Medical terminology (accepted students must complete before matriculating)
2. 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
  • A grade of C or better

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

• Statistics may be taken within any discipline
3. DIRECT PATIENT CARE

- 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
3. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Role 1</th>
<th>Role 2</th>
<th>Role 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Physical Therapist</td>
<td>CNA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory therapist</td>
<td>Nutritionist</td>
<td>EMT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED technician</td>
<td>Medical Assistant</td>
<td>Patient care assistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Research Assistant</td>
<td>Paramedic</td>
<td>Phlebotomist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Experience opportunities can be found in nursing homes, ERs, hospitals, community health centers or private physician offices.
4. 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

• An additional letter from shadowing experience can be submitted as a fourth letter
  • It cannot be used to complete the required 3 letters of reference
GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE)

• The GRE examination is test optional for the 2022 cycle
  • If applicants would like us to consider their exam results as a component of their candidacy, we will do so in a contextual way.
  • If students choose not to submit exam results, the application will not be penalized.

• If you choose to take the GRE exam, it must be taken within 5 years of applying
• GRE Code for Tufts PA Program - 0438
• MCATs may be substituted in lieu of GREs
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

• CASPA Application: 2022 application opening date late April ➔ exact date still pending
• Admission requirements - http://medicine.tufts.edu/paprogram
• Create an account on CASPA once it opens
• 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, 2022

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

• Applicants should aim to have all items submitted by July 1, 2022 in order to meet the “verified-by” deadline of August 1, 2022.
  • It can take CASPA up to 4 weeks to verify your application
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 2022 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 to be complete)
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

• The following needs to be received by CASPA to meet Tufts’ requirements:
  
  • 3rd letter of recommendation
  • Official GRE/MCAT Scores (if submitting)
  • TOEFL (if required)

• No outstanding/incomplete application materials are allowed after final application deadline of August 2022
WHAT IS A COMPLETE APPLICATION

1. CASPA Application
2. Prerequisites complete at time of submission
3. Official Transcript/s (all undergraduate and graduate)
4. References (3)
5. Resume uploaded to CASPA
6. Patient Care Document uploaded to CASPA
7. TOEFL Scores (if applicable)
8. GRE Scores or MCAT Scores (if submitting)
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 Q&A, and two individual interviews with faculty and alumni (*in-person vs virtual to be determined*)
  - Anticipate interviewing 180 candidates for 50 seats
  - Meeting minimum admission requirements does not guarantee an interview or admission to the program
FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

**PA Program Cost**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition*</td>
<td>$51,912</td>
<td>$51,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees*</td>
<td>$623</td>
<td>$629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>$6,538</td>
<td>$5,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Equipment &amp; textbooks</td>
<td>$1,875</td>
<td>$775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop Computer</td>
<td>$1,500 – 2,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room &amp; Board (Off Campus)</td>
<td>$20,340</td>
<td>$22,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2,696</td>
<td>$6,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
<td>$3,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Background Checks</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MPH Cost**

The tuition for the MPH portion of the PA/MPH combined degree is **$32,502**

* Tuition and fees are adjusted annually. These are estimated FY2021-22 costs.
Our Students
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Recently Matriculated Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Students = 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Average Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25 (22-39)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residency</th>
<th>MA</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean GPA</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Mean PCE Hours | 3506 hours |
Direct Patient Care Experiences

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

- Andover
- Boston
- Brighton
- Brookline
- Burlington
- Cambridge
- Charlestown
- Chestnut Hill
- Danvers
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- East Freetown
- Everett
- Franklin
- Jamaica Plain
- Malden
- Medford

- Melrose
- Methuen
- Natick
- Newburyport
- Randolph
- Revere
- Salem
- Shrewsbury
- Somerville
- Stoneham
- Sudbury
- Wakefield
- Waltham
- Watertown
- West Roxbury
- Weymouth
- Winchester
Getting Around the Area

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

• Personal vehicle
  • Student parking access

• Bicycle
• Walk
• Uber
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 hour Sharewood/week

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

- 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

- Farmers markets: Local and Haymarket
- Exploring Boston: SoWa market, Newbury Street, North End, festivals
- Breweries (Trillium, 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
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