

EMORY UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
Physician Assistant Program

Emory University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program

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Comparison


Patient Care Options	MD/DO	Nurse Practitioner - NP	Physician Assistant - PA
<u>Average Annual Salary</u>	Primary Care \$220,000	\$129,000	\$134,000
Licensing	Independent, Supervises team under State Medical Board	Independent license under State Nursing Board	Licensed under physician supervision, under State Medical Board
Years Training	4 years College 4 years Medical School 3 - 4 years Residency 12 years total	4 years Nursing School 2 years NP program 6 years total Or any 4 yr degree + 1 yr accelerated RN Then 2 yr NP program ~7 year total	4 years College 2 - 2.5 years PA program 6 years total
Clinical Training	9 - 10,000 hours	800 - 1,000 hours	2,000 hours
Degree	Medical Doctor -MD or DO	Masters - now moving to Clinical Doctorate	Masters 100%
# programs	160 MD/38 DO	800 (1300 Online programs)	321 (28 post grad Doctoral)
Specialized certifications, tests	Yes, USMLE 1 and 2 then after residency Locked in specialty	Yes- Board exam, Specialized programs	Yes- Board exam, Can migrate specialties Not Anesthesia
Medical Model	Biomedical model	Biopsychosocial nursing model	Biomedical model

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MD vs. PA in 2025



MDs are not happy - Changes in Burnout and Satisfaction With Work-Life Balance Physicians - 54% have Burnout and Depression in 2025 [Wellness Report](#)



PA Happiness - Physician Assistants are 85% Happy about career choice [PA Job satisfaction](#)

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Career as a PA in 2026

100 Best Jobs

No single job tests all of us, but many of the best ones have a few attributes in common: They pay well, challenge us year after year, match our talents and skills, won't too stressful, offer room to advance throughout our careers, and provide a solid long-term future. Job seekers also often consider whether a position is in demand. US News used these qualities to rank the 100 Best Jobs of 2025. You can also explore the Best-Fitting Jobs and other more specific career rankings. For more information on how we rank, read the Best Jobs Methodology.



PA is #5 of top 100 US Jobs

Job Title	Median Salary	Education Needed
Information Security Analyst	\$124,910	Master's
Physician Assistant	\$133,260	Master's
Medical and Health Services Manager	\$117,980	Master's

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Career as a PA in 2026

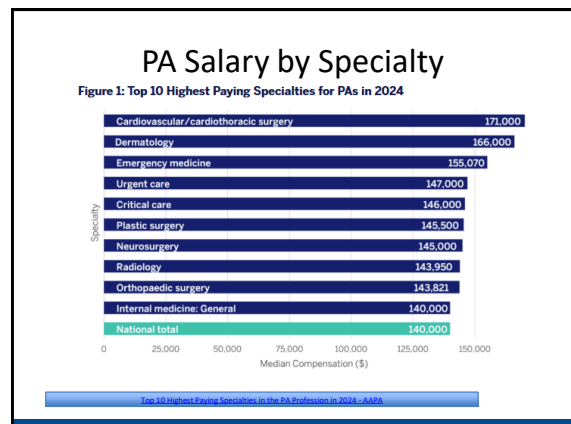
Physician Assistant overview

Overall Score 7.0 / 10

#2 in Best Health Care Jobs | #4 in Best STEM Jobs | #5 in 100 Best Jobs

Job Title	Median Salary	Education Needed
Nurse Practitioner	\$129,210	Masters
Physician Assistant	\$133,260	Masters

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PA Career



Working interdependently with physicians: History & physical exams, order & interpret studies (ECG, X-ray, CT, labs), assess & diagnose, perform procedures, assist in surgery, prescribing in all 50 states



Migratory: Change specialty without re-training (except anesthesia)



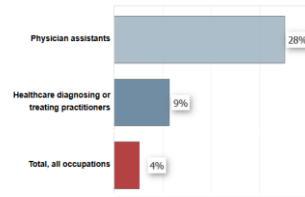
Other opportunities: Research, Administration, Public Health, Education, Leadership

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PA Job Growth

Physician Assistants

Percent change in employment, projected 2023-33



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

<https://www.bls.gov/osh/healthcare/physician-assistants.html#tab-6>

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2025 US PA Program Rankings - Emory is #8 out of 321 schools



- One of the first 6 PA programs in 1971
- Top ten ranking over several years
- Based in a large academic medical center

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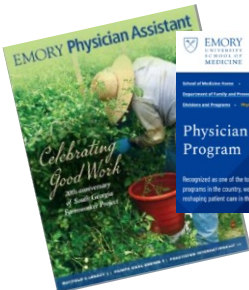
ARC-PA Accreditation until 2033

<https://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation/accredited-programs/>

GA	Augusta University	Continued	View	11/1/1973	Jun-29
GA	Brescia University	Functional	View	9/26/2020	Jun-23
GA	Emory University	Continued	View	9/1/1973	Mar-33
GA	Morehouse University	Continued	View	9/7/2007	Sep-27
GA	Morehouse School of Medicine	Functional	View	9/28/2018	Sep-23
GA	South University in Savannah	Continued	View	10/1/1997	Sep-25
IA	Des Moines University	Continued	View	4/1/1993	Sep-25
IA	Northwestern College	Functional	View	9/26/2019	Sep-24
IA	St. Ambrose University	Continued	View	3/7/2014	Mar-29
IA	University of Dubuque	Continued	View	3/12/2016	Mar-31
IA	University of Iowa	Continued	View	3/1/1973	Mar-33
ID	Idaho State University	Continued	View	4/1/1997	Mar-25

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Learn about #EmoryUnited



About Education Research Clinical Experience Entry Training Alumni & Life

Physician Assistant Program

Recognized as one of the top five Physician Assistant programs in the country, we're proud to lead the way in integrating patient care in the U.S.

www.EmoryPA.org

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Emory's Beginnings

- 1967: Inception as Cardiac Care Medical Specialist at Grady Memorial Hospital with J. Willis Hurst, MD
- 1971: 1 of 6 Degree-granting PA Programs Begins (BS Degree)
- 1973: First Graduating Class at Emory
- 1988: 1st Primary Care Masters Degree PA Program in US
- 2021: 50 Year Anniversary

[Emory History link](#)

Awards a Master of Medical Science Degree (MMSc)

Focus on patient-centered, team based medical practice and reaching underserved populations



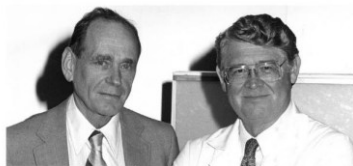
Eugene A. Stead
BS and MD from Emory University
Chairman, Emory Department of Medicine (1942-46)
Dean of School of Medicine (1945-46)
Started 1st PA Program at Duke in 1965

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Emory's Beginnings

1957 The Department Home Builder

Dr. J. Willis Hurst, a cardiologist and good friend of Dr. Eugene Stead, became the Chairman of the Department of Medicine in 1957 serving until 1986. Dr. Hurst was responsible for the creation of the predecessor of the Emory Physician Assistant Program, modeled after a program Dr. Stead had created at Duke. Dr. Hurst's program, initially a hospital-based cardiology specialty program, was located at Grady Memorial Hospital.



Dr. Eugene A. Stead and Dr. J. Willis Hurst

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Emory PA Program Mission

The Emory Physician Assistant Program recruits, educates, and mentors students to become highly regarded physician assistants providing compassionate health care of the highest quality.

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Emory PA Program Values

- We value the highest standards of professionalism and team-based medicine with a commitment to the medically underserved. Graduates are prepared to practice evidence-based primary care and preventive medicine and engage in lifelong learning.

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Emory PA Program Goals

- 1 Support students' journey to becoming well prepared, certified PAs by providing a high-quality, evidence-based curriculum and diverse clinical training opportunities.
- 2 Support the growth and sustainability of a strong, well-rounded student body by investing in recruitment, development, and retention strategies that attract individuals with varied perspectives and experiences.
- 3 Promote opportunities for community engaged learning, service, and outreach to underserved populations.

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Emory Application Requirements

Any Baccalaureate degree from regionally accredited institution. Applicants graduating from international institution must have min of 24 semester credits as a full-time student at a US or Canadian regionally accredited institution.

A cumulative and total science GPA of 3.0/4.0

NO GREs, PCAT, CASPER or other tests required

CASPA & Supplemental Applications (\$70.00 fee)

Applicants must meet the Emory PA Program Technical Standards

Minimum of 2000 hours **direct patient care** experience at time of application submission

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Prerequisite Courses

- Statistics - 3 semester credits
- Natural sciences - min 23 semester credits or 34.5 quarter hours – **Can be online courses**
 - Biology with lab - 4 semester/6 quarter hours
 - General Chemistry with lab(s) - 8 semester/12 quarter hours
 - Organic or biochemistry, not a survey course - 3 semester/5 quarter hours
 - Anatomy & Physiology (I and II) - 8 semester/12 quarter hours

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Best Bachelors Degrees for PA Healthcare Experience

- Nursing – RN – Opens NP or PA as a choice
- Respiratory Therapy
- Radiology –Ultrasound Tech
- Clinical Dietician
- Surgical Tech
- Public Health: Health educator
- Biomedical Engineering
- Medical Laboratory Science



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Applications for Class of 2027

Applicants on CASPA

- **Total Applicants** 2864
- **Total Completed** 1558
- **Interviews** 214 over 18 zoom MMI sessions
- **Dual Degree** 6 for class of 2027 1 for Class of 2028
- **Total Class Size** 55



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Class of 2025 vs. 2026 vs. 2027

Class of 2025

of students 53
Male 15%, Female 85%
Advanced Degree = 4%
Dual Degree MPH-PA = 3
Veterans = 1%
Average age: 25.2 (22 – 41)
GPA
Total 3.80
Science 3.80
Health Care Experience 5,462 hrs
(Range 2000 – 33,000)
Humanitarian vol. 1,031 hrs
(Range 49 – 9,514)

Class of 2026

of students 57
Male 19%, Female 81%
Advanced Degree = 9%
Dual Degree MPH-PA = 0 (7 for 2027)
Veterans = 4%
Average age: 24.3 (21 – 33)
GPA
Total 3.80
Science 3.80
Health Care Experience 4,192 hrs
(Range 2105 – 12,732)
Humanitarian vol. 815 hrs
(Range 24 – 4,686)

Class of 2027

of students 55
Male 11%, Female 89%
Advanced Degree = 11%
Dual Degree MPH-PA = 7 (1 for 2028)
Veterans = 4%
Average age: 24.6 (22 – 36)
GPA
Total 3.70
Science 3.60
Health Care Experience 5,199 hrs
(Range 2100 – 13,910)
Humanitarian vol. 644 hrs
(Range 0 – 3,184)

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Health Care Experience



MA	10
EMT	4
MA/Scribe	4
Paramedic	3
PCA	3
Clinical Research Coord	2
MA/Scribe/Ophth Tech	2
Scribe/MA	2
Clinical Care Tech	1
Clinical Dietitian	1
Exercise Physiologist	1
Exercise Specialist	1
MA/Cardiac Tech/Ophth	1
MA/EMT	1
MA/Endo Tech/Surg Tech	1
MA/Patient Care Coord	1
MA/PCT/NREMT-B	1
MA/Pharm Tech	1
MA/PT Tech	1
Nursing Asst	1
Ortho Tech	1
PCT	1
PCT/EMT-B	1
PT Aide/Clinical Research	1
PT Tech	1
Research Asst/Scribe	1
RM	1
Surgical Tech	1
VAD Engineering	1
Athletic Trainer - Certified	1

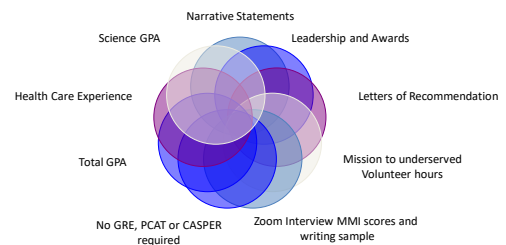
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Why Emory?



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Holistic Approach to Applications



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MMI Interview Format on Zoom

5 scenarios (verbal responses) -
7 minutes each +
25 minute writing sample

Interviewers blinded to CASPA
information
Decreased bias
Equal opportunity to share yourself

Ali S, Sadiq Hashmi MS, Umair M, Beg MA, Huda N. Multiple Mini-
Interviews: Current Perspectives on Utility and Limitations. *Adv Med
Educ Pract*. 2019;10:1031-1038. Published 2019 Dec 12.
doi:10.2147/AMEP.S181332



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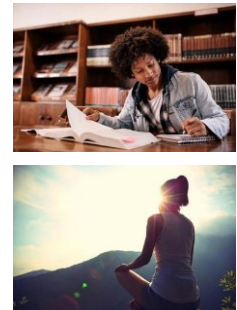
Collaboration and Support

NO competition in the
classroom – everyone helps
everyone

[The School of Medicine Center
for Holistic Student Success](#)

Buddy system

Small group society with 2
faculty advisors



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2 Dual Degree Options

One of 11 [Dual PA-MPH](#)
programs adding 1 extra year at
[Rollins School of Public Health](#)

New - Dual PA-MBA option with
[Goizueta Business School](#)



Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences
Biostatistics
Environmental Health
Environmental Health and Epidemiology
Global Environmental Health
Epidemiology
Global Epidemiology
Health Policy
Health Care Management
Global Health

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Class Involvement

President	AAPA Rep	Admissions - Interviews
Vice President	GAPA Rep	Public Health
Secretary	Interdisciplinary Liaison - Allied health	Philanthropic
Treasurer (2)	Counsel Pre- PA recruiting	HSTAT - Emory
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee	Preventive Med	H2H 5K Lead
Orientation Committee	Historian	Portal de Salud
Honor Council (2)	Social Committee	POCUS group
Farmworkers Rep (2)	Birthday Committee	Critical Care group
Good Sam Coordinators (4)	Graduation Committee	Emergency Med group
Global Health /EPASI	Public Relations	Intermuscular sports

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Active Learning



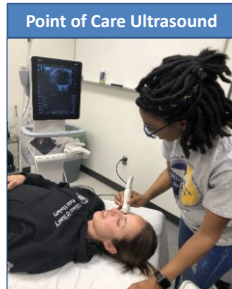
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Active Learning



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Active Learning



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POCUS – Point of Care Ultra-Sound



[Butterfly IQ](#) - \$2700

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Curriculum – 29 Months



DIDACTIC

4 Semesters 17 months

August – December
following year



CLINICAL

3 Semesters 12 months

Jan - Dec

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Didactics

Putting it Together

- Case Based Learning
- Interprofessional Team Based Learning
- OSCEs
- Patient Interactions
- Community Outreach



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Didactic 17 months

- Anatomy with full Dissection Cadaver Lab with medical students over 2 semesters
- Physical Assessment and Medical Communications
- Foundation of Medical Science Introduction to pharmacology, genetics, physiology, immunology, medical microbiology, and ultrasound
- Biomedical Ethics
- Community & Social Medicine
- Professional Issues
- Body System Modules

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Body System Modules

Psychiatry, Dermatology, Infectious Disease, Hematology/Oncology, ENT/Pulmonology, Cardiology, GI, GU, Endocrinology, Orthopedics/Rheumatology, Neurology, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Geriatrics

[Summative Testing and Skills Demonstration](#)

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Didactic Module Threads

Basic Science	Threads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anatomy Review Biochemistry Genetics Immunology Microbiology Nutrition Physiology Pathophysiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Determinants of Health POCUS Pharmacology IPEX - Patient Encounters Skills Labs Preventive Medicine Interprofessional simulation

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Weekly Learning Society 8-9 Students with 2 Faculty Advisors



Weekly format: Case discussions, Clinical reasoning, Peer mentoring

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Clinical Year

A total of 9 rotations
(5 weeks each)
7 Core rotations
2 Elective rotations



1 Elective rotation can be split into 2 (2 week and 3 week) totaling 3

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7 Core Clinical Rotations

1. Emergency Medicine
2. Family Medicine
3. Hospital Internal Medicine
4. OB/GYN
5. Pediatrics
6. Psychiatry
7. General Surgery



- One Rotation will be outside of Metro Atlanta (housing provided)
- Electronic patient/procedure logging
- End of rotation days every 5 weeks
- PAEA End of Rotation Exams
- 1 new site option
- Emory PA National Board Review Course Access

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2 – 3 Elective Rotations

2 Elective Rotations 5 weeks each
May split 1 into 2 two as 3/2 week rotations

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Academic Elective | Nephrology |
| Critical Care | Neurology |
| Cardiothoracic Surgery | Neurosurgery |
| Cardiology | Oncology |
| Dermatology | Orthopedics |
| ENT | Pediatric Emergency Medicine |
| Gastroenterology | Radiology |
| Geriatrics | Urology |
| Infectious Diseases | Etc. |
| Grady ED POCUS | |



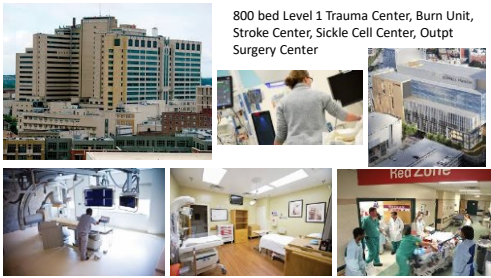
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Academic Health Care System



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Grady Hospital



800 bed Level 1 Trauma Center, Burn Unit, Stroke Center, Sickle Cell Center, Outpt Surgery Center

Video link <https://youtu.be/kdy4GozMTvI>

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Emory Farmworker Project

- Since 1996 over 40,000 patients served
- 2 weeks in June, 1 fall weekend
- Interdisciplinary care with medical interpreters, PT, RN, MD, PharmD, and Counseling students
- **Emory Farmworker project has won the top national award for Interprofessional Education for 2025**, from the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health and the Interprofessional Collaborative.

• [Link](#)



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Emory Farmworker Project



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Good Samaritan Clinic

Student-Run Clinic

- 1st and 2nd year PA students with faculty supervision
- One Saturday a month
- Serving low income, and uninsured patients



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Jornada de Salud Clinic

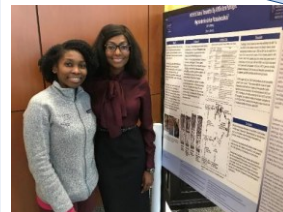
- Emory School of Medicine student-faculty run clinic that provides health screenings and health education in a faith-based setting to members of the Spanish speaking community in Gwinnett County.
- MD and PA students to work alongside each other throughout the year



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Masters Thesis

3 semester course series



Thesis Paper Presentation

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29 Months – Emory PA Graduate



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What makes a Strong Candidate?



Solid clinical experience – AT-C, RN, Combat Medic, then EMTs, Respiratory therapist, Rad Tech Ultrasound, Med Tech, Counselor, Social work, Speech pathologist, then MA, Scribe Pt Assistant, Clinical research assistant



Community service – Missions, underserved populations, health care, out of comfort zone, speaking another language



Leadership – Captain of team, TA, Proctor, team leader, Student government, business, military...



Honors – Publications, academic awards, community service awards, scholarships



Personal Statement – talk about your journey to decide PA, missions, work related PA encounters... For supplemental, please talk about the school and why them. Visit the school and talk with students.

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Emory University Physician Assistant Program

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