

 **EMORY**
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Department of Family and
Preventive Medicine
Physician Assistant Program

Emory University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program

Allan Platt PA-C, MMSc
Assistant Professor,
Director of Admissions
www.EmoryPA.org
aplatt@emory.edu



1

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 Or then 2 yr NP program – 7 years total	4 years College 2 – 3.5 years PA program 6 years total
Clinical Training	9-10,000 hours	500-1,000 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 specialize in specific Not Anesthesia
Medical Model	Biomedical model	Biopsychosocial nursing model	Biomedical model

2

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](#)

3

Career as a PA in 2026

 **BEST JOBS**
U.S. NEWS

100 Best Jobs

No single job suits 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, aren't too stressful, offer room to advance throughout our careers, and provide a satisfying work-life balance. Here are the 100 best jobs in the U.S. News 2026 Best Jobs survey. U.S. News used these qualities to rank the 100 best jobs of 2023. You can also explore the [Best Paying Jobs](#) and [100 Best Workplaces](#).


Information Security Analyst
#1 in 100 Best Jobs
Projected Jobs: 62,100
Projected Pay: \$72,413
Education Needed: Bachelor's


Physician Assistant
#4 in 100 Best Jobs
Projected Jobs: 33,200
Projected Pay: \$133,266
Education Needed: Masters


Medical and Health Services Manager
#4 in 100 Best Jobs
Projected Jobs: 140,900
Projected Pay: \$117,160
Education Needed: Bachelor's

PA is #5 of top 100 US Jobs

4

 **BEST JOBS**
U.S. NEWS

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


Nurse Practitioner
#1 in Best Health Care Jobs

Nurse practitioners perform a lot of the same duties as physicians; they perform physical exams, order lab tests and analyze results, prescribe medicines and authorize treatments. These professionals usually have a specialty, such as adult and geriatric health, pediatric health or mental health. [Read More](#)

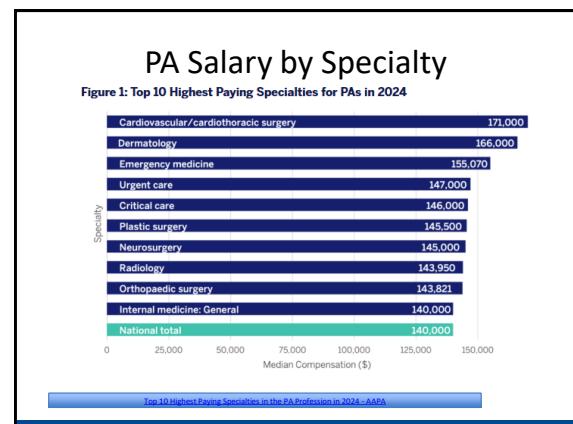
Projected Jobs: 128,400
Median Salary: \$129,210
Education Needed: Master's


Physician Assistant
#2 in Best Health Care Jobs

Physician assistants diagnose illnesses, develop and carry out treatment plans, assist in surgeries, perform procedures and guide patients. [Read More](#)

Projected Jobs: 33,200
Median Salary: \$133,266
Education Needed: Master's

5



6

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

7

PA Job Growth

Physician Assistants

Percent change in employment, projected 2023-33

Occupation	Percent Change in Employment (Projected 2023-33)
Physician assistants	28%
Healthcare diagnosing or treating practitioners	9%
Total, all occupations	4%

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/oco/healthcare/physician-assistants.htm#tab-6>

8

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

BEST GRAD SCHOOLS A GUIDE TO THE BEST GRADUATE PROGRAMS US News RANKINGS

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

9

ARC-PA Accreditation until 2033

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

Program	Status	View	Start Date	End Date
Augusta University	Continued	View	11/1/1973	Jun-29
Brenau University	» Provisional	View	9/26/2020	Jun-23
Emory University (circled)	Continued	View	9/1/1972	Mar-33
Georgia Institute of Technology	Continued	View	9/7/2007	Sep-27
Georgia Southern University	» Provisional	View	9/26/2018	Sep-23
Georgia Southwestern State University	Continued	View	10/1/1997	Sep-25
Des Moines University	Continued	View	4/1/1993	Sep-25
Northwestern College	» Provisional	View	9/26/2019	Sep-24
St. Ambrose University	Continued	View	3/1/2014	Mar-29
University of Dubuque	Continued	View	3/1/2020	Mar-31
University of Iowa	Continued	View	2/1/1973	Mar-33
Ithaca State University	Continued, D	View	4/1/1997	Mar-25

10

Learn about #EmoryUnited

EMORY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT A DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Emory Physician Assistant
Celebrating Good Work
50th Anniversary
of the Physician Assistant Program

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

www.EmoryPA.org

11

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. Stoeck
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

12

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 1980. 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

13

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.

14

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.

15

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.

16

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

17

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

18

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



19

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



20

Class of 2025 vs. 2026 vs. 2027

Class of 2025

of students: 52
 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 = 5%
 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 5,159 hrs
 (Range 2100 – 13,910)
 Humanitarian vol. 644 hrs
 (Range 0 – 3,184)

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 Nutrition	1
Exercise Physiologist	1
Exercise Specialist	1
MA/Cardiac Tech/Ophthz	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
PTAide/Clinical Research	1
PTTech	1
Research Asst/Scribe	1
RN	1
Surgical Tech	1
VAD Engineering	1
Athletic Trainer - Certified	1

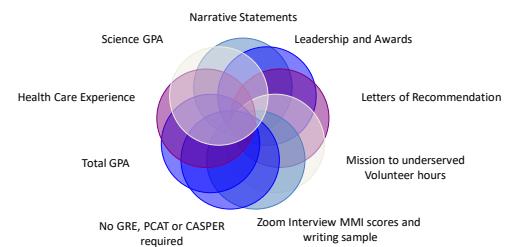
21

Why Emory?



23

Holistic Approach to Applications



24

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, Sadig 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/AMMP.S18132



25

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



26

2 Dual Degree Options

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



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

27

Class Involvement

President	AAPA Rep	Admissions - Interviews
Vice President	GAPA Rep	Public Health
Secretary	Interdisciplinary Liaison – Allied health Counsel	Philanthropic
Treasurer (2)	Pre- PA recruiting	HSTAT - Emory
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Orientation Committee	Preventive Med	H2H 5K Lead
	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	Intermural sports

28

Active Learning



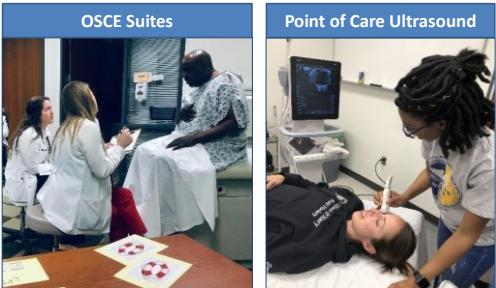
29

Active Learning



30

Active Learning



31

POCUS – Point of Care Ultra-Sound



32

Curriculum – 29 Months



4 Semesters 17 months
August – December
following year



3 Semesters 12 months
Jan - Dec

33

Didactics

Putting it Together

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



34

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

35



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

36

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

37

Weekly Learning Society 8-9 Students with 2 Faculty Advisors



Weekly format: Case discussions, Clinical reasoning, Peer mentoring

38



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

39

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

40

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	



41

Academic Health Care System



42

Grady Hospital



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



[Video link](https://youtu.be/kdy4GozMTvI)

43

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](#)



44

Emory Farmworker Project




45

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



46

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



47

Masters Thesis

3 semester course series



Thesis Paper Presentation

48

29 Months – Emory PA Graduate



49

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.

50



51



Emory University Physician Assistant Program

1462 Clifton Road, Suite 280

Atlanta, GA 30322

Main: 404.727.7825

Admissions: 404.727.7857

Allan Platt PA-C, MMSc * aplatt@emory.edu
 Kaye Johnson-Bull * ljohn07@emory.edu
 Jullissia Hudson* jullissia.e.hudson@emory.edu

52