University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Thank you for your interest in one of the best programs in the United States and one of the most in-demand positions in the healthcare industry!


- **More Growth**: The UAB PA program plans will increase the number of students accepted by 50 percent through 2020. More collaboration for you.

- **More Demand**: UAB PA’s first-time pass rates for taking the PANCE exam is 97 percent over the past five years – that is higher than the national average. More demand for you.

- **More Opportunities**: UAB PA offers clinical hours in primary care, trauma, critical care, emergency medicine and surgery. More hands-on experience for you.

The median annual wage for Physician Assistants (PAs) is more than $90,000 annually with employment - new jobs for you - projected to grow 38 percent between 2012 and 2022. As a UAB PA student, you have more clinical rotation options. You can choose from surgery, trauma or primary care which means you decide your future. There has never been a better time than now to sit where you sit at UAB.

PAs are valuable members of a multidisciplinary healthcare team. The profession was established in 1965 to help physicians provide healthcare services to underserved and rural populations. While the profession remains committed to its historical mission, PAs are now employed in almost all healthcare settings.

PAs are healthcare professionals licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of a physician. Individual state laws define the scope of practice and prescribing authority of physician assistants. In general, most states authorize PAs to prescribe non-controlled and controlled substances and perform any task delegated to them by a supervising physician.

To be eligible for licensure, PAs must graduate from an Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) accredited physician assistant program and pass the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).

The physician assistant, functioning under the supervision of the physician, is expected to perform appropriately delegated tasks autonomously. Yet, the physician assistant will always remain under the guidance and counsel of a physician.

**Accreditation**: The UAB PA program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA)

**Degree Conferred**: Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) degree is awarded by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Professional Certification**: Graduates are eligible to apply for the certification examination sponsored by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.
Length of Study: 27 months

Term of Enrollment: Fall semester

Physician Assistant Program Mission: The mission of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Physician Assistant Program is to provide qualified individuals with the knowledge, skills, and judgment needed to assist physicians in the care of patients in medical and surgical settings.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability or veteran status.

HISTORY OF THE UAB PA PROGRAM

1967-1974: The Formative Years
Program Directors:
Alan Dimick, M.D. (1967-1969)

The Surgeon Assistant Program at UAB was created in 1967 by the nationally recognized cardiac surgeon John W. Kirklin, M.D. His motivation developed while he was at the Mayo Clinic and resident physicians were operating a newly developed pump oxygenator. Dr. Kirklin reasoned that non-physicians, with the appropriate aptitude and training, could be utilized instead of resident physicians to operate the complicated device. Additionally, Dr. Kirklin believed that the presence of a trained assistant (i.e. surgeon assistant) would improve patient care by allowing attending physicians to delegate appropriate tasks and help with the education of the resident physicians. These factors led to the creation of what is now the UAB Physician Assistant Program.

The UAB PA program was initially established as a Surgeon Assistant program under the Department of Surgery and graduates were awarded a Certificate of Proficiency upon completion of the two-year program.

In 1971, legislation was passed that allowed surgeon assistants and physician assistants to practice in Alabama under the regulation of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

In 1972, a formal relationship between the Department of Surgery and the School of Community and Allied Health was established to allow qualified students to earn a Bachelor of Science degree.

In 1974, the program received its initial accreditation by the Joint Review Committee of the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education (CAMACME) in collaboration with the American College of Surgeons. Since that time, the program has maintained continuous accreditation.

1974 to 1992: Building a Foundation
Program Directors:
Associate Director:
Jacqueline Hall, SA (1974-1992)

Jacqueline Hall, a 1969 UAB graduate, served as associate director of the program from 1974 to 1992. Under Hall’s leadership, the program established a national reputation of excellence for the training of surgeon assistants. The surgeon employers were plentiful and UAB graduates were taking positions throughout the country.

Competition for admission to the program was intense, just like today, with over 300 applicants for only 15 slots. Program graduates were allowed to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) beginning in 1982.

In 1991, the administrative control of the program was transferred from the Department of Surgery to the School of Health Professions, formerly known as the School of Community and Allied Health. This period of time marked an explosion within the physician assistant profession as a whole and for the subspecialty practice of surgeon assistants in particular.

1992-1997: Modernization
Program Directors:
Craig Cilimberg, PA-C (1996-1997)
Associate Director: Craig Cilimberg, PA-C (1992-1996)
Medical Director: Joaquin S. Aldrete, M.D. (1996-1999)

Following Hall’s retirement in 1992, Craig Cilimberg, PA-C, a 1982 graduate of the program who worked for Dr. Kirklin as his surgeon assistant, was named associate director. Cilimberg strengthened the program’s didactic curriculum and diversified the clinical curriculum. These modifications provided graduates with greater knowledge of primary care medicine, without sacrificing the superior technical skills expected of UAB graduates. These actions had an immediate impact on the quality of the program and its success on the PANCE examination. In less than 5 years, the program’s pass rate improved from less than 50% in 1992 to over 90% in 1996.

In 1996, the Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Physician Assistant were revised, essentially merging the accreditation standards for both physician assistant and surgeon assistant programs. At about the same time, the program changed its name to the Surgical Physician Assistant Program to clearly distinguish UAB graduates as formally trained physician assistants, and not surgical technicians.

1998-2003: Growth
Program Director:
Joe K. Gerald, M.D.
Medical Director:

Joe K. Gerald, M.D. was named program director following Craig Cilimberg’s return to full-time clinical practice in 1997. Dr. Gerald served as associate director prior to being named program director. Under his leadership, the program added 3.75 FTE faculty, strengthened its didactic curriculum and continued to diversify its clinical curriculum. Between 1996 and 2001, the program maintained a PANCE pass rate greater than 90%.
**2003-2013: Evolving**

Program Director:
Doris Rapp, PharmD, PA-C (2003-2006)
Herbert Ridings, MA, PA-C (2006-2010)
Patricia Jennings, DrPH, PA-C (2010-2013)

Medical Director:
Donald Reiff, M.D. (2008 – current)

Associate Medical Director:
John Baddley, M.D., MPH (2006-current)

Doris Rapp, Pharm D., PA-C was named program director in July 2003. In June 2005, the SPA Program became a Master's level entry program and the first class of Master's students to the new program entered in fall 2005.

In January 2006, Herbert Ridings MA, PA-C replaced Rapp as program director and the program added John Baddley M.D. as an associate medical director in January 2006.

In 2008, Dr. Gleysteen retired and Donald Reiff, M.D., the chief of UAB's Trauma Department became the new medical director. Dr. Reiff was instrumental in the development of a trauma concentration of studies for UAB SPA students.

In May 2010, Patricia Jennings DrPH, PA-C replaced Ridings as program director. Improved scores on the PA certifying exam (the PANCE) were also observed during this timeframe with 100 percent of students in the classes of 2006-2008 and 2010-2012 passing the exam on the first attempt.

Together, Dr. Baddley, Rapp, Ridings and Dr. Jennings strengthened the primary care and internal medicine components of an already excellent surgical program.

**2013-current: Future**

Program Director:
James R. (Rick) Kilgore, Ph.D., PA-C (2013-current)

Medical Director:
Donald Reiff, M.D. (2008 – current)

Associate Medical Director:
John Baddley, M.D., MPH (2006-current)

In October 2013, Dr. Jennings retired as program director and the Physician Assistant program began a nationwide search for a director to move the program forward into several new areas of clinical practice: increased primary care, trauma, critical care and emergency medicine in addition to the strong surgery curriculum.

The program named James R. (Rick) Kilgore, Ph.D., PA-C as the new program director. Dr. Kilgore has a national reputation having served in several positions within the American Academy of Physician Assistants including its Board of Directors, the chair of the Political Action Committee and as President of the Physician Assistant Foundation. He has served on several strategic AAPA committees such as those establishing the research agenda for the profession. He also has served as President of the Alabama Society of Physician Assistants and as a board member for many years. He has authored numerous articles and is a frequent speaker both locally and nationally.
Dr. Kilgore has a long career in clinical medicine and research including working in diverse areas such as Nephrology, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Family Practice. He has participated in the development and testing of several well-known pharmacological and vaccine products.

Under Dr. Kilgore's leadership the program has continued to grow, diversify its student population and has added a coordinated dual MPH/PA degree. The program has more than tripled the number of PA students in its program over the past decade (2005-2015) while maintaining a strong overall GPA, science GPA and average verbal and quantitative GRE’s. The goal to significant increase the number of PA graduates pursuing primary care while maintaining a strong surgical component continues as a priority for the program under Dr. Kilgore's leadership.

**Organization of the Program**
The Accreditation Review Committee on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) accredits the Physician Assistant Program as an entry-level physician assistant educational program. It is a Master’s of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program within the UAB Graduate School and is housed within the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, School of Health Professions, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**School of Health Professions**
Dean: Harold P. Jones, Ph.D.

**Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences**
Chair: Janelle M. Chiasera, Ph.D.

**Physician Assistant Program**
Program Director: James R. (Rick) Kilgore, Ph.D., PA-C
Medical Director: Donald Reiff, M.D.
Associate Medical Director: John Baddley, M.D., MPH
Program Faculty

Program Director: James R. (Rick) Kilgore, Ph.D., PA-C
Dr. Kilgore is a 1976 graduate of the University of Alabama in Birmingham and a 1981 graduate of the Emory University School of Medicine Physician Assistant program. He has a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies and a PhD in Health Administration. Dr. Kilgore has served in numerous positions within the Alabama Society of Physician Assistants including President and at the American Academy of Physician Assistants as a BOD member, numerous committee chairs, Political Action Committee Chair and as a member of the Physician Assistant Foundation serving as the President during 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Dr. Kilgore has a long career in clinical medicine and research including working in diverse areas such as Nephrology, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Family Practice. He has participated in the development and testing of several well-known pharmacological and vaccine products.

Medical Director: Donald Reiff, M.D.
Dr. Reiff is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC. He completed his surgery fellowship at UAB. In addition to serving as the Medical Director for the UAB PA program, he is also the Medical Director of Department of Surgery in Trauma, Burns and Critical Care at UAB. Dr. Reiff is a professor in the Department of Surgery.

Associate Medical Director: John Baddley, M.D., MPH
Dr. Baddley is a graduate of Louisiana State University of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana. He completed his infectious disease fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Currently, Baddley serves as the Section Chief of Infectious Diseases at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Birmingham and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at UAB.

Associate Program Director & Clinical Coordinator: Paul Harrelson, MPAS, PA-C
Mr. Harrelson, an assistant professor, holds a Master’s degree in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska, and is a graduate of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program at Wake Forest University. Prior to joining the faculty he worked as a Physician Assistant specializing in pain management.

Assistant Professor: Kara L. Caruthers, MSPAS, PA-C
Ms. Caruthers joined the faculty of the Physician Assistant Program in February 2010. She holds a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from UAB (2009) and a Master of Science in Molecular, Cellular and Systemic Physiology with a Certificate in Anatomy from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (2005). She is currently pursuing a PhD in Nutrition Sciences from UAB. Prior to enrolling in the PA Program at UAB, she was an Anatomy instructor at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. In the department, Ms. Caruthers also serves as the Co-Program Director for the M.S. in Biomedical and Health Sciences. She is working clinically in the Department of Emergency Medicine, at UAB Highlands, as well as in the Department of Medicine, at the UAB Urgent Care Clinic.

Assistant Professor & Director of Admissions: William R. Drace, MAEd, PA
Mr. Bill Drace, is a graduate of the UAB Surgical Physician Assistant Program. He practiced as a surgical PA in cardiac surgery for 25 years during which time he served as a preceptor for the PA program. Following his retirement from cardiac surgery, Mr. Drace joined the UAB PA faculty full-time and completed a Master's degree in Education in October 2005.
Associate Professor: Chad Epps, M.D.
Dr. Epps is Director of Simulation. He has extensive experience working in human simulation and the development of simulation curricula for education and assessment of a variety of healthcare professionals. He holds many professional memberships including the American Society of Anesthesiologists and Society for Simulation in Healthcare.

Dr. Epps received his B.S. in Biology from Augusta College and M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia. He completed an internship in Internal Medicine at the University of Florida before moving to New York City to continue his training in Anesthesiology at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. After residency, Dr. Epps served as a fellow in Human Simulation at Mount Sinai’s Human Emulation Education and Evaluation Lab for Patient Safety and Professionalism (HELPS) Center.

Assistant Professor: John Hurt BS, PA-C
Mr. Hurt graduated from the University of Alabama Birmingham where he obtained a BS in Biology/Chemistry in 1999. He attended the UAB Physician Assistant Program from 2000-2002 earning a second bachelor’s degree in Physician Assistant studies. He later completed his Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska in 2013. He has practiced clinically in cardiovascular surgery, cardiology, inpatient medicine and GI surgery as well as emergency medicine.

Mr. Hurt was recognized as the Preceptor of the Year in 2011 from the UAB Physician Assistant Program and in May 2013 accepted a full-time faculty position in our Physician Assistant Program. He continues to work clinically in the Emergency Department one day a week teaching our first and second year students. His interests include emergency medicine, surgical disease, surgical techniques as well as primary care. He is responsible for instructing our History and Physical examination courses. He is also an instructor in our Surgical Techniques courses as well as ACLS.

Assistant Professor & Academic Coordinator: Kristopher Maday, MA, PA-C
Mr. Maday joined the faculty in 2011. He received his Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Maryland in 2002 and his Master's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham Surgical Physician Assistant Program in 2007. Upon graduating, he accepted a position as one of the first five physician assistants with the Department of Trauma, Burns, and Surgical Critical Care at UAB Hospital to staff the Trauma/Burn Intensive Care Unit. During his tenure, he became certified in Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS), and Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (FCCS).

In 2010, Mr. Maday became nationally board certified as a Nutritional Support Clinician (CNSC). He is an active member of American Academy of Physician Assistants, Alabama Society of Physician Assistants, Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, Society of Critical Care Medicine, and the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. He practices clinically with the Pegasus Emergency Medicine Group in the Emergency Department at Cullman Regional Medical Center.

Assistant Professor & Clinical Coordinator: Stephanie McGilvray, MMSc, PA-C
Ms. McGilvray joined the faculty of the UAB Physician Assistant Program in February, 2012. She holds a Master of Medical Science Degree in Physician Assistant from Emory University (2000). She also holds a Master of Education in Exercise Technology from the University of South Alabama (1995) and a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training from Troy University (1994).

Ms. McGilvray’s prior work experience as a physician assistant include working in the UAB Trauma and Burn ICU and working for Alabama Sports Medicine. Prior to becoming a physician assistant,
McGilvray worked as an athletic trainer for HealthSouth developing their outreach program in the Auburn area. She is currently serving on the Board of the Physician Assistant Foundation in addition to being a trainer of Clinical Coordinators for PAEA. She also has served on the Board for the Alabama Society of Physician Assistants and has served on a Reimbursement Work Group for the American Academy of Physician Assistants. She currently works clinically as a physician assistant for Pegasus Emergency Medicine Group.

**Assistant Professor & Director of Program Evaluation: Kelley Swatzell, DrPH**

Dr. Swatzell is Director of Evaluation and Outcomes Research of the UAB Physician Assistant Program and the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a Master’s in Public Health with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health. She earned her Doctorate in Public Health in December 2014. Her dissertation research was on perinatal outcomes of non-medically indicated early term deliveries.

Dr. Swatzell is a member of the Delta Omega National Honors Society in Public Health and the Pi Alpha National Honors Society in Physician Assistant Education. She taught integrated public health science at the UAB School of Public Health prior to joining the faculty at the UAB PA program. She teaches research methods, statistics, scientific presentations and behavioral sciences for the PA program and the CDS department.

**Assistant Professor: M. Tosi Gilford, M.D., PA-C**

Dr. Gilford joined the faculty of the Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program in Spring of 2015. She is a native of Los Angeles, CA and completed her undergraduate studies at California State University Dominguez Hills in Carson, CA; receiving a BS in Public Administration with a Health Services concentration. Dr. Gilford received a second BS degree in Health Science, as well as a PA certificate from Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science Physician Assistant Program. After practicing for 1 year as an Internal Medicine PA-C she went on to further her education and received a Doctorate of Medicine from Windsor University School of Medicine, then completed a Family Medicine residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham - Selma Family Medicine Program.
Application Information

Application Deadline: Completed applications must be received by the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) by August 1 of the year prior to the expected term of enrollment.

Application Procedure: This program participates in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Please consult https://caspa.liaisoncas.com for more information regarding specific application procedures and fees. Applicants should send all application materials directly to CASPA. Official GRE scores are sent from ETS directly to CASPA using code 0570. CASPA will verify the application information and send completed applications to the program.

After completing the CASPA application the applicant should complete the UAB PA Supplemental Application. A $75 processing fee needs to be included with the supplemental application. Following the program’s receipt of the CASPA application, official GRE scores, and UAB PA Supplemental Application, the UAB PA Program will review the packet.

Applications are reviewed by members of the admissions committee. Interviews are held in October, November, and December. Admissions decisions are finalized in January. Students who are accepted to the Physician Assistant program will need to complete the UAB Graduate School application.

Admissions Timeline
- August 1 of the year prior to matriculation: Last day to take the GRE
- May – August 1: e-Submit the CASPA application https://caspa.liaisoncas.com
- August 7: Deadline for the UAB PA Supplemental Application.
- September - October: Application review
- October – December: Interviews
- January: Admissions decisions finalized
- February - March: Admitted students complete the UAB Graduate School Application
- April – August: Complete orientation requirements

Admission Requirements
- Baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited college/university
- Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores from the Verbal, Quantitative and Analytic sections. Applicants with advanced degrees whose GRE scores are older than 5 years (i.e. the time limit that ETS will send scores) can request the PA program to consider dated scores if the applicant can provide documentation of their GRE scores directly from the institution they attended. The documentation should be sent directly from the student’s graduate degree institution to the PA Admissions office prior to the Sept. 1st deadline for application evaluation. Please note that recent GRE scores often make applicants with an advanced degree more competitive than applicants with an advanced degree that do not have recent GRE scores. Furthermore, as with all applicants, the UAB admissions review committee could still determine that the applicant should retake the GRE and reapply the next application cycle.

In addition to:
- A minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (A = 4.0)
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 (A = 4.0) in natural science courses
• Technical ability to complete the program (see Essential Requirements and Technical Standards)
• Interview with faculty
• Medical clearance: UAB Physician Assistant students must be medically cleared for enrollment. Detailed information is available via UAB Student Health Services.
• Undergo a criminal background check and consent to drug testing
• A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 ($A=4.0$) in the program prerequisite courses, with a minimum grade of C in each of the following:
  8 semester hours of biology for science majors
  3-4 semester hours of microbiology (lab preferred)
  3-4 semester hours of human anatomy
  3-4 semester hours of human physiology
  8-9 semester hours of general chemistry (lab preferred)
  3-4 semester hours of statistics
  6 semester hours of psychology: Introduction to psychology required; developmental or abnormal

Estimated Fees Related to Admissions
• CASPA Application fee.
• UAB PA Supplemental Application fee.
• UAB Graduate School Application fee.
• UAB PA Deposit $300.00 for those accepted into the program. The deposit is applied towards tuition in the first semester of the program. The deposit is non-refundable and will be forfeited by the applicant in the event that he/she does not enroll and attend the UAB PA program.
• Other expenses to anticipate:
  o GRE or MCAT preparation and examination.
  o The cost of sending transcripts to CASPA and UAB.

Applicants are evaluated on the following criteria
• Academics - Overall GPA, Science GPA, Prerequisite Grades and GRE Scores.
• Clinical Experience - Although not required for admission into the program, experience in health care settings, (providing direct patient care and/or surgical experience) is considered in the application score.
• Personal statement - Applicants are evaluated on the quality of their personal statement.
• Letters of support - Three (3) letters of support are reviewed and considered.

The PA Program is committed to recruiting and matriculating minority and disadvantaged students for careers as physician assistants.

Credit for Prior Learning Experiences
The program does not grant advanced placement nor is credit given for prior experiential learning. Credit is not offered for prior experiential learning or courses provided by another physician assistant program.

Program Overview

Didactic Curriculum
Students attend classes on the UAB campus during the first four semesters of enrollment. The didactic curriculum consists of both biological sciences and clinically related courses. All courses are required and must be completed successfully prior to beginning the clinical phase of training.

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<th>DIDACTIC CURRICULUM</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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<tr>
<td>CDS 501 Professional Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 601 Human Gross Anatomy</td>
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<td>PA 602 Medical Physiology</td>
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<td>PA 605 Pathology</td>
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<td>PA 610 Clinical Laboratory Medicine</td>
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<td>PA 615 Introduction to the Profession</td>
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<td>CDS 502 Professional Skills II</td>
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<td>PA 603 Pharmacology I</td>
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<td>PA 606 Clinical Medicine I</td>
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<td>PA 608 Surgical Disease I</td>
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<td>PA 611 History &amp; Physical Exam I</td>
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<td>PA 613 Surgical Techniques</td>
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<td>PA 616 Electrocardiography</td>
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<td>CDS 503 Professional Skills III</td>
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<td>CDS 535 Medical Genetics Across the Lifespan</td>
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<td>HCM 530 Healthcare Delivery and Reimbursement</td>
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<td>PA 604 Pharmacology II</td>
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<td>PA 614 Operating Room Techniques</td>
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<td>PA 618 Risk Management</td>
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<td>PA 619 Fund Clinical Research</td>
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<td>PA 612 History &amp; Physical Exam II</td>
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<td>PA 617 Applied Behavioral Medicine</td>
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<td>PA 620 Literature Evaluation</td>
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<td>PA 634 Simulation Lab</td>
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| TOTAL DIDACTIC HOURS | 63 |
Clinical Curriculum
The Clinical Year consists of 12 clinical rotations PA 621 – PA 632 (2-4 credit hours) plus Senior Seminar I, II & III and Masters Research Project Presentation.

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<td>PA 624 Clinical Service IV</td>
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<td>PA 638 Senior Seminar I</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
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<td>PA 639 Senior Seminar II</td>
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<td>PA 630 Clinical Service X</td>
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<td>PA 632 Clinical Service XII</td>
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<td>PA 640 Senior Seminar III</td>
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<td>TERM TOTAL</td>
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<td>TOTAL CLINICAL YEAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>CURRICULUM TOTAL HOURS</td>
<td>118</td>
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Clinical Rotations (PA 621-629) are available in the following clinical disciplines.

**Required Rotations**
- Emergency Medicine
- General Surgery
- Inpatient Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Outpatient Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry

**Elective Rotations**
- Surgical Subspecialties
- Medicine Subspecialties
- Trauma Subspecialties

**Essential Requirements:** Fundamental tasks, behaviors, and abilities needed to successfully complete the academic and clinical requirements of the program and to satisfy licensure/certification requirements are required of all students and are available upon request from the academic program office and can be found at the end of this booklet.  See Technical Standards.  Admitted students requesting disability accommodations need to be registered and approved by the UAB Disability Support Services located at 1701 9th Ave S., 9th Ave. Office Building, 205-934-4205.

**Tuition and Fees**
Additional information about in-state and out-of-state tuition and fees are provided at: http://www.uab.edu/shp/home/admissions-tuition/tuition/tuition-fees

Fee Payment

University regulations and policies regarding tuition, fee payments, late fees and delinquent accounts are published in the UAB's online student handbook, Direction, available at: http://www.uab.edu/handbook/

Scholarships

Albert E. Purser Scholarship: A $1,000 scholarship for first or second year students with financial need who are native and permanent residents of Alabama.

Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students
The objective of this HRSA sponsored Scholarship is to increase diversity in the physician assistant (PA) workforce by increasing the number of disadvantaged students in the PA program within the School of Health Professions (SHP) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). The scholarship funds will be utilized for tuition and fees only, and recipients of the scholarships will be selected on HRSA disadvantaged definitions, prior academic achievement, Graduate Record Exam scores, and documented financial need.

Academic Common Market
The Academic Common Market is an interstate agreement among selected southern states for sharing academic programs at both the baccalaureate and graduate levels. Participating states are able to make arrangements for their residents who qualify for admission to enroll in specific programs in other states on an in-state tuition basis. Contact your state coordinator for more information: www.sreb.org.
Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam Outcomes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>UAB Percent Passed</th>
<th>National Average</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2008</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2009</td>
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<td>Class of 2012</td>
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<td>Class of 2013</td>
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<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2014</td>
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<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>98</strong></td>
<td><strong>93</strong></td>
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</table>

PA Employment Opportunities

Excellent employment opportunities are available for physician assistants, particularly in settings that have difficulty attracting physicians, such as rural and inner city clinics. Employment opportunities for PAs are expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2016. This is due to the anticipated expansion of the health services industry and the current emphasis on cost containment.

Physicians and institutions employ PAs in primary care and the surgical specialties because PAs are effective members of the healthcare team.

In 2013 the average salary for a PA working full time was $90,000. The average starting salary for PAs in the first year following graduation is $80,000-$86,000. Income does vary, however, by specialty, practice setting, geographical location, and years of experience.

All States and the District of Columbia have legislation governing the practice of physician assistants. All jurisdictions require physician assistants to pass the Physician Assistants National Certifying Examination, administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). This exam is open to all graduates of accredited PA educational programs. To remain certified, PAs must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every 2 years and pass a recertification examination every 6 years.
UAB PA Graduate Employment Status

Employed as a Physician Assistant

Physician Assistant Practice Areas as Reported by Graduates of the UAB PA Program

UAB PA Graduates in Primary Care, ER/Trauma & Surgery, 2007-2013

Physician Assistant Community Settings as Reported by Graduates of the UAB PA Program

Graduate Employment Community Type
Additional Information
Thank you for your interest in the Physician Assistant Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. For answers to the most frequently asked questions, please visit our website: http://www.uab.edu/pa.

UAB PA Program Information Sessions
For more information about the program, the application process, and career opportunities as a physician assistant attend one of our program information sessions. Sessions are held regularly during March-August. For more information about upcoming dates or to reserve a seat in one of these sessions, please call the program office at (205-934-4605). If you are unable to attend an information session, or have specific questions or concerns, please contact the program office directly.

For more information on physician assistant careers, programs, and certification requirements:

American Academy of Physician Assistants Information Center
950 North Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314-1552.
www.aapa.org

Physician Assistant Education Association
300 N. Washington Street; Suite 710
Alexandria, VA 22314-2544
(703) 548-5538
(703) 548-5538
http://www.paeaonline.org/
info@PAEAonline.org

Alabama Society of Physician Assistants
P.O. Box 1900
Montgomery, AL 36102-1900
Phone: (334) 315-6112
http://www.myaspa.org/

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, Inc.
157 Technology Pkwy. Suite 800
Norcross, GA 30092-2913
www.nccpa.net

Policies and Procedures for UAB and the School of Health Professions:
http://www.uab.edu/shp/home/degrees-certificates/academic-policies-and-procedures

General Information about UAB
205-934-8000 www.uab.edu

Technical (Performance) Standards
In order to ensure that patients receive the best medical care possible, the faculty of the UAB PA program has identified certain skills and professional behaviors that are required for successful completion of the program. These skills and behaviors are required to perform a variety of activities
within the curriculum and also to function clinically as a physician assistant. Therefore, all students in the PA Program must be able to demonstrate these skills and professional behaviors, including students with disabilities when reasonable accommodations are made by the program.

Minimum Technical (Performance) Standards include:

**Critical Thinking:** Students must possess the intellectual capabilities required to complete the full curriculum and achieve the level of competence delineated by the faculty. Critical thinking requires the intellectual ability to measure, calculate, synthesize and analyze a large and complex volume of medical and surgical information. Students in the program must also be able to perform applicable demonstrations and experiments in the medical sciences.

**Computer Technology Skills:** Students must be able to utilize computerized information technology to access and manage on-line medical information, participate in computerized testing as required by the curriculum, conduct research, prepare multimedia presentations, and participate in the management of computerized patient records and assessments.

**Communication Skills:** Students must be able to speak clearly and effectively in order to elicit and relay medical information. They must also be able to communicate effectively and legibly in writing.

**Visual Ability:** Students must have the visual acuity needed to evaluate a patient during a physical exam and perform a wide range of technical procedures involved in the practice of medicine and surgery.

**Hearing and Tactile Ability:** Students must have the motor and sensory functions needed to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, and percussion, as well as perform a wide range of technical procedures involved in the practice of medicine and surgery.

**Motor and Fine Skills:** Students must be able to execute the physical movements required to maneuver in small places, calibrate and use equipment, position and move patients, and perform the technical procedures involved in the practice of medicine and surgery.

**Interpersonal Ability:** Students must possess a wide range of interpersonal skills, including (1) the emotional health required for management of high stress situations while maintaining their full intellectual abilities; (2) the ability to exercise good judgment; (3) the ability to complete all assigned patient care responsibilities; (4) the ability to manage time (show up on time, begin and complete tasks on time); (5) the ability to develop a mature, sensitive and effective relationship with medical colleagues, clinical and administrative staff, patients, and families; (6) the ability to identify, use, understand and manage emotions in positive ways to relieve stress, communicate effectively, empathize with others, overcome challenges and diffuse conflict; and (7) the ability to recognize your own emotional state and the emotional states of others and engage with people in a way that draws them to you.
UAB PA Pre-Application Self-Assessment

Name: 
Email: 
Phone: 

Prerequisite Information:

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Course Prefix</th>
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Term</th>
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GRE Score or MCAT Score

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<th>GRE Analytical</th>
<th>GRE Date</th>
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MCAT Score

Score

Health Care Experience:
Directions to the Campus and Parking
The School of Health Professions Building (SHPB) is located at 1705 University Blvd one block west from the parking garage. There is a park with a fountain directly in front of the building. The building itself is set back off of University Blvd and sits behind the park.

Unless otherwise notified, Information Sessions are held in the Learning Resource Center (LRC) 114. The LRC is adjacent to the School of Health Professions. You can enter the LRC via the SHPB. Take a right immediately past the elevator and go down the hall. LRC 114 will be on the left.

The admissions office is on the fourth floor of SHPB.

Parking
The rate for the garage is $2.00 for the first hour, $1.00 for each additional half hour, up to a maximum of $6.00. There may be free street parking available behind SHPB and the LRC on 9th Ave or 10th Ave around 16th/17th Street. If you park behind our building then you may want to enter the building from the back entrance on 9th Avenue.

Traveling South on I-65:
- Take the 6TH AVE S exit - exit number 259.
- Go one block and turn LEFT onto 9TH ST S.
- Turn LEFT onto UNIVERSITY BLVD/8TH AVE S.
- Get about 10 blocks
- At 16th Street South intersection, turn right onto 16th and then left into the parking garage.

Traveling North on I-65:
- Take the UNIVERSITY BLVD exit- exit number 259.
- Merge onto UNIVERSITY BLVD/8TH AVE S.
- Get about 10 blocks
- At 16th Street South intersection, turn right onto 16th and then left into the parking garage.

Traveling North from Highway 31
- Take the UNIVERSITY BLVD exit towards 8TH AVE S.
- Keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp.
- Merge onto UNIVERSITY BLVD/8TH AVE S.
- At 16th Street South intersection, turn left onto 16th and then left into the parking garage.

Traveling South on Highway 31
- Turn RIGHT onto UNIVERSITY BLVD exit
- Turn left onto UNIVERSITY BLVD/8TH AVE S.
- At 16th Street South intersection, turn right onto 16th and then left into the parking garage.