



UNM

SCHOOL of MEDICINE

*Family & Community Medicine
Physician Assistant Program*

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM





America's PAs contribute to better health for millions of patients across the country.

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*It's an exciting time to be a PA on a health care team!
We have an opportunity to make a difference for our
patients. It is so satisfying to know, at the end of the day,
that your work has true meaning to others.*

- KATHY JOHNSON, PA-C

WELCOME

The role of Physician Assistant (PA) was created in the 1960s to meet the demand for medical providers. Today, the demand is just as strong. Across the country over 100,000 Physician Assistants are helping to provide access to quality health care for patients. It is no wonder that the PA profession is projected to grow 30% by 2024. (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The University of New Mexico Physician Assistant Program admits caring people who want to impact the health of patients and communities. We value applicants who demonstrate a commitment to service and a desire to increase access to health care in rural and underserved New Mexico.

Application to the UNM PA Program is highly competitive. Look into the PA profession and PA programs early so that you are academically qualified and a strong candidate possessing hands-on patient care experience. Get ready to begin your rewarding career as a Physician Assistant.

THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Physician Assistants are nationally certified and state licensed to practice medicine.

PAs diagnose, treat and educate patients, and prescribe medication as a member of a health care delivery team. PAs practice in a comprehensive range of medical fields from primary care to cardiology to general and specialty surgical services.

PAs make a difference

PAs are proven to increase access to medical care, improve health outcomes, and increase patient satisfaction. Health care systems are changing, and meeting patients' needs is an important goal.

PAs are meeting the challenge every day.



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The multitude of clinical rotations through PA school definitely let me experience many different specialties such as dermatology, plastic surgery, internal medicine, OBGYN, etc. When I am ready to move on to another specialty, I am confident that the transition will be smooth.

- SASHA SOKOLOWSKI, PA CLASS OF 2014

A sound investment

In addition to being a rewarding career, Physician Assistants enjoy many benefits.

A PA degree is a focused program that gets you working in your field sooner and with less cost than a MD degree. UNM PAs receive a Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies and practice in every medical and surgical setting and specialty.

These health care professionals enjoy excellent job stability, earn competitive wages, and enjoy flexibility when choosing a health career after graduation.



Median Salary **\$93,800**

Median Bonus **\$ 5,000**

Receive Bonus **54.2%**

AAPA Salary Survey 2015



**84.1% of PAs would choose
their career over again.**

UNM PA PROGRAM - THE RIGHT CHOICE

You receive focused attention

You will travel your 27-month journey to becoming a Physician Assistant as part of a cohesive group of 17 students supported by our dedicated team of faculty who are practicing PA clinicians/educators.

You receive a quality education

The UNM ARC-PA accredited Physician Assistant Program is uniquely integrated with the UNM School of Medicine, which gives you additional access to resources, mentors, and nationally-recognized faculty. In fact, you will share your didactic learning, classroom, and laboratory experiences alongside first and second-year medical students.

Throughout your education you will learn in modern medical facilities including the Health Care Simulation Center and the anatomy lab. You will participate in a wide variety of hands-on learning including active prosection and simulated patient experiences.

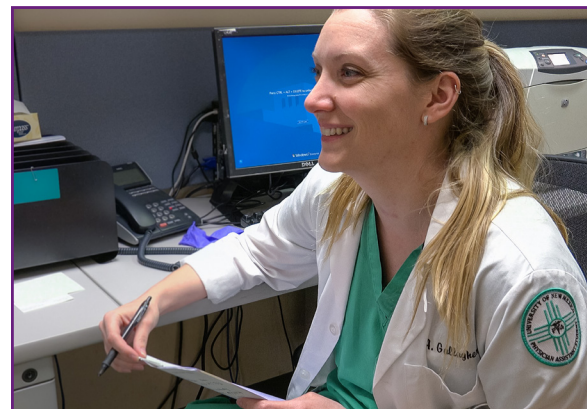
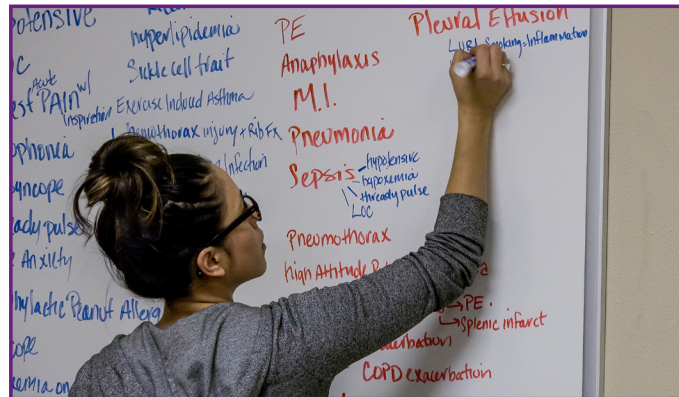
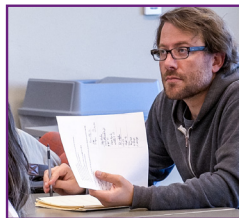
You will impact your community

Unless you choose to do an elective rotation elsewhere, your clerkship experiences will take place in New Mexico. Our focus on local practice helps keep the overall cost of your UNM PA education lower than other programs in the region.

Throughout nine full months of clinical rotations, you will gain hands-on experience with both large academic health center inpatient teams, and in rural settings where you and your preceptor will provide critical health care to underserved populations in our state.

Master's of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS)

At the end of your journey you will be ready to move forward with confidence. The UNM PA Program produces physician assistants who are highly successful in passing their PANCE certifying exam and securing a job upon graduation.



SEE IT NOW

As one of the fastest-growing professions, PAs were ranked the most promising job of 2015 by Forbes.com.



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Learning and working alongside the medical school students has also been an incredible experience – the mutual respect, collaboration, and support more than speaks for itself.

- KRISTIN CAPLAN, PA-S, PA CLASS OF 2016.

OUR STUDENTS

Academic Excellence

Average Math & Science GPA: 3.69

Average Overall GPA: 3.68

Average Health Care Hours: 6,094

Health care hours range: 578 – 50,100

Average GRE General Test Scores:

Verbal: 151

Quantitative: 150

Analytical: 3.9

Admissions

Applications: 350 - 400

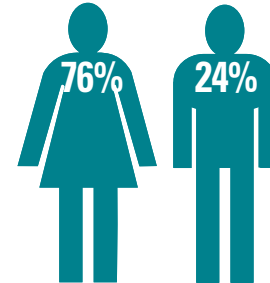
Interviewed: 51

Matriculated: 17 (per year)

Age

Students range from 22-57 years.

Average 28.7



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate degree

You must have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree in the field of your choice from an institution accredited by the Commission on Colleges of a Regional Accrediting Organization prior to application.

Typical majors are biology, chemistry and biochemistry. However, it is important you choose a degree that interests you, you excel in, and includes required prerequisite courses in your degree program.

Minimum GPA requirements

Our Admissions Committee closely examines your academic transcript for evidence that you are capable of successfully completing graduate-level work.

- 3.0 - Science & Math GPA
Calculated from pre-requisite science and math courses
- 3.0 - Overall GPA
Calculated from the most recent 60 credits

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

Official scores of the GRE within the last 5 years are directly reported from ETS to CASPA code 7347. We will not accept scores reported directly to UNM.

Required prerequisite courses

- General Biology/Molecular Cell Biology with lab*
- General Chemistry I & II with lab*
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II with lab*
- Statistics
- Psychology
- English - courses must be taken in U.S.

* Important Notes

The University of New Mexico Physician Assistant Program Admission Committee historically has required that all prerequisite courses be completed by August 1 of the application year. Though this remains preferable, beginning with the 2017 admissions cycle, applicants will be considered for admissions with one prerequisite course outstanding. This course must be completed with a B grade or better by December of the application year. Applicants chosen for admission, who do not complete the prerequisite course with the required grade, will forfeit their admissions status and will be required to reapply. Prerequisite courses denoted with an * must be completed within the last 10 years. Additionally, all prerequisite courses must be completed with grades of 'C' or better. Pass/Fail (CR/NC) grading and courses for which credit was awarded by examination only are not acceptable toward any of the prerequisite courses.

We strongly recommend that prerequisite science courses be limited to a maximum of two on-line courses. Under unique and special circumstances - active military deployment, living and working in a remote area that does not have a regionally accredited institution - we will consider, on a case-by-case basis, accepting more than two on-line courses.

Highly recommended courses

You can strengthen your application by completing one course (4 semester credit hours) from each of the seven highly recommended course categories listed below. All highly recommended courses must be taken within the last 10 years and must be completed with a grade of B- or better.

- Microbiology with lab or Virology
- Organic Chemistry with lab / Integrated Organic & Biochemistry
- Biochemistry / Biological Chemistry
- Genetics / Molecular Genetics / Molecular Cell Biology
- Immunology
- Nutrition
- Regional Language
(Spanish, Native Language, Vietnamese or Sign)

Volunteer experience

Community service and/or medical or non-medical cross cultural experiences strengthen your application.

Clinical experience

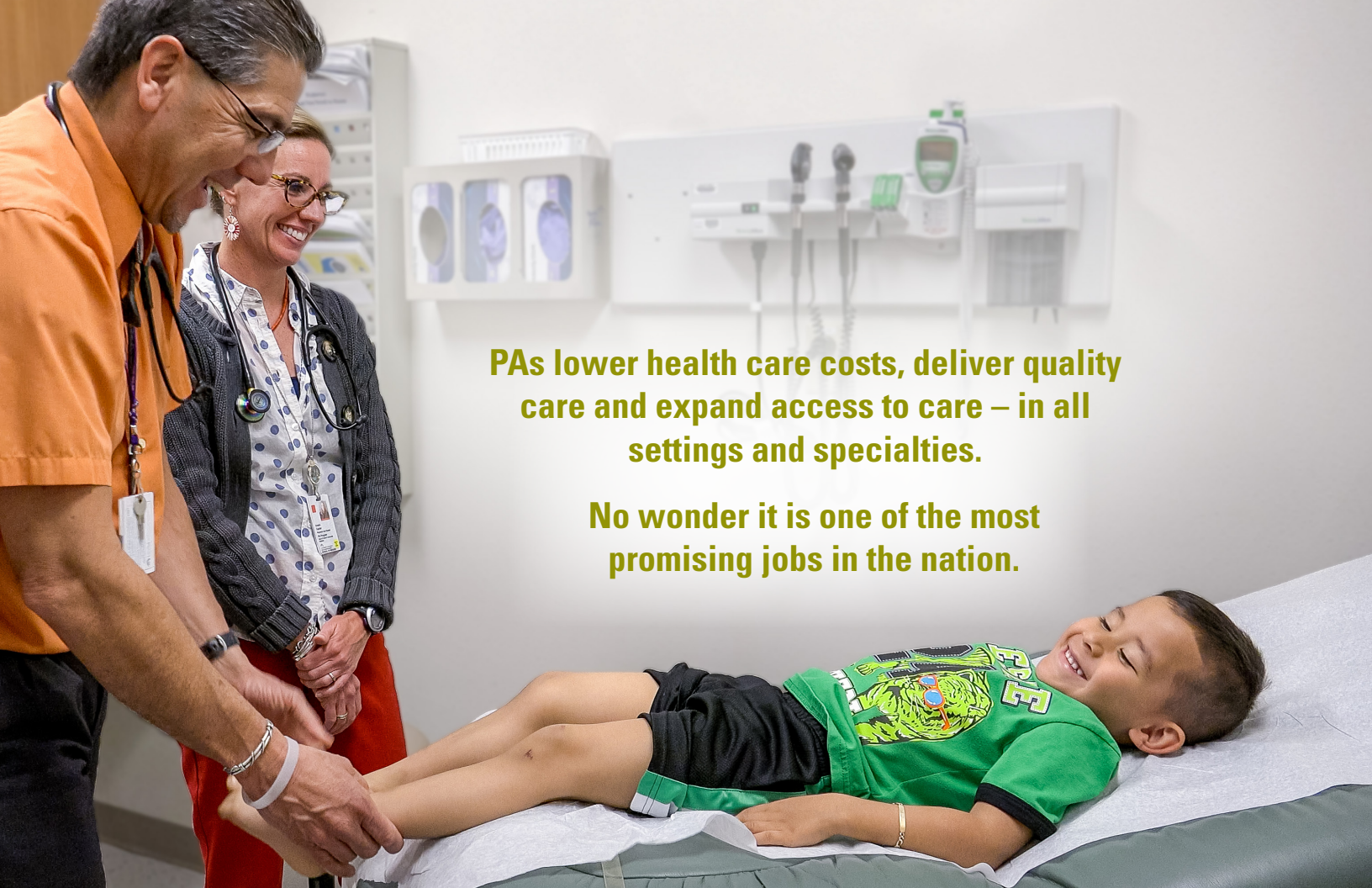
Competitive applicants are required to have a minimum of 500 hours* of direct patient care experience in either a patient care setting or a significant community care environment. Preference is given to applicants having experience that requires a period of training and results in direct (hands-on) patient care.

- Examples include: EMT, Paramedic, Registered Nurse, Medical Assistant, CNA, ER Tech, Physical Therapy Aide, Medical Scribe, Personal Care Provider.
- Hours associated with the completion of academic degrees, certifications, or training will not count.

*Must be completed no later than August 1 of the application year.

Letters of recommendation

You are required to submit a minimum of three letters of recommendation. We suggest that applicants submit one letter from a personal reference and two from clinicians (preferably an MD/DO or PA/NP) who have known you for six months or longer who can speak to your ability to be a PA; specifically, your clinical abilities, and your problem solving, critical thinking and interpersonal skills.



PAs lower health care costs, deliver quality care and expand access to care – in all settings and specialties.

No wonder it is one of the most promising jobs in the nation.

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UNM PA students are integrated with our medical students from the first days of their education. This means that they're comfortable learning together and practicing together after graduation.

- ART KAUFMAN, MD
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH
PROFESSOR OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY MEDICINE

TIMELINE

August 1 - CASPA application due

- **September** - Supplemental applications are emailed to qualified applicants
- **November** - Top 10-20% of applicants are invited for an interview
- **December** - 17 students are selected for the incoming class to begin the following June

QUESTIONS?

A PA Program Advisor is available to help you, answer your questions, and discuss details specific to your application. Schedule a phone or in-person appointment online.



[MAKE AN APPOINTMENT](#)



[VISIT OUR WEB SITE](#)

FINANCIAL AID

Program Tuition and Fees*

NM Residents \$51,885 | Non-residents \$77,032

* For the 27-month program, effective fall 2016.
All tuition and fees are subject to change annually by action of the UNM Board of Regents.

Make your appointment with UNM School of Medicine Financial Aid professionals for:

- federal financial aid
- federal direct student loans
- loan-for-service programs



[505.272.8008](tel:505.272.8008)



[VISIT OUR WEB SITE](#)



Physician Assistant Program

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