PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Master of Medical Science
PRINCIPAL FACULTY

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

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

• Jeanine Carlson, MD – Medical Director

• Robin Reed, MD – Principal Faculty

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

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

Only graduates of ARC-PA accredited programs are eligible to take the national board certification examination that leads to state licensure

Our sixth class of 50 students is currently in its clinical year and our seventh class of 50 students started the didactic year in January
**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:** 04-05-2018

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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2015</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2016</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2017</td>
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<td>98%</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2018</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Available in 2019</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Five Year First Time Taker Average Pass Rate for Program: 99%

Five Year National First Time Taker Average: 96%
GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

• Over 95% of the class employed 6 months after graduation

• Over 50% work in Massachusetts

• Other: New Mexico, Washington state, California, Utah, Maine, Colorado, Connecticut, Texas, Vermont, New Hampshire, Oregon, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island
SOURCE OF APPLICANTS

Figure shows results for app cycles 2016-2018
SOURCE OF MATRICULATED STUDENTS

Figure shows results for CO2015--CO2020
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

Ken Ferrell
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)
2018 Statistics

U.S. News ➔
#3 for 100 Best Jobs
#2 for Best Health Care Job
JOB GROWTH & FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

• US Department of Labor projects a 37% growth in need for PAs in the next 10 years

• Federal health plans include PAs as a major part of the workforce

• Many healthcare systems are looking at PAs as an economical alternative to physicians

• Other countries are adopting PAs into their healthcare models
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
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.
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
STUDENT SERVICES

- Financial Aid
- Counseling
- Tutoring
- Advising
- Fitness center
- Multicultural affairs
- Bookstore
- Student advisory & health administration
Sackler Building

STUDENT MEETING & STUDY AREAS
• 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
## DIDACTIC FACULTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Abourjaily, PharmD</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jalil Afnan, MD, MRCS</td>
<td>Lahey Hospital &amp; Medical Center</td>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Blaustein, MD</td>
<td>South Shore Hospital</td>
<td>Physical &amp; Occupational Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Brodeur, PhD</td>
<td>TUSM, School of Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Cormier, PA-C</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>ENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leah Cross, MS, CGC</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>Medical Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Dupee, MD</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>Geriatrics</td>
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<td>Kathleen Goreham, MS, MA, PA-C</td>
<td>Cambridge Health Alliance</td>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
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<td>Ken Hutchinson, PA-C</td>
<td>South Shore Hospital</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Jefferson, PhD</td>
<td>TUSM, School of Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Medical Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Lufler, PhD</td>
<td>TUSM, School of Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Clinical Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mihaela Marabis, PA-C</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alicia Powell, MD</td>
<td>Vin Fen Psychiatric Rehabilitation Division</td>
<td>Behavioral Medicine</td>
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# DIDACTIC FACULTY

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
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<tr>
<td>Krista Johansen, MD</td>
<td>TUSM, School of Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Clinical Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Leavis, PhD</td>
<td>TUSM, School of Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Medical Physiology</td>
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<td>Kelly Kane, MS, RD, LDN, CNSC</td>
<td>Jean Mayer HNRCA at Tufts University</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>Henry Klapholz, MD</td>
<td>TUSM, Medical Administration</td>
<td>Women’s Health</td>
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<td>Paul Leavis, PhD</td>
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<td>Megan Lee, PA-C</td>
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<td>Jennifer Patoulidis, PA-C</td>
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<td>Joyce Sanderson, MPAS, PA-C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen Shaughnessy, PharmD, M.Med ED, BCPS</td>
<td>TUSM, Family Medicine</td>
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<td>MaryAnn Volpe, MD</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center, Floating Hospital</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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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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<tr>
<th>SEMESTER ONE</th>
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<tr>
<td>JAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine I</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
PEER PRACTICE
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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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<td>PA 203 Internal Medicine I Dr. Carlson</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>PA 208 Medical Physiology</td>
<td>PA 235 Primary Care I Prof. Buyea/Faculty</td>
<td>PA 213 Professional Practice Prof. Murphy</td>
<td>PA 215 Physical Diagnosis I Lecture Prof. Freedman</td>
<td>PA 235 Primary Care I Prof. Buyea/Faculty</td>
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<td>Prof. Jefferson</td>
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<td>Prof. Leavis</td>
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<td>PA 235 Primary Care I Prof. Buyea/Faculty</td>
<td>PA 213 Professional Practice Prof. Murphy</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>No Class: Jan 15, Feb 19, April 16</td>
<td>PA 213 Professional Practice Prof. Murphy</td>
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<td>Ethics Rounds</td>
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<td>PA 210 Behavioral Medicine</td>
<td>PA 201 Clinical Anatomy I Lecture Dr. Johansen</td>
<td>PA 206 Pharmacology I Lab Prof. Freedman</td>
<td>PA 215 Physical Diagnosis I Lab Prof. Freedman</td>
<td>PA 218 Nutrition Prof. Kane</td>
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<td>Dr. Hanson</td>
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<td>PA 201 Clinical Anatomy I Lab Dr. Johansen</td>
<td>PA 206 Pharmacology I Lab Prof. Freedman</td>
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# FIRST YEAR SCHEDULE

## DIDACTIC YEAR 2019

### JANUARY 2019

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### FEBRUARY 2019

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### OCTOBER 2019

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### DECEMBER 2019

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**Dates:**
- Orientation: Spring, Summer, Fall
- Final Exams: PackRat Exam, Clinical Orientation I and II
- Holidays: Snow Day
CLINICAL YEAR
CLINICAL YEAR

Month-long blocks

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

• Selective - Inpatient Medicine
• Selective - Ambulatory Medicine
• Elective
CLINICAL ELECTIVES

• Selective:
  • Choose from a list of specialty opportunities in Ambulatory and Inpatient Medicine

• Elective:
  • Choose any of our standard electives in New England
  • Develop a new site in New England or beyond
  • Could be a bridge to employment
CLINICAL FACULTY

• Practicing clinicians (PAs, MDs, DOs, NPs)
• Real world experience
• All TUSM faculty
• Understand PA education and practice
• PA friendly environment
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.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY 2019</th>
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<th>MARCH 2019</th>
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Individual rotation schedules are to be determined by the clinical preceptor on site.

Call Back Day/EDR Exams | Simulation | Capstone | PACRAT Exam | OSCEs
Comprehensive Exam | Board Prep | Snow Day

AAPA Conference - May 18 - 22
Preceptor and Clinical Coordinator must grant permission for student to attend
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)

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

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

• Ideal minimum GPA/Prerequisite GPA: 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
• 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, bedside 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
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

• Application in CASPA opens **April 25, 2019**

• 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, 2019

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

• Applicants should aim to have all items submitted by July 1, 2019 in order to meet the “verified-by” deadline of August 1, 2019.
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 2019 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
  — 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

### PA Program Cost*

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<th>YEAR ONE**</th>
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<td>Student health admin fee*</td>
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<td>Technology fee*</td>
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<td>$3,900</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 2018-2019 costs.

### MPH Cost

The tuition for the MPH portion of the PA/MPH combined degree for currently $29,727.

12 months 13 months
### Characteristics of Recently Matriculated Class

Total Students = 50

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<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Average Age</th>
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<td>72%</td>
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<th>Residency</th>
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<th>Mean GPA</th>
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<td>60th percentile</td>
<td>72nd 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
- Arlington
- Assonet
- Boston
- Brighton
- Brockton
- Brookline
- Cambridge
- Charlestown
- Dorchester
- Georgetown
- Jamaica Plain
- Malden
- Medford
- Needham
- Newton
- Plymouth
- Quincy
- Saugus
- Somerville
- South Boston
- Taunton
- Tewksbury
- Wakefield
- Wellesley
- Westwood
- Wethersfield
- Winthrop
- Woburn
- 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