

# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

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## Overview

The Penn State Physician Assistant (PA) Program, located at the Penn State College of Medicine campus in Hershey, PA, is a 24-month, full-time graduate program enrolling 30 students each May.

Our first class graduated in May 2016.

Consistent with the goals of the entire College of Medicine, the PA Program emphasizes humanism in medicine, which takes into account the dedication required for individualized and personalized medicine.

## Mission & Goals

The Physician Assistant Program's mission is to prepare graduates to be academically, clinically, professionally and culturally competent in the delivery of health care services, to develop critical thinking and application skills, and to provide compassionate and comprehensive care to the patients they will serve. Our graduates will improve the health of their patients and the populations they serve in an efficient and cost-conscious manner.

We believe that the Penn State PA program will prepare its graduates for modern medical practice and that these graduates will be supremely prepared for their role as clinicians. The goals of our program are:

- To attract an academically qualified, diverse student body with special consideration for veterans and those from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds (see progress toward this goal (<http://med.psu.edu/physician-assistant/goals/#goal1>))
- To promote application of learning and development of critical thinking skills (see progress toward this goal (<http://med.psu.edu/physician-assistant/goals/#goal2>))
- To enable graduates to practice competent and compassionate health care with emphasis in primary care (see progress toward this goal (<http://med.psu.edu/physician-assistant/goals/#goal3>))
- To prepare students for their role as clinicians, professionals, educators, and leaders in the physician assistant profession (see progress toward this goal (<http://med.psu.edu/physician-assistant/goals/#goal3>))
- To treat the entire patient with cultural competency, addressing physical, medical, psychosocial, and emotional dimensions of the patient (see progress toward this goal (<http://med.psu.edu/physician-assistant/goals/#goal4>))