

Physician Assistant Program University of Toronto



TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Physician Assistant Program at a Glance

Program Type

Professional, second-entry undergraduate degree

Credential Awarded

Bachelor of Science Physician Assistant (BScPA)

Program Length

24 consecutive months (6 semesters)

Method of Delivery

Blended distance learning

- Online synchronous and asynchronous learning activities
- Face-to-face learning and skills-development during in-person campus blocks (St. George campus)
- Early clinical exposure in first year
- 44 weeks of clinical placements in second year across Ontario

The Bachelor of Science Physician Assistant (BScPA) degree is a full-time professional, second-entry undergraduate degree program, based in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

The University of Toronto BScPA program is delivered in collaboration with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and The Michener Institute of Education at UHN (University Health Network). These three institutions form the Consortium of PA Education and collaboratively contribute to the development, administration and delivery of the program. Our mission is to deliver the PA degree built on a foundation of social accountability, particularly to rural, remote and under-served communities.

The Consortium offers students a balance of academic and clinical education, extensive access to health care resources, and curriculum delivery that maximizes rural training and geographic accessibility throughout Ontario. The aim of the program is to equip graduates with the competencies necessary to establish a sustainable and rewarding career in Canada as a PA.

What Does A Physician Assistant Do?

A Physician Assistant (PA) practices medicine supervised by a licensed physician in any clinical setting. PAs extend physician services and work within a collaborative team-based model contributing to improved patient care, shorter wait times and greater access to healthcare services.

The scope of practice for each PA is determined by their supervising physician. This may include patient interviews, physical examinations, communicating diagnoses, ordering diagnostic tests, counselling patients and recommending treatment plans, performing procedures, and assisting in surgery.



Northern Ontario School of Medicine
École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario
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It is my pleasure to support the PA Program. The students sent to my office are excellent, hardworking and their enthusiasm is a breath of fresh air. I look forward to having many more students over the years.

Dr. Killian de Blacam
Family Medicine, Sudbury, ON





It has been three years since we were able to implement a Physician Assistant into our multidisciplinary Orthopaedic Sports Medicine team. The addition of a PA has increased continuity of care and clinical productivity to create a cohesive and efficient environment for both patients and staff. I enjoy working alongside our PA Katrina, and I am aware that the staff and residents feel the same. I have been particularly impressed by Kat's work ethic and quick capacity to learn in the field of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dr. John Theodoropoulos
Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON
who works with Katrina Dekirmendjian
Class of 2018



The whole Gynecologic Oncology team at the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre feel privileged to have a Physician Assistant on our team. Heather is exceptionally kind and compassionate, and has in depth expertise on the management of gynecologic cancers. The longitudinal relationships that she creates with patients have been priceless and appreciated beyond words by our patients going through cancer treatment. Gyne Onc clinics are a team sport and as a Physician Assistant, Heather is no doubt one of our most valuable team members!

Dr. Julie Nguyen,
Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre,
Hamilton, ON who works with Heather Kokus
Class of 2017

Program Structure

Our curriculum combines distance education, experiential learning, and clinical opportunities to provide students with a well-rounded education.

The program runs continuously for six semesters (24 months). This time is divided between downtown Toronto, the student's home location and their clinical placements.

Year One: Academic Focus

Completion of 15 courses, including 120 hours of clinical experience.

Courses are delivered on-line, and in two mandatory in-person blocks, where students are required to be at U of T's St. George campus.

Year Two: Clinical Focus

44 weeks of supervised, direct clinical placements in rural and urban settings:

— Rotations include Primary Care, General Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Hospitalist/Internal Medicine, Mental Health, Paediatrics, and electives

Half of the clinical practicum takes place in Southern Ontario, half in Northern Ontario.

Mandatory campus blocks at U of T's St. George campus occur during this year. Students will attend hands-on classes, designed to provide clinical and procedural skills.

What do I Need in Order to Apply?

Applicants must satisfy the following *requirements by the application deadline:

- Completion of 10 full-course equivalents (FCEs) towards any university-level undergraduate degree
- Minimum GPA will change from 2.7 to 3.0 as of the 2022-2023 admissions cycle (please refer to our website for our calculation rules)
- 910 hours of health care experience**
- Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status

* Requirements are subject to change during the pandemic. Please refer to <https://paconsortium.ca/admission-requirements> for up-to-date information.

**Health care experience can be obtained through employment, as a volunteer, or clinical placements as part of educational programs. Some examples include:

- Direct care as a registered massage therapist, physiotherapy assistant, paramedic, social worker, student in clinical placement, emergency responder on campus, hospital volunteer
- Indirect care as a pharmacy assistant, ward clerk, medical receptionist, clinical trials researcher in a hospital

Though not required, applicants with the following criteria will be considered more competitive:

- One full-course equivalent (FCE) in the following courses:
 - Human Anatomy
 - Human Physiology
- Health care experience within the last 5 years
- Direct hands-on patient care experience in a clinical setting
- Paid positions as a health care provider
- Current resident of Ontario
- Have been a resident, as an adult, in a northern or rural community

Supplemental Materials

All applicants must submit the following materials in addition to meeting the academic requirements:

Supplemental Application

- An outline of the applicant's health care experiences
- Brief personal statements

More details at:

www.paconsortium.ca/supplemental-application

Applicant Reference Form

- Only one referee must submit a completed online applicant reference form
- Referee must meet the requirements outlined on the program website

More details at:

<https://paconsortium.ca/confidential-applicant-reference-form>

Please view our website for up-to-date and detailed admissions information: www.paconsortium.ca



Upon graduating, I joined the Malignant Hematology team at The Ottawa Hospital. The PA program prepared me for the daily challenges, the high level of skill required, and the variety of responsibilities that comes with managing both acute and chronic patients.

Taryn Chesser
Class of 2018



Physician Assistant Program University of Toronto

Connect With Us:

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Physician Assistant Program

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Medical Radiation Sciences Program

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