



# Personalized Student Insights: Matriculating Student Survey

**Program Name Here**

**CREATED November 30, 2022**

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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PAEA has identified items from the (YEAR) Matriculating Student Survey that directly address multiple components of the ARC-PA Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education (5th Ed.) or that may otherwise be useful to programs. This report summarizes your own students' responses to these selected questions. The Student Report summarizing the results from all participating PA programs will be published in approximately one year after the survey closes, allowing for benchmarking against national data. X responses were received from your program; responses were not deduplicated or otherwise altered in any way prior to generating this report. Please contact [data@PAEAonline.org](mailto:data@PAEAonline.org) with any questions regarding this report or our other data services.

Suggested citation:

Physician Assistant Education Association. *PAEA Personalized Student Insights: (YEAR) Matriculating Student Survey, prepared for Program Name Here*. Washington, DC: PAEA. (YEAR).

# HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In the past week, rate...	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Overall quality of life			
Overall physical well-being			
Spiritual well-being			
Overall emotional well-being			
Overall mental well-being			
Level of social activity			

*Note: 0 = "As bad as it can be" to 10 = "As good as it can be."*

In the past 30 days, rate...	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Level of social support from friends and family			
Financial concerns			
Level of fatigue			

*Note: Financial concerns: 0 = "No concerns" to 10 = "Constant concerns."*  
*Fatigue: 0 = "No fatigue" to 10 = "Constant tiredness."*  
*Social support: 0 = "Not at all satisfied" to 10 = "Highly satisfied."*

In the last month, rate...	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Things were going your way?			
Confident about your ability to handle your personal problems?			
Unable to control the important things in your life?			
Difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?			

*Note: 0 = "Never" to 4 = "Very often."*

Perceived stress in the last month	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Perceived stress score			

*Note: A perceived stress score is typically obtained by reverse-scoring the positively phrased items then summing all items to create an index ranging from 0 to 16, where 16 represents the maximum stress score.*

<b>Anticipated stress of aspects of PA training</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>
Clinical phase coursework			
Didactic phase coursework			
Financial concerns			
Frequency of tests and other assessments			
Initial transition to PA training			
Interpersonal dynamics between faculty/preceptors			
Interpersonal dynamics between peers			
Lack of control over schedule			
Mental health issues			
Personal issues			
Physical health issues			
Relocating to a new area			
Transition from didactic to clinical phase of training			
Volume of learning expected			
Other			

*Note: Students were asked to select and rank the five most stressful aspects of PA training that they anticipate (1 = Most stressful, 5 = Least stressful). This table displays the data to report the Mean and Median rankings of each item. Mean and Median stress scores are reported for those items selected as one of the five most stressful aspects.*

<b>Obstacles you are <i>currently</i> facing specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>%</b>
Social isolation		
Lack of conducive workspace and/or study space		
Unanticipated financial challenges (e.g., partner being furloughed)		
Personally becoming infected with COVID-19		
Taking care of family member diagnosed with COVID-19		
Concerned about not being able to pay rent or mortgage		
Difficulty securing loans		
Facilitating children’s virtual learning		
Food insecurity		
Inadequate internet connection		
Inadequate technology (e.g., lack of laptop)		
Lack of adequate support from PA program		
Taking care of dependent adult		
Taking care of dependent children		
Other		

N/A: None of these

Total

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*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple obstacles.*

# PA SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS

Reasons to pursue a PA career	<i>n</i>	%
A "calling" to the healthcare profession		
Cost of education/affordability		
Desire to care for patients		
Desire to influence the direction of health care		
Excitement of health care		
Financial stability		
Geographic mobility		
Graduate-level education		
Length of education		
Mobility within PA specialties		
Other health professions were less appealing		
Prestige		
Work-life balance		
Other		
<b>Total</b>		

*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple reasons.*

Number of programs...	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Applied to			
Offered an interview by			
Completed an interview by			
Received an acceptance letter from			

*Note: Zeroes were excluded.*

Reasons for interviewing at fewer programs than offered	<i>n</i>	%
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Already accepted an offer at another school

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Cost associated with traveling to the interview

No longer interested in program(s)

Virtual interview format was not an option

Other

**Total**

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*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple reasons.*

Number of programs...	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Applied to			
Offered an interview by			
Completed an interview by			
Received an acceptance letter from			

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*Note: Zeroes were excluded.*

Reasons for interviewing at fewer programs than offered	<i>n</i>	%
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Already accepted an offer at another school

Cost associated with traveling to the interview

No longer interested in program(s)

Virtual interview format was not an option

Other

**Total**

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*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple reasons.*

Estimated total cost of applying to PA school for this year only	<i>n</i>	%
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No cost (\$)

\$1 to \$499

\$500 to \$999

\$1,000 to \$1,499

\$1,500 to \$1,999

\$2,000 to \$2,499

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\$2,500 to \$2,999  
 \$3,000 to \$3,499  
 \$3,500 to \$3,999  
 \$4,000 to \$4,499  
 \$4,500 to \$4,999  
 \$5,000 to \$5,499  
 \$5,500 to \$5,999  
 \$6,000 to \$ 6,499  
 \$6,500 to \$6,999  
 \$7,000 or more

**Total**

*Note: Students were asked to include fees and cost of interviews but exclude costs from campus visits that were not associated with an interview, other non-mandatory expenses (e.g., interview clothes), prerequisite coursework, or the cost of applying to PA school in previous years.*

<b>Did students apply to and/or seriously consider a career in another health profession?</b>	<i>n</i>	%
Yes		
No		
<b>Total</b>		

<b>Reasons students chose to attend PA school instead of pursuing training in another health profession</b>	<i>n</i>	%
Ability to change specialties		
Cost of attending PA school was lower		
Length of PA education was shorter		
Opportunity to work in a team environment		
PA education provided the right amount of intellectual challenge		

PA scope of practice  
 Wanted collaborating physician relationship  
 Wanted to spend more time providing direct patient care  
 Wanted to work in the medical model  
 Was not accepted by another health professions program  
 Work-life balance  
 Other

**Total**

*Note: Only those students who reported applying to and/or seriously considering a career in another health profession were asked to respond to this question. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple reasons.*

Factors influencing decision to become a PA	n	%
College/campus admissions department		
PA program faculty/staff		
PA program literature		
AAPA website/literature		
PAEA website/literature		
Total		–

*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple influences. "n" represents the total number of students who responded to this question, though this table does not present all possible factors students were able to choose from.*

Student consideration of program attributions when choosing which PA programs they would like to attend	n	Considered (%)	Importance (Mean)	Importance (Median)
Accessible/Responsive faculty				
Accommodation for students with disabilities				
Desirable program community				
Desirable program location				
Diverse faculty				
Diverse student body				
Dual degree offered (e.g. PA plus MPH)				
Cost of application and interview process				



Good faculty reputation  
Good program reputation  
HBCU program  
High likelihood of admission  
High PANCE pass rates  
How long since program was established  
Job placement rates  
Low tuition  
Many opportunities to gain clinical experience  
(e.g., rotations)  
Mentorship  
Opportunities to participate in community  
service  
Program accreditation status  
  
Program is affiliated with or offering a  
doctoral degree such as the DMSc or DHSc  
  
Program is part of a hospital or clinic system  
  
Program mission consistent with personal  
values  
  
Program offers scholarships and financial aid  
  
Program structure  
  
Proximity to home/current place of residence  
  
Quality program facilities (e.g., labs and  
equipment)  
Required few or no prerequisites beyond what  
I had already completed  
Rigorous clinical curriculum  
Small class size/student-faculty ratio  
Time to degree

*Note: "n" represents the total number of students who responded to each item. "Considered (%)" represents the proportion of responding students who indicated that they considered each attribute. Mean and median importance are reported for those students who did consider each factor, and who reported the factor's importance on a scale from 1 = "Not important" to 4 = "Essential."*

Importance of program attributes when choosing which PA programs you would like to attend	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Program accreditation status			
High PANCE pass rates			
Accessible/Responsive faculty			
Many opportunities to gain clinical experience (e.g., rotations)			
Quality program facilities (e.g., labs and equipment)			
Program mission consistent with personal values			
Good program reputation			
Rigorous clinical curriculum			
Desirable program location			
Good faculty reputation			
Program is part of a hospital or clinic system			
Small class size/student-faculty ratio			
Low tuition			
Diverse student body			
Opportunities to participate in community service			
Required few or no prerequisites beyond what I had already completed			
Diverse faculty			
How long since program was established			
High likelihood of admission			
Program offers scholarships and financial aid			
Dual degree offered (e.g., PA plus MPH)			

*Note: "n" represents the total number of students who had considered each attribute when choosing which PA programs they would like to attend. Students then reported how important it was to them that their PA program have each considered attribute on a scale from 1 = "Not important" to 4 = "Essential."*

<b>Influences of program experiences on decision to accept admissions offer at current program</b>	<i>n</i>	<b>Made student <i>not want</i> to attend (%)</b>	<b>No influence on decision (%)</b>	<b>Made student <i>want</i> to attend (%)</b>
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Program admissions outreach/recruitment efforts  
 Program interview experience  
 Conversations with current students  
 Conversations with program alumni  
 Conversations with program faculty and staff

*Note: Students who selected "Did not experience/Not applicable" were excluded.*

<b>Importance that program curriculum covers selected topics</b>	<i>n</i>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>
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Culturally appropriate care for diverse populations  
 Implicit bias training  
 Burnout prevention/Provider wellbeing  
 Substance use disorders/Addiction medicine  
 Disease prevention/Health maintenance  
 Health equity/Social determinants of health  
 Social justice/Anti-racism training and curriculum  
 Nutrition  
 Palliative/End of life care  
 Public health  
 Role of community health and social service agencies  
 Leadership training  
 Oral health  
 Telemedicine

*Note: 1 = "Not important" to 4 = "Essential".*

# FUTURE PRACTICE PLANS

Desirability of various practice environments	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Suburban			
Urban underserved			
Rural			
Urban			
Substance use disorder (SUD) practice			
Veterans Affairs (VA) facility			
Practice outside the US			
Native American/American Indian Reservation			
Military base(s)			
Federal/State prison system			

*Note: 1 = "Very undesirable" to 5 = "Very desirable".*

Desirability of working with a medically underserved community	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
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Desirability

*Note: 1 = "Very undesirable to 5 = "Very desirable." The following were listed as example of medically underserved communities: urban underserved, rural, prison, military and VA facilities, and Native American/American Indian Reservations.*

<b>Desirability of various specialties</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Undesirable (%)</b>	<b>Neither desirable nor undesirable (%)</b>	<b>Desirable (%)</b>
Behavioral and mental health care				
Emergency medicine (not urgent care)				
Family medicine				
Geriatrics				
Inpatient specialties (e.g., critical care, hospitalist)				
Internal medicine				
Internal medicine specialties				
Obstetrics/Gynecology/Women health				
Pediatrics				
Primary care				
Surgical specialties				
Urgent care				

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*Note: Students who selected "Do not know enough about it" were excluded. Examples of internal medicine specialties include cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, infectious disease, nephrology, oncology/hematology, and rheumatology. Examples of surgical specialties include cardiovascular/cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, and urologic surgery.*

# FINANCES

Did you take additional semester credits to satisfy prerequisite requirements for the programs to which you applied?	<i>n</i>	%
Yes		
No		
Total		

Estimated total cost of additional semester credits to satisfy prerequisites for the programs you applied to.	<i>n</i>	%
No cost (\$0)		
\$1 to \$499		
\$500 to \$999		
\$1,000 to \$1,499		
\$1,500 to \$1,999		
\$2,000 to \$2,499		
\$2,500 to \$2,999		
\$3,000 to \$3,499		
\$3,500 to \$3,999		
\$4,000 to \$4,499		
\$4,500 to \$4,999		
\$5,000 to \$5,499		
\$5,500 to \$5,999		
\$6,000 to \$ 6,499		
\$6,500 to \$6,999		
\$7,000 or more		
Total		

*Note: Only students who reported taking additional semester credits to satisfy prerequisites were asked to respond to this question. Students who selected "I prefer not to answer" were excluded. "% (Cum.)" refers to the cumulative percentage of respondents.*

Did you take any educational loans to pay for the graduate, professional phase of PA education?	<i>n</i>	%
Yes		
No		
Total		

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*Note: Students who selected "I prefer not to answer" were excluded.*