# Table of Contents

2016/17 Academic Calendar ........................................................................................................... 3
PA Didactic Program of Study ....................................................................................................... 4
PA/MPH Didactic Program of Study Class of 2019 ..................................................................... 5
GW PA Program Mission and Vision ............................................................................................ 7
  Student Participation in Evaluation of the Program ................................................................. 8
  Program Competencies .............................................................................................................. 9
Contact Information .................................................................................................................... 10
  Faculty Phone Numbers and E-mail Addresses ..................................................................... 10
  Staff Phone Numbers and E-mail Addresses ......................................................................... 11
Faces of GW ............................................................................................................................... 12
Faculty Advisors ......................................................................................................................... 13
  Faculty Role ............................................................................................................................. 13
  Faculty Advisor Role ............................................................................................................... 13
The George Washington University ............................................................................................. 14
  History .................................................................................................................................. 14
  GW PA Program and School of Medicine and Health Sciences .......................................... 15
  Schools .................................................................................................................................. 16
  Accreditation ......................................................................................................................... 18
  University Libraries ............................................................................................................... 18
  Alumni Association ................................................................................................................ 18
  GW PA Alumni ....................................................................................................................... 19
PA Profession ............................................................................................................................. 20
  Oath for PA Students ............................................................................................................. 20
Student Resources ....................................................................................................................... 21
  Student Health Center .......................................................................................................... 21
  Counseling ............................................................................................................................. 21
  Disability Support Services ................................................................................................. 21
  Security on Campus ............................................................................................................... 22
  Transportation on Campus ................................................................................................... 22
School/Professional Organizations ............................................................................................... 23
  PA Program and Medical Student Councils ....................................................................... 23
  Health Sciences Student Council ......................................................................................... 23
  American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) .......................................................... 23
  The DC, MD and VA Academies of Physician Assistants .................................................... 23
The GW Student Chapter of the AAPA ...................................................................................... 25
  Student Academy .................................................................................................................. 25

Academic Year Guide
is compiled by The George Washington University Physician Assistant Program
Last update 5/24/16
2016 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2016 SUMMER SEMESTER
May 16  First day of Summer Semester for PA/MPH Program*
May 18  PA/MPH Program Orientation*
May 30  Memorial Day (no classes)
June 1-3 PA Program Orientation
June 6  First day of Summer Semester for PA Program
July 4   Independence Day (no classes)
August 12 Last day of Summer Semester for PA Program
August 15-19 Summer Semester Final Exams
August 20-28 Intersession Break

2016 FALL SEMESTER
August 29 First day of Fall Semester for PA Program
September 5 Labor Day (no classes)
November 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)
December 9 Last day of Fall Semester for PA Program
December 12-16 Fall Semester Final Exams
December 17-Jan 1 Intersession Break

2017 SPRING SEMESTER
January 2  First day of Spring Semester for PA Program
January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
January 20 Inauguration Day (no classes)
February 20 President’s Day (no classes)
March 11-19 Spring Break
April 21  Last day of Spring Semester for PA Program
April 24-28 Spring Semester Final Exams
May 1-5   Introduction to Clinical Education (ICE)
May 6-21  Intersession Break
May 22  First day of Block 1 of Clinical Year

Important: Students must notify Program faculty and staff concerning any absences for which they need to be excused from classes, exams, lab sessions, or clinical rotations. See Physician Assistant Program Student Policies and Procedures Manual for information regarding religious holidays. It is helpful for Program faculty and staff to know where everyone is located in case they need to contact a student.

*Events labeled “PA/MPH” are for students in the joint degree PA and MPH program only. These events do not apply to the PA students.
### Summer Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>PA 6104</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 6109</td>
<td>Foundations of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 6110</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Practice for PA Students</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYL 6211</td>
<td>Physiology for Health Sciences Students</td>
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<td>PA 6118</td>
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<td>PA 6120</td>
<td>Human Behavior</td>
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<td>PA 6122</td>
<td>Role of PA in American Health Care</td>
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<tr>
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### Spring Semester

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<td>PA 6117</td>
<td>Clinical Skills II</td>
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<td>PA 6119</td>
<td>Health, Justice and Society II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 6121</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHAR 6208</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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## PA/MPH Didactic Program of Study

### Year 1*

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<td>Anatomy for Health Science Students</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Role of PA in American Health Care</td>
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<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<td>Health, Justice and Society II</td>
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*This does not include MPH Courses*
# PA/MPH Didactic Program of Study

## Year 2

### Summer Semester

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<td>PA 6109</td>
<td>Foundations of Medicine</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>PHYL 6211</td>
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### Fall Semester

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<tr>
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<td>PHAR 6207</td>
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### Spring Semester

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<tr>
<td>PHAR 6208</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Health Science Students II</td>
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</table>

*PA/MPH students who have completed PUBH 6242 Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis are exempt from and will receive cross-crediting for PA 6111 Evidence-Based Practice for PA/MPH Students.*
VISION:
The George Washington University Physician Assistant Program will be a preeminent leader in physician assistant education. Through shared transformative experiences and discovery, our students, alumni, and faculty will emerge as leaders committed to health care equity and quality care for all.

MISSION:
The George Washington University Physician Assistant Program educates Physician Assistant students to become humanistic clinicians who demonstrate professionalism, practice evidence-based medicine, advocate for patients, and serve their communities.

GOALS:
• Recruit and select a diverse community of students, committed to the PA profession and health equity for all patients they serve.
• Educate health professionals who will possess superior knowledge and skills.
• Prepare physician assistant students to function as professional members of the health care team in all clinical settings.
• Foster an awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of communities.
• Encourage professional involvement, leadership and service.
• Instill a commitment to continuous personal and professional development.

The George Washington University Physician Assistant Program, founded in 1972, was among the first in the nation to be established in an academic medical center and has graduated nearly 2,000 PAs for fulfilling roles as clinicians, researchers, educators, and public health professionals. The Program has a national reputation for excellence in health professions education and has been recognized for its outstanding curriculum design. Based in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, the Program has had continuous accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission for Physician Assistant Education, Inc. (ARC – PA) and is a member of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA).

The GW PA Program focuses on preparing well-trained health professionals who will extend and complement the capabilities of physicians in health care delivery. To fulfill their role in assisting physicians with patient care, students in the PA Program develop skills enabling them to: obtain an accurate medical database, including both historical and physical data; synthesize the elicited information; formulate a treatment plan for common problems; write the prescriptions; and communicate effectively with the supervising physician.

The Program offers two graduate tracks for entry-level physician assistant students: (1) the Master of Science in Health Sciences Program (MSHS), and (2) the Joint Physician Assistant/Master of Public Health program (PA/MPH) which awards both a MSHS and a MPH. The MSHS Program prepares individuals for clinical careers. The curriculum emphasizes a scholarly approach to medicine, development of organizational and critical-
thinking skills, and clinical research methodology. The unique three-year PA/MPH program provides both clinical and academic preparation for careers in medicine and public health. Through the community-oriented primary care track, international track, administrative services track and others, students receive advanced training in the design of health studies, epidemiological methods, application of computers to public health, community medicine, and techniques of health promotion. Students in this curriculum also design a special project in collaboration with faculty of the School of Public Health and Health Services and sometimes with local, national and international public health leaders. The PA Program faculty also assists with this curriculum responsibility.

**STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM**

The PA Program is committed to delivering a curriculum that will prepare students to deliver optimal health care in an ever changing environment. In our commitment to the process of continuous quality improvement, students are involved in course evaluations, supervised clinical practice evaluations, and faculty evaluations at the conclusion of each semester. Students are strongly encouraged to complete these evaluations for didactic courses and supervised clinical practice experiences.

**PROGRAM COMPETENCIES**

Entry-level physician assistants must demonstrate competency in performing a variety of functions and tasks. According to the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA), competencies are defined as “the knowledge; interpersonal, clinical, and technical skills; professional behaviors; and clinical reasoning and problem solving abilities required for physician assistant practice.” These competencies are essential to preparing graduates to provide preventive, emergent, acute and chronic care across various health care settings. Upon completion of the George Washington University Physician Assistant Program, graduates are expected to:

**Medical Knowledge**
- Describe the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, differential diagnoses, management, and appropriate interventions for medical and surgical conditions.
- Integrate core knowledge from the biomedical and clinical sciences with patient data to provide appropriate patient care.
- Apply an evidence-based and analytical approach to clinical situations.

**Interpersonal and Communication Skills**
- Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange with patients, their families, physicians, professional associates, and other members of the health care team.

**Patient Care**
- Elicit appropriate patient histories and competently perform physical examination as well as other clinical procedures considered essential in the area of practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with physicians and other members of the health care team to provide patient-centered care.
- Plan and administer care that is effective, age-appropriate, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of wellness.
Professionalism
• Recognize professional and personal limitations and exhibit a commitment to ongoing professional development.
• Employ responsible and ethical practices, sensitivity to a diverse patient population and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements in the delivery of patient care.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
• Critically analyze the medical literature and individual practice experiences in order to improve patient care practices.

Systems-Based Practice
• Demonstrate an understanding of and responsiveness to societal, organizational and economic factors that impact the provision of optimal patient care within the larger health care system.
CONTACT INFORMATION

PROGRAM ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 343, Washington, DC 20037, Office: (202) 994-7644, Fax: (202) 994-7647

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Associate Director of Clinical Education / Assistant Professor

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Associate Director of Clinical Education / Assistant Professor

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Marianne Vail, MSHS, PA-C  202-994-6785  mvail@gwu.edu
Assistant Professor

Jennifer Wall, MPAS, PA-C  202-994-6670  jennwall@gwu.edu
Assistant Professor

Karen Wright, PhD, PA-C  202-994-9279  kawright@gwu.edu
Program Director / Interim Chair of Dept. Of Physician Assistant Studies
### Staff Phone Numbers and E-mail Addresses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>E-mail Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marie Gardner</td>
<td>202-994-7716</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mgardne1@gwu.edu">mgardne1@gwu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Haldon Lindstrom</td>
<td>202-994-7684</td>
<td><a href="mailto:haldon12@gwu.edu">haldon12@gwu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Erin McKan Thomas</td>
<td>202-994-6395</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emckan@gwu.edu">emckan@gwu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica O’Connell</td>
<td>202-994-8463</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joconnel@gwu.edu">joconnel@gwu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon White</td>
<td>202-994-6661</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sgwhite@gwu.edu">sgwhite@gwu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Business Coordinator</td>
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</table>
THE FACES OF GW

Jeffrey Akman, MD  
*Vice Provost for Health Affairs & Dean, School of Medicine and Health Sciences*

As Dean, Dr. Akman is responsible for the overall administration and oversight of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, including the Office of the Dean, consisting of several associate and assistant deans who oversee student services, educational policy, curricular projects, student affairs and education, health science programs, admissions and graduate medical education. Dr. Akman is ultimately accountable for all matters relating to tuition, admissions, school policies, regulations and student progression through their respective programs. He acts upon all appeals from the Health Sciences Student Evaluation Committee as they pertain to cases of students with academic difficulties, including those leading to dismissal. He also reviews and makes final decisions regarding professional comportment issues.

Vincent Chiappinelli, PhD  
*Associate Vice President for Health Affairs and Associate Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Ralph E. Loewy Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology*

Dr. Chiappinelli works closely with Dean Akman on management, financial and operational issues related to overall functions of the School. PA students have the opportunity to interact with Dr. Chiappinelli during the Pharmacology course.

Joseph Bocchino, EdD  
*Senior Associate Dean for Health Sciences Programs*

Dr. Bocchino provides administrative oversight to the PA program, along with other clinical programs including Physical Therapy and Clinical Research. He has been a faculty member in the School since 2002. Since 2010, he has been the Educational Director of the NIH funded Clinical Translational Science Award working closely with the faculty from Children’s National Medical Center. Dr. Bocchino is an accomplished educator and believes that teaching excellence is our priority and values the unique learning needs and interests of each of our students.
FACULTY ROLE

The responsibility of the Program faculty is to ensure a quality educational experience for each physician assistant student. The PA Program faculty is administratively responsible for implementing, coordinating and evaluating the entire Program curriculum. In addition, the faculty is active in teaching courses to a variety of health science students, serving on Medical School and University committees, conducting scholarly research and seeing patients in a variety of clinical settings. The faculty also participates in the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), the national organization for PA educational programs, as well as the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and its local and state chapters.

Every faculty member is cognizant of the sacrifices necessary to achieve success as a PA student and can personally relate to the experience. As students progress in their education, they may need to talk about issues related to being a student at GW. Please feel free to contact any of the faculty, as each is here to help the students. Students should view the faculty as a resource during their time at the University.

FACULTY ADVISOR ROLE

Traditionally, the faculty advisor role has been to provide input and counseling to students regarding academic and clinical performance and guidance in understanding and abiding by program policies and practices. The role of the faculty advisor should be that of a special resource to students. The faculty advisor goals are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional</th>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Personal</th>
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<tr>
<td>PA concept</td>
<td>Study skills</td>
<td>Individual concerns</td>
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<td>Student decorum</td>
<td>Curriculum evaluation</td>
<td>Real-life problems</td>
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<td>Negotiations</td>
<td>Grades</td>
<td>Career plans</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resources within the University</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The role of the faculty advisor is to meet with the students in both one-to-one and group settings. Advisors facilitate the student’s growth along professional, academic and personal lines. Group meetings may be far-reaching and frank and could go beyond the topics listed above. Each faculty member will schedule group discussions on a regular basis, but students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisors individually each semester and before problems become unmanageable. Faculty advisors maintain regular office hours to ensure guidance and/or counseling and are available when needed. Students with personal problems that may interfere with their progress in the Program will be referred to the University Counseling Center located at 2033 K Street, N.W., Suite 330.
The George Washington University had its beginning in 1821 as Columbian College in the District of Columbia. The name of the institution was changed in 1873 to Columbian University and in 1904 to The George Washington University. The debt of the University to George Washington, whose name it bears, is an intangible one.

George Washington, as president and private citizen, had insisted upon the establishment of a national university in the federal city. There he hoped that, while being instructed in the arts and sciences, students from all parts of the country would acquire the habits of good citizenship, throwing off local prejudices and gaining a first-hand knowledge of the practice, as well as the theory, of the government. To further the materialization of his hopes, Washington left 50 shares of The Potomac Company “towards the endowment of a University to be established within the limits of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the General Government, if that government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it.” The Congress never extended a “fostering hand.” The Potomac Company passed out of existence, and Washington’s bequest became worthless.

Fully conscious of Washington’s hopes, but motivated primarily by a great missionary urge and the need for a learned clergy, a group of dedicated ministers and laymen sponsored a movement for the establishment of a college in the District of Columbia. Inspired largely by the zeal and energy of the Reverend Luther Rice, they raised funds for the purchase of a site and petitioned Congress for a charter. After much delay and amendment, Congress granted a charter, which was approved by President James Monroe on February 9, 1821. To safeguard the College’s nonsectarian character it provided “that persons of every religious denomination shall be capable of being elected Trustees; nor shall any person, either as President, Professor, Tutor or pupil, be refused admittance into said College, or denied any of the privileges, immunities, or advantages thereof, for or on account of his sentiments in matters of religion.”

During the entire time when the institution was known as Columbian College, its activities were centered on College Hill, a tract of 46 acres between the present 14th and 15th Streets extending north from Florida Avenue to somewhat beyond Columbia Road. The Medical School was located downtown. For the better part of the Columbia University period, the buildings of the University were situated along H Street between 13th and 15th Streets.

During the last half-century, the University’s campus has been developed in that section of the old First Ward familiarly known as Foggy Bottom, between 19th and 24th Streets, south of Pennsylvania Avenue. The area has many reminders of historic interest to the University. President Monroe, who signed the Charter, lived at 2017 I Street. The first President of the Board of Trustees, the Reverend Obadiah B. Brown, was for 50 years the pastor of a church at 19th and I Streets, and Washington selected 23rd and E Streets as the site of the National University he hoped to see established.
GW PA Program and School of Medicine and Health Sciences

GW PA Program started in 1972. The program was one of the first opened at a School of Medicine. At that time the name of the school changed its name to the School of Medicine and Health Sciences to incorporate the new mission of training a full spectrum of health professionals on the GW campus. The Department of Physician Assistant Studies was established in July 2011.

In 1904, the Columbian University Medical School and Hospital were rededicated as The George Washington University Medical School and Hospital. Its faculty boasted many of the nation's most prominent doctors, including Major Walter Reed, who identified the mosquito as the carrier of yellow fever; Dr. Frederick Russell, who introduced typhoid vaccine into the Army; and Dr. A.FA. King, whose Manual of Obstetrics became the standard of the times.

In 1973, a new school building was constructed; Walter G. Ross Hall (at left) and the Himmelfarb Medical Library. The hospital medical school and research facilities were centralized at last. In 1981 the Medical Center's staff made front-page news when President Reagan, shot at close range, was rushed to the GW emergency room. The fine service that saved the president's life was commemorated 10 years later by the establishment of the Ronald Reagan Institute of Emergency Medicine to train emergency system coordinators and pursue basic and clinical research in emergency medicine.

In 1987 the Master of Public Health program was established in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The GW Physician Assistant Program became the first in the nation to offer dual physician assistant/masters of public health degree and its first matriculates joined the first class in the new public health program. The program is now housed in its own School of Public Health and Health Services, but maintains close ties with the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and most especially with the PA Program.

In 1997, The George Washington University and Universal Health Services, Inc. announced the signing of a joint venture partnership agreement for the ownership and operation of the University Hospital. The new GW Hospital (below) opened at its present location in 2002. The Medical Faculty Associates is the medical practice whose clinicians serve in the hospital, run an outpatient practice and teach in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.
Today, the George Washington University is internationally known for its outstanding medical education, research, and clinical care and a leader in emergency medicine, neuroscience, cancer, cardiology and many other areas.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT
The George Washington University, an independent academic institution chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1821, dedicates itself to furthering human well-being. The University values a dynamic, student-focused community stimulated by cultural and intellectual diversity and built upon a foundation of integrity, creativity and openness to the exploration of new ideas.

The George Washington University, centered in the national and international crossroads of Washington, D.C., commits itself to excellence in the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge. To promote the process of lifelong learning from both global and integrative perspectives, the University provides a stimulating intellectual environment for its diverse students and faculty. By fostering excellence in teaching, the University offers outstanding learning experiences for full-time and part-time students in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs in Washington, D.C., the nation, and abroad. As a center for intellectual inquiry and research, the University emphasizes the linkage between basic and applied scholarship, insisting that the practical be grounded in knowledge and theory. The University acts as a catalyst for creativity in the arts, the sciences, and the professions by encouraging interaction among its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the communities it serves.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES MISSION STATEMENT
The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences is dedicated to improving the health of our local, national, and global communities by:

- **Educating** a diverse workforce of tomorrow’s leaders in medicine, science, and health sciences.
- **Healing** through innovative and compassionate care.
- **Advancing** biomedical, translational, and health services delivery research with an emphasis on multidisciplinary collaboration.
- **Promoting** a culture of excellence through inclusion, service, and advocacy.

As a globally recognized academic medical center, GW embraces the challenge of eliminating health disparities and transforming health care to enrich and improve the lives of those we serve.
THE SCHOOLS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences offers undergraduate programs leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Music and graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, Master of Forensic Sciences, Master of Science, Master of Science in Forensic Science, Master of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Psychology.

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences offers programs leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, Master of Science in Health Sciences, and Doctor of Medicine.

GW Law offers programs leading to the degrees of Juris Doctor, Master of Laws, and Doctor of Juridical Science and special programs in continuing legal education.

The School of Engineering and Applied Science offers courses leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in the following areas: civil engineering, computer engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and systems analysis and engineering. Graduate programs lead to the degrees of Master of Science, Master of Engineering Management, Engineer, Applied Scientist, and Doctor of Science.

The Graduate School of Education and Human Development offers programs leading to the degrees of Master of Arts in Education and Development, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Education, Education Specialist, and Doctor of Education.

The School of Business offers undergraduate programs leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Accountancy and Bachelor of Business Administration and graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Accountancy, Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, Master of Science in Finance, Master of Science in Information Systems Technology, Master of Science in Professional Accounting, Master of Science in Project Management, Master of Taxation, Master of Tourism Administration, and Doctor of Philosophy.

The Elliott School of International Affairs offers undergraduate programs leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts and graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Arts and Master of International Policy and Practice.

The Milken Institute School of Public Health offers programs leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science, Master of Public Health, Master of Health Services Administration, Specialist in Health Services Administration, and Doctor of Public Health.

The College of Professional Studies designs academic programs with the needs of adult learners and working professionals in mind. We offer innovative programs specifically created to prepare our students to excel in the fast-paced, rapidly changing 21st century workplace. The college is also home to the Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM).

The School of Nursing prepares nurses who have a broad understanding of the profession, the health care industry, and the critical issues of today. Our innovative and talented faculty is actively involved in research and scholarship that will shape the profession as a whole.
ACCREDITATION
The George Washington University is accredited by its regional accrediting agency, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The School of Medicine and Health Sciences has had continuous approval by its accrediting body, which is currently the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, sponsored jointly by the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. is the accrediting agency for the PA Program. The PA Program has remained continuously accredited since its inception in 1972. The program underwent its last site visit for continuing accreditation in April 2013.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
The library collections of the University are housed in the Melvin Gelman Library (the general library of the University) and in the Jacob Burns Law Library and the Paul Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library.

These collections contain more than 1,700,000 volumes. University appropriations, supplemented by endowments and gifts, provide research materials in the social sciences, the humanities, the sciences, and business. Gifts from many sources have enriched the collections including a large National Endowment for the Humanities grant to strengthen the University’s humanities holdings. The libraries hold over 18,000 serials.

Information concerning the use of the libraries may be obtained from the GW Information System, Gelman home page, and at the library service desks. Individual and class instruction in the use of the library and its computers as well as instruction in print media is available upon request. The libraries strive to fulfill the curricular and research needs and interests of the students. Through computerized searches of bibliographic databases, students can identify and locate desired research materials not easily found through more traditional methods. The staff assists all members of the University in using the rich resources of the Washington area and the unusual opportunities they offer for extensive research. Students, faculty, and staff at George Washington University may borrow directly from the main campus libraries of six other academic institutions in the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC). Students may also obtain books and journal articles on interlibrary loan from other libraries in the area and throughout the United States.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The objectives of this organization are to unite the graduates who wish to continue their association with the University for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, and to promote the general welfare of the University.

Membership in the Association is conveyed automatically to anyone who has graduated from any school or division of the University. Anyone who has earned 15 hours or the equivalent at the University, who has left the University in good standing, and whose class has graduated is eligible for membership; in the case of the Division of University Programs students, however, only the “15 credit hours earned” requirement and not the “graduation of the class” requirement applies. Graduates of Center for Career Education certificate programs are also eligible.
A Governing Board, composed of members representing the constituent alumni organizations, directs the activities of the Association. The voluntary leadership of the Association works closely with the staff of the Office of Alumni Relations in carrying out Association affairs. The Association may be contacted through the Office of Alumni Relations.

**GW PA Alumni**

The Physician Assistant Program alumni group meets annually at the national Physician Assistant Conference. Currently there is no official association, but there are plans to form one.
THE PA PROFESSIONAL OATH

I pledge to perform the following duties with honesty and dedication:

▸ I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings.

▸ I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice.

▸ I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.

▸ I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.

▸ I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.

▸ I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.

▸ I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.

▸ I will work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.

▸ I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.

▸ I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.

▸ I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.

These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.

Source: http://www.pasconnect.org/what-is-the-pa-professional-oath/
STUDENT RESOURCES

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER (website)
Full-time and part-time students currently enrolled on campus in degree programs can receive treatment at the Student Health Service (Marvin Center, Ground Floor, 800 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20052, 202-994-6827). The Center is an outpatient clinic staffed by physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. Visits should be arranged by appointment; urgent problems may be seen on a walk-in basis if necessary. If charges are incurred for lab work, immunizations, allergy supplies, and medications, the student is responsible for payment. Psychiatric evaluations and short-term therapy appointments and crisis intervention are available. Core program faculty do not participate as health care providers for students in the program.

COUNSELING (website)
The University Counseling Center is located at Marvin Center, Ground Floor, 800 21st Street NW. A free initial interview for counseling services may be scheduled between 9 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday, by calling (202) 994-5300. A low, adjustable fee is charged for individual counseling.

The University Counseling Center seeks to assist students with personal, social, or study problems that may interfere with their progress in the Program. A staff of licensed psychologists and certified mental health professionals provides short-term individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, and referrals for a wide range of concerns. The Center has also created a resource room of print, and audio- and videotape materials on issues germane to university life. Topics include getting organized, managing academic requirements, reducing stress, handling depression, choosing a career, settling conflicts, and introductory material on issues of a more personal and psychological nature.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (website)
Disability Support Services is located in the Academic Center, 801 22nd Street, NW, Rome Hall 102. The phone number is (202) 994-8250. To ensure full participation by everyone in the GW community, the University established Disability Support Services (DSS) in 1978. DSS assists students with disabilities to participate fully in university life so they may derive the greatest benefit from their educational experiences and attain maximum personal success.

DSS currently oversees services for more than 700 GW students with a range of disabilities, including students temporarily disabled by injury or illness. To be eligible, a student must provide DSS with documentation that substantiates the need for such services in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA. Services provided without charge may include registration assistance, readers, interpreters, scribes, individualized learning specialist support, adaptive materials and equipment, assistance with note taking, laboratory and library assistance, and test accommodations. DSS does not provide content tutoring, although it is available on a fee basis through other campus resources. The University does not provide or pay for transportation services or personal attendant care.
SECURITY ON CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (website)

The University Police Department located at 801 22nd St. (Rome Hall) provides 24-hour police service to the campus community and works to improve conditions related to fire safety and accident prevention, along with related program services. Because security on an open, urban campus is a continual concern, special precautions have been taken to protect students. Emergency phones are situated throughout the campus, including parking lots, and many campus buildings are accessible only to students holding current student IDs. The University Police Department also publishes an information bulletin, “Security Blanket”, that provides greater safety and security information to help ease your mind and increase your awareness. The contact numbers for emergencies is 994-6111 and non-emergencies (994-6110).

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

The George Washington University Police Department (GWPD) coordinates two safe-travel options. “4Ride” is a fleet of escort vehicles that pick up and drop off GW students, faculty and staff anywhere within three blocks of campus. The Colonial Express shuttle bus runs two routes around campus, stopping at residence halls and major campus buildings. The routes can be found on the Transportation and Parking Services website.
PA PROGRAM AND MEDICAL STUDENT COUNCILS

The James K. Tolton Society is the George Washington University’s Student Society Chapter of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. The GW student society has received national recognition for professional involvement and engaging in activities which demonstrate a commitment to public education, professional advocacy, public service and outreach, and promotion of diversity. Early in the first semester the PA class elects society officers who represent the PA students in school organizations and at the national level. Class leaders include the following: Co-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Diversity Representative, Health Sciences Student Council Representative, Medical Student Council Representative, Community Service Chair, and others. There is no given time commitment for these positions, but they are a great way to become involved in other aspects of the educational and professional community.

The Medical Student Council is the body that addresses student issues within The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The Health Sciences Programs (including PAs, PTs, et al.) are allotted voting seats on this council. The Council makes decisions about curriculum changes, such as Clinical Medicine, and how to spend Student Funds.

HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENT COUNCIL (website)

The Health Sciences Student Council (HSSC) serves as the policy-making body and official representative for health sciences students. The Council provides a unified voice for students to express concerns to the Deans of Health Sciences and to the individual academic programs. Each health sciences program has one representative for every 25 students currently enrolled. Officers are elected by majority vote of the Health Sciences Student Council. Officers advocate and address concerns relevant to all health science students.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (AAPA) (website)

The AAPA’s major purposes include promoting the PA profession to the public, assuring competency of physician assistants through active input in the development of educational curricula, continuing education processes, and research on the PA profession. The Academy also provides a wide range of services for its members – publications, conferences, public education materials, insurance programs, continuing education opportunities and record keeping, as well as representation before Congress, government agencies, and health related organizations.

The Academy is the organization most representative of the physician assistant profession and is recognized as such by other medical associations and by federal, state and local governments. Student participation is encouraged in the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA).

THE DC, MD AND VA ACADEMIES OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

The DCAPA is the constituent chapter of the AAPA for the District of Columbia. Its
membership is made up of PAs and PA students, who live, work or attend school in the District of Columbia. The DCAPA deals with legislative, professional practices and continuing education issues on the local level. In addition, the DCAPA has a seat in the House of Delegates at the annual national PA conference. Student membership is encouraged. The AAPA constituent chapters representing the interest of Maryland (MAPA) and Virginia (VAPA) operates exactly like the DCAPA. The representative body functions in the same capacity as the DC, VA and Maryland Academies.
THE GW STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE AAPA

STUDENT ACADEMY (website)
The Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA) is a unique part of AAPA, as it was established in 1978 with its own bylaws, a Student Board of Directors, and a legislative and policy-making body. The Student Academy does not have individual members, as the student members join AAPA; instead SAAAPA’s members consist of the registered student society at each accredited PA program. The students’ voices can be heard through their student society representative to the Student Academy’s Assembly of Representatives (AOR), SAAAPA’s legislative and policy-making body.

The GW Student society is a group of PA students who assemble on a regular basis to discuss issues of common interest that often deal with health care, the PA profession, or other social issues. Each student society can have its own unique mission and goals, but all of them are also working to promote the physician assistant profession and PA students within the profession. The following descriptions help students to understand the role of some of the officers.

State Chapter Student Representative (SCSR): Serves as representative for the student society to the state chapter. The duties of this person vary from state to state, depending on how many PA program are located in the state and the bylaws of the constituent chapter. However, the SCSR is responsible for attending all constituent state chapter board of directors meetings and reporting back to his or her student society as directed by the state chapter. Also, the SCSR should increase interaction between the student society, constituent chapter, SAAAPA, and AAPA.

If the state chapter has student representatives, then the SCSR should maintain contact with these students to keep the state chapter aware of what the PA program is doing and so that the student society is aware of what the state chapter has accomplished for PAs in their state.

Outreach Chair (OC): Coordinates activities and public relations efforts between the student society and external groups, which can include but are not limited to: other medical professionals (MD, DO, PT, OT, nurses, speech, etc.), city/county organizations, state organizations, national organizations, and other community-related organizations. This individual promotes the PA profession and seeks out ways to work with other organizations in their community.

Assembly of Representatives (AOR) Representative: Responsible for distributing all Student Academy information to his or her program; monitors the SAAAPA website for announcements, leadership opportunities, and available resources which would be of interest to fellow students; and serves as the contact for SAAAPA leaders and committees. Attends the annual AOR meeting at AAPA’s annual conference to elect new officers of the Student Academy, to establish and amend policy of SAAAPA, and to conduct business as necessary.