ABOUT PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
Physician assistants are medical professionals who work with physicians as part of a team. They conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret lab tests, perform medical procedures, assist in surgery, provide patient education and counseling, and make rounds of patients in hospitals and nursing homes. All 50 states and the District of Columbia allow physician assistants to practice medicine and prescribe medications. Physician assistants work side-by-side with physician team members in all medical specialties.

Often rated first or second for overall job satisfaction, the average physician assistant has been in practice for 12 years and earned an average annual salary of $102,165 in 2012. The 30 percent projected rate of employment growth in this field is much higher than average.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM GOALS
1. Prepare our Physician Assistant students to excel in all of the competencies required for PA practice by providing a rigorous and supportive program in which to develop the knowledge, interpersonal, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, and clinical reasoning and problem-solving abilities necessary for clinical care.

2. Prepare Physician Assistant students to meet the needs of our healthcare system by providing a strong primary care experience caring for underserved populations and by developing an understanding of the healthcare delivery and payment systems that affect healthcare access, outcomes, and potential disparities.

3. Develop and support our Physician Assistant students’ commitment and ability to serve in leadership roles as advocates for patients and the PA profession.

4. Develop and strengthen our Physician Assistant students’ skills and habits critical for lifelong learning and continuous practice-based self-improvement.

5. Facilitate achieving our program’s mission, vision, and goals by integrating and supporting diverse perspectives throughout the curriculum, including global and inter-professional perspectives, in order to best serve the needs of diverse patients and communities.

Our success in achieving these goals will be closely and continually assessed by collecting, evaluating, and analyzing essential information and implementing changes as necessary. Essential information includes admissions data, student scores in courses, rotations, and summative evaluation. Student and alumni evaluation of program components will also be an integral component in successfully achieving our goals and focusing program efforts, including feedback regarding courses and faculty, clinical rotations and preceptors. Outcomes data will include Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) scores, alumni success in obtaining patient-care positions (post-graduation), and employer feedback of our graduates.

PROGRAM MISSION
The mission of the emerging Bryant University Physician Assistant Program is to improve universal access to health care by graduating highly competent and confident physician assistants prepared to provide exceptional quality, patient-centered healthcare in a collaborative environment.

WHY BRYANT?
The University has a 150-year tradition of creating innovative academic programs that anticipate the future. Bryant’s 27-month, 126 semester-hour course of study leads to a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree. Graduates will deliver exceptional healthcare in a complex, rapidly evolving healthcare system. Capitalizing on its strong undergraduate science program and innovative business programs, the University plans to develop a School of Health Sciences around the strong foundation established by the Physician Assistant Program.

Inquiries and Contact
All inquiries are welcome. For more information please contact:

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M.S. Physician Assistant Studies

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicant should:
Complete an online Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) application, available April 2014.
Complete a supplemental Bryant University Physician Assistant Program Application Package, mailed to you upon applying to CASPA.
Provide three professional references.
Provide one personal reference.
Hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution (no preferred major).
Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0.
Complete the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

International applicants must submit the TOEFL unless he or she has completed a baccalaureate degree in the United States.
Document at least 2,000 hours of direct patient-care experience.
Complete the following prerequisites with a minimum 3.0 GPA and a “C” or better in each class:
- Biology with lab: 8SH
- Chemistry with lab: 8SH
- Human Anatomy and Physiology: 8SH
- Microbiology: 3SH
- Organic 4SH or Biochemistry: 3SH
- Psychology: 3SH
- Statistics: 3SH

Undergo a background investigation.
Meet all technical standards required for program completion.
Participate in an on-site interview.

PROGRAM COURSEWORK

DIDACTIC YEAR

(Four quarters in 12 months)

First Quarter 2015: Physiology and Pathophysiology (3SH), Clinical Pharmacology (3SH), Human Anatomy (4SH), Clinical Laboratory (2SH), Research Methods (1SH), and Genetics (1SH).

Second Quarter 2015: Clinical Medicine One (5SH), Clinical Medicine Two (5SH), History and Physical Examination (3SH), Electrocardiography (1SH), Behavioral Medicine (2SH), Diagnostic Testing and Imaging (1SH), and Clinical Correlations (2SH).

Third Quarter 2015: Clinical Medicine Three (5SH), Clinical Medicine Four (5SH), Pediatrics (4SH), Orthopedics (4SH), Public Health and Dental Medicine (1SH), Clinical Skills (1SH), and Clinical Correlations One (2SH).

Fourth Quarter 2015: Clinical Medicine Five (5SH), Clinical Medicine Six (5SH), Emergency Medicine (6SH), Surgery (3SH), Medical Ethics and Law (1SH), PA Professional Issues (1SH), and Clinical Correlations Two (2SH).

CLINICAL YEAR

(Twelve clinical rotations in 15 months)

Inpatient Internal Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice (4SH), Outpatient Internal Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Family Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Surgery Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Pediatrics Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Obstetrics and Gynecology Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Psychiatry Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Emergency Medicine Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Orthopedics Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Dermatology Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (4SH), Elective Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (2SH), and Mini Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (2SH).

TRANSFER CREDIT AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The Bryant University Physician Assistant Program does not accept transfer credits and does not award Advanced Standing/Placement based on prior coursework.

ACCREDITATION

Bryant University has applied for provisional accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The program anticipates matriculating its first class in January 2015, pending provisional accreditation in September 2014.

Provisional accreditation is an accreditation status for a new PA program that has not yet enrolled students but at the time of its comprehensive accreditation review has demonstrated its preparedness to initiate a program in accordance with the accreditation standards.

The program will not commence in the event that this provisional accreditation is not received. Students will be conditionally accepted to the program pending accreditation.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

March 2013: Program Director and Medical Director Hired
September 2013: Feasibility Study due to the ARC-PA
January 2014: Program Self-Study due to the ARC-PA
March 2014: Accreditation Site Visit
April 2014: Admission Process Begins
September 2014: Notification of Provisional Application Status
January 2015: Matriculate Inaugural PA Class
January 2016: First PA Class Begins Clinical Rotations Matriculate Second Cohort
September 2016: Second Accreditation Site Visit
April 2017: Inaugural PA Class Graduates