PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Master of Medical Science
BOSTON OVERVIEW

• Aerial view of Boston
• TUFTS CAMPUSES
PRINCIPAL FACULTY

• Richard E. Murphy, PA-C, MBA – Director

• Jeanine Carlson, MD – Medical Director

• Beth Buyea, MHS, PA-C – Director of Didactic Education

• Joseph Sansone, PA-C, MS – Director of Clinical Education

• Robin Reed, MD – Principal Faculty

• Mark Freedman, PA-C, MHP – Principal Faculty
PROGRAM STATUS

• The TUSM PA Program has received **Accreditation-Continued** status by the Accreditation Review Commission for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)
  – Next validation review of the program will be March 2026
• Only graduates of ARC-PA accredited programs are eligible to take the national board certification examination that leads to state licensure
• Our fourth class of 50 students is currently in its clinical year and our fifth class of 50 students who enrolled in January is in its first semester of didactic education
• We will be enrolling another 50 students in January 2018
Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination
Five Year First Time Taker Summary Report

Program Name: Tufts University School of Medicine PA Program
Program Number: 6020
Report Date: 04-13-2017

Definitions of the report headings are provided at the end of the report. All information is current as of the date the report was generated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class Graduation Year</th>
<th>Number of First Time Takers</th>
<th>Program First Time Taker Pass Rate</th>
<th>National First Time Taker Pass Rate for the Class Graduation Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLASS OF 2015</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2016</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2017</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>Available in 2018</td>
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</table>

Five Year First Time Taker Average Pass Rate for Program: 99%
Five Year National First Time Taker Average: 95%
GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT RATE

• 100% Class of 2015
• 100% Class of 2016
• ~75% Class of 2017

• Over 50% work in Massachusetts

• Other: New Mexico, Washington state, California, Utah, Maine, Colorado, Connecticut, Texas, Vermont, New Hampshire, Oregon, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island
SOURCE OF MATRICULATED STUDENTS
HISTORY OF THE PA PROFESSION

• Started in 1967 at Duke University
• 1 PA Program in 1967, today there are 208 & counting
• Vietnam era medics returning to civilian life, well-trained
• Number of PAs in 1967 = 3, today = 110,000
• Today- master’s degree is entry-level education
• Sophisticated, standardized education with accreditation & certification processes in place
DEFINITION OF A PA (1995)

PAs are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs are qualified by graduation from an accredited PA educational program and/or certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Within the physician-PA relationship, PAs exercise autonomy in medical decision-making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. The clinical role of PAs includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practices in rural and urban areas. PA practice is centered on patient care and may include educational, research, and administrative activities.

SOURCE: American Academy of PAs (AAPA)
The Ten Most Promising Jobs Of 2015

1. Physician Assistant

Rankings

Physician Assistants rank #4 in Best Health Care Jobs. Jobs are ranked according to their ability to offer an elusive mix of factors. Read more about how we rank the best jobs.

Physician Assistants are ranked:

- #4 in Best Health Care Jobs
- #5 in The 100 Best Jobs

Quick Stats

- **$95,820** MEDIAN SALARY
- **0.2%** UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
- **28,700** NUMBER OF JOBS

Tufts
JOB EXPECTATIONS

• US Department of Labor projects a 39% growth in need for PAs in the next 10 years
• PAs are now starting to retire, resulting in a 7% attrition rate (more jobs)
• Federal health plans include PAs as a major part of the workforce
• Many healthcare systems are looking at PAs as an economical alternative to physicians
• Residency work hour cutbacks are opening teaching hospital positions by the thousands across the country
• Other countries are adopting PAs into their healthcare models
PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

• Traditional practices:
  – Internal medicine
  – Primary care
  – Family medicine

• Subspecialties:
  – Surgery
  – Pediatrics
  – Women’s health
  – Emergency medicine

• Non-traditional:
  – Plastic surgery
  – Transplant
  – Neurosurgery
  – Critical care medicine

• Hospital-based:
  – Residency support
  – Hospitalist
  – Rapid response teams
MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote human health by providing excellent education to future physician assistants so that they are prepared to become integral members of the health care team. We fulfill this mission in a dynamic learning environment that emphasizes rigorous fundamentals, innovative delivery of the curriculum, and compassionate care to diverse patient populations. Our graduates will be prepared to participate in all aspects of the health care continuum, including disease management, health promotion and maintenance, and palliative care.
WHY TUFTS?

• Student-focused education
• Dedicated faculty
• Over 100 years of training clinicians
• Diverse curriculum and clinical resources
• Interprofessional experience
• Clinical ambience
• Part of the mission of the Medical School
FACILITIES AT TUFTS

• Over 4,000 faculty members, majority of whom have clinical appointments
• Cutting edge technology
• State-of-the-art facilities for education
• 100% campus Wi-Fi
• Classrooms with advanced technology
• Study & meeting areas for students
STUDENT MEETING & STUDY AREAS
TRADITIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION
TECHNOLOGY

• TUSK- Tufts University Scientific Knowledge-base
  – Goes beyond Blackboard, ties all coursework together
  – Internationally recognized software innovation
  – More than just a learning management system
  – Ties into electronic library
  – Faculty & student resource
  – Syllabi, outlines, readings, videos, exams

• Hirsh Medical Library-
  – Thousands of electronic scientific journals
  – Over 300 on-line medical textbooks
  – Search capabilities & staff support
  – Can be reached from anywhere with internet access
STUDENT SERVICES

Office of Public Health Professional Degree
### DIDACTIC FACULTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>AFFILIATION</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Abourjaily, PharmD</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert French, MD</td>
<td>Lahey Hospital &amp; Medical Center</td>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jalil Afnan, MD, MRCS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Brodeur, PhD</td>
<td>TUSM, School of Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Cooper, MD</td>
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<td>Surgery</td>
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<td>David Damassa, PhD</td>
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<td>Rebecca Lufler, PhD</td>
<td>TUSM, School of Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Clinical Anatomy</td>
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<td>Joyce Dandreo, MPAS, PA-C</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
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<td>Jaclyn Douyard, ScM, CGC, LGC</td>
<td>Dana Farber Cancer Institute</td>
<td>Medical Genetics</td>
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<td>Richard Dupee, MD</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center-Geriiatrics</td>
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<td>Kathleen Goreham, MS, MA, PA-C</td>
<td>Cambridge Health Alliance</td>
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<td>Annette Hanson, MD, MBA</td>
<td>Tufts Medical Center</td>
<td>Behavioral Medicine</td>
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# DIDACTIC FACULTY

## Faculty

- Kelly Kane, MS, RD, LDN, CNSC
- Henry Klapholz, MD
- Megan Lee, PA-C
- Jenn Patoulidis, PA-C
- Bruce Berlanstein, MD
- Hana Dubsky, PA-C
- Melissa Sansone, MHS, PA-C
- Allen Shaughnessy, PharmD, M.Med ED, BCPS
- MaryAnn Volpe, MD

## Affiliation

- Jean Mayer HNRCA at Tufts University
- TUSM, Medical Administration
- Tufts Medical Center
- TUSM, Family Medicine
- Tufts Medical Center, Floating Hospital
- Johns Hopkins Medical Center
- Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

## Course

- Nutrition
- Women’s Health
- Neuroscience
- Medical Physiology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Dermatology
- Evidence-Based Medicine
- Pediatrics
CURRICULUM

• All courses are taken within the PA Program
• You cannot transfer coursework taken elsewhere
• Graduation requirements:
  – GPA of 3.0 or better
  – Successful completion of all clinical rotations
  – Pass a comprehensive written examination
  – Successfully complete an Objective Simulated Clinical Examination
  – Complete and pass your Capstone Project
  – Demonstrate professional performance
### FIRST YEAR COURSES

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<th>SEMESTER ONE</th>
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<td>JAN</td>
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<td>Internal Medicine I</td>
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<td>Physical and Occupational Medicine</td>
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### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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<th>TIME</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>PA 203 Internal Medicine I Dr Carlson</td>
<td>PA 203 Internal Medicine I Dr Carlson</td>
<td>PA 203 Internal Medicine I Dr Carlson</td>
<td>PA 215 Physical Diagnosis I lecture Prof Freedman</td>
<td>PA 213 Professional Practice Prof. Sansone</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>PA 208 Medical Physiology Prof. Berlanstein Dr. Damassa</td>
<td>PA 235 Primary Care I Prof Buyea/Faculty</td>
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<td>PA 235 Primary Care I Prof Buyea/Faculty</td>
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<td>Ethics Rounds</td>
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<td>PA 210 Behavioral Medicine Dr Hanson</td>
<td>PA 201 Clinical Anatomy I lecture Dr Lufler</td>
<td>PA 206 Pharmacology I Dr Abourjaily</td>
<td>PA 215 Physical Diagnosis I lab Prof Freedman</td>
<td>PA 218 Nutrition Prof. Kane</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>PA 201 Clinical Anatomy I Lab Dr Lufler</td>
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# FIRST YEAR SCHEDULE

## DIDACTIC YEAR 2017

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**Dates of Note:**
- Orientation
- Spring Break
- Summer Break
- Fall Break
- Thanksgiving
- Clinical Orientation
- Holidays

**Tufts**
CLINICAL SKILLS & SIMULATION CENTER

• Students are given a myriad of mock clinical situations
• Students treat robotic patients
• Students critique themselves and identify areas in need of improvement
• Simulated cases mimic actual clinical scenarios from common to rare clinical cases
• Helps link student training with clinical experience
• Designed to enhance patient safety and the quality of care
CLINICAL TRAINING AT TMC
CLINICAL SIMULATION
CLINICAL YEAR
**CLINICAL YEAR**

**Month-long blocks**

- Inpatient medicine  
  (2 blocks including selective)
- Ambulatory medicine  
  (2 blocks including selective)

- Pediatrics
- Surgery
- Behavioral medicine
- Women’s health
- Emergency medicine
- Orthopedics
- Elective
CLINICAL ELECTIVES

• 2 Selectives:
  • 1 of the 2 blocks of Ambulatory and Inpatient Medicine
  • Choose from a list of specialty opportunities in Ambulatory and Inpatient Medicine

• 1 Elective:
  • Choose any of our standard electives in New England
  • Develop a new site in New England or beyond
  • Could be a bridge to employment
CLINICAL FACULTY

• Practicing clinicians (PAs, MDs, DOs, NPs)
• Real world experience
• All TUSM faculty
• Understand PA education and practice
• PA friendly environment
CLINICAL AFFILIATIONS

• Drawn from TUSM and Tufts Medical Center affiliates and other major academic medical centers, community hospitals & private practices
• Dedicated to teaching & interested in academic medicine
• Community and workforce development-focused
• Potential for employment
• Most within 1 hour drive of downtown Boston
• You must have use of a car for the program!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Sites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Beth Israel Deaconess</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Beverly Hospital</td>
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<td>- Brigham and Women’s Hospital</td>
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<td>- Brockton Hospital</td>
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<td>- Cambridge Health Alliance</td>
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<td>- Cape Cod Hospital</td>
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<td>- Charlton Memorial Hospital</td>
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<td>- Community Health Center of Cape Cod</td>
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<td>- Good Samaritan Medical Center</td>
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<td>- Federal Medical Center Devens</td>
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<td>- Lahey Hospital and Medical Center</td>
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<td>- Lawrence Memorial Hospital</td>
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<td>- MetroWest Medical Center</td>
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<td>- New England Rehabilitation Hospital</td>
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<td>- New England Sinai Hospital</td>
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<td>- Lawrence General Hospital</td>
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<td>- Southcoast Physicians Group</td>
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<td>- South Shore Hospital</td>
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<td>- St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center</td>
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<td>- St Luke’s Hospital</td>
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<td>- Umass Memorial Medical Center</td>
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<td>- Tufts Medical Center</td>
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</table>
Clinical Sites continued...

- Kindred Hospital
- Baystate Medical Center
- Milton Hospital
- McNeil Orthopedics
- Fatima Hospital
- Lowell General Hospital
- Mt. Auburn Hospital
- Waterbury Hospital (CT)
- Family Medicine North
- Weymouth Pediatrics
- Faulkner Hospital
- Portland Community Health Center
- Orthopedic Care Specialists
- Sturdy Memorial Hospital
- St. Joseph’s Health Services
- Essex Medical Associates
- Charles River Medical Associates
- Plainville Family Medicine
- South End Community Health Center
- PAHC Pediatrics
- Quincy Spine Center
- Tufts Medical Center-Floating Hospital
CLINICAL AFFILIATES
# SECOND YEAR SCHEDULE

**CLINICAL YEAR 2017-2018**

## JANUARY 2017

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## FEBRUARY 2017

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## MARCH 2017

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## APRIL 2017

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## MAY 2017

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## JULY 2017

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**Freshman Orientation**

**Comprehensive Exam**

**Capstone**

**Board Prep/Lectures**

**Call Back**

**OSCE and PACKRAT Exam**

**On-Campus Clinical Review**

Individual rotation schedules are to be determined by the clinical preceptor on site.

AAPA Conference - May 15 - May 19

Preceptor and Clinical Coordinator must grant permission for student to attend.
BECOMING AN ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE

- Academic prerequisites
- Undergraduate record
- Direct patient care experience
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or MCATs
- References

These requirements are subject to change for future admission cycles
ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES

• Bachelor’s degree in any area from an accredited institution

• Required:
  – Human Anatomy (1 semester for science majors)
  – Human Physiology (1 semester for science majors)
  – General Biology (2 semesters with labs)
  – General Chemistry (2 semesters with labs)
  – Microbiology (1 semester with lab)
  – Statistics (1 semester)

  \[
  \text{If taken as a combined course, 2 semesters are still required}
  \]

• Strongly Recommended:
  – Psychology
  – Biochemistry
  – Medical terminology (accepted students must complete before matriculating)
UNDERGRADUATE RECORD

• Ideal minimum GPA/Prerequisite GPA: at least a 3.2
• All prerequisites must be:
  – taken within 10 years of applying to the program
  – completed before submitting an application
• Required science prerequisites are recommended to be:
  – taken in a traditional, face-to-face fashion (on-line courses will be considered)
  – for science majors so they have sufficient breadth and depth
• Statistics may be taken within any discipline
• Courses from 2- and 4-year institutions, including IB course work are acceptable; academic rigor is considered.
• Advanced placement courses do not fulfill prerequisites - all prerequisites must be taken at the undergraduate or graduate level.
• ACE courses do not fulfill prerequisites.
• If received AP credit or a prerequisite course is over 10 years old - you do not need to retake a course – a higher level course can fulfill a prerequisite and at least one lab within 10 years is required.
DIRECT PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE

• Ideal minimum >1500 hours; minimum 1000 hours
• Must be completed before submitting an application
• Quality of the experience is most important
• Highlight details of the experience in CASPA, to be corroborated by a supervisor’s reference letter
• Quality of patient care experience report
• Volunteer experience will be assessed on a case-by-case basis
• Training or internship hours cannot be counted
• PA Shadowing is important to understand the PA profession, but **cannot** be counted toward the required hours
PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCES

• Strong Patient Care Experiences require “hands-on” activities such as taking vitals, evaluating/triaging patients, bed side care, drawing blood, obtaining EKGs, etc.

• Examples:
  - Nurse
  - Dental hygienist
  - EMT or paramedic
  - Veterinary technician
  - Physical therapist
  - Respiratory therapist
  - ED technician
  - Patient care assistant
  - Certified NA
  - Nutritionist
  - Medical technologist
  - Other

• Experience opportunities can be found in nursing homes, ERs, hospitals, community health centers or private physician offices.
GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE)

• Must be taken within 5 years of applying
• GRE Code for Tufts PA Program - 0438
• MCATs may be substituted in lieu of GREs
• No preference - if neither taken, GRE is recommended
• No defined minimum score - competitive applicants have overall GRE scores above the 50th percentile and MCAT scores of above 26 if < Jan. 2015 (500 if > Jan. 2015) - will be weighed against other candidates
• Will not be waived if you have a master’s degree
REFERENCES

• Recommended references
  – Supervisor during your patient care experience
  – A professional (medical) colleague or PA who knows you well
  – Academic reference (college advisor or pre-med committee letter acceptable) or another clinician or supervisor

• Should attest to your clinical experience and ability to work in the health care field at a high level

• A committee letter will count as only one recommendation
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

- Application in CASPA opens **April 27th, 2017**
- Admission requirements - [http://medicine.tufts.edu/paprogram](http://medicine.tufts.edu/paprogram)
- Create an account on CASPA
- Request official transcripts, GRE Scores, references
- Upload resume to CASPA
- Complete the Patient Care Document and upload to CASPA
  (Qualtrics link to document is in CASPA)
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

First Deadline: **July 1, 2017** at 5:00 PM EST

- Application e-submitted in CASPA and application fee paid
  - Should include resume/CV and Patient Care document

- All official transcripts received by CASPA (May 2017 graduates: submit your transcript with application to meet first deadline then resend new transcript to CASPA with degree conferral date, if necessary– even if it will be after July 1\(^{st}\))

- Minimum of two letters of recommendation received by CASPA (Note: Tufts requires three)
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

Second Deadline: **August 1, 2017** at 5:00 PM EST

The following needs to be received by CASPA to meet Tufts’ requirements:

- 3rd letter of recommendation
- Official GRE/MCAT Scores
- TOEFL (if required)

No outstanding/incomplete application materials are allowed upon submission or after application deadline
WHAT IS A COMPLETE APPLICATION?

- CASPA Application
- Official Transcript/s (all undergraduate and graduate)
- References (3)
- GRE Scores (use specific code for Tufts PA Program) OR MCAT Scores (if taken in lieu of GREs)
- Resume uploaded to CASPA
- Patient Care Document uploaded to CASPA
- TOEFL Scores (if applicable)
AFTER YOU SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

• CASPA will verify transcripts and send to Tufts PA Admissions
• Tufts PA Admissions Office will verify completeness and send to PA Admissions Committee
• Interviews (June – September)
  — Invitations for interviews will be emailed
  — Interview Day will include a presentation, student-led tour, and two interviews with faculty
  — Anticipate interviewing 100 – 150 candidates for 50 seats
  — Meeting minimum admission requirements does not guarantee an interview or admission to the program
• Admission decisions will be delivered via an email
COMBINED PA/MPH Degree Program

• First students started in January 2016
• Students will graduate with two Master’s degrees: a Master of Medical Science (MMS-Physician Assistant Program) and a Master of Public Health (MPH)
• 13 MPH credits
• Students will complete most of the MPH coursework prior to entering the PA Program
PA/MPH Overview

PA = 77 credits, MPH = 13 credits

• **Year 1/MPH Year**- 11.5 MPH credits to be completed in 12 months starting in January. Students must be in good academic standing in MPH program to proceed into the PA Program.

• **Year 2/PA Didactic Year**- 28 PA credits

• **Year 3/PA Clinical Year**- 1.5 MPH credits and 48 PA credits
Admissions to PA/MPH Program

• In order to apply, you must apply through the PA Program via CASPA and indicate your intent to apply to the PA/MPH program on the application (you do not need to apply to both programs separately)

• Applicants for the combined program will defer their acceptance into the PA Program by one year

• Once you have applied to a degree path, you cannot change to the other if admitted.
## FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

### PA Program Cost

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<th>Item</th>
<th>YEAR ONE**</th>
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<td>Student activity fee*</td>
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<td>Student health insurance fee*</td>
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<td>Disability fee*</td>
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<td>Textbooks/Medical Equipment</td>
<td>$1,875.00</td>
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<td>Laptop computer</td>
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<td>Room &amp; board</td>
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<td>Personal</td>
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<td>$5,031</td>
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<td>Criminal background checks</td>
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| 12 months                                                 | 13 months  |

### MPH Cost

The tuition for the MPH portion of the PA/MPH combined degree for 2017 is **$27,751**.

* Tuition and fees are adjusted annually. These are 2016-2017 costs.
PA CLASS OF 2018
## Characteristics of Class of 2018
**Total Students** = 50

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<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<td>62%</td>
<td>68%</td>
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Undergraduate Majors

- Psychology
- International Relations
- Public Health
- Neuroscience
- Marketing
- Foreign Languages
- Biology
- Biochemistry
- Physiology
- Gender Studies
- Exercise Science
- Criminology
- American Studies
- Bioengineering
- Environmental Studies
- Health Science
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Kinesiology
- Marketing
- Chemistry
- Nursing
- Business
- English
- Art History

and many more...
Direct Patient Care Experiences

- EMT/Paramedic
- MA, NA, CNA
- Research
- International health work
- Phlebotomist
- Intensive Care Unit Technician
- Newborn Hearing Screener
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Certified Surgical Assistant
- Optometric Assistant
- Neonatal Follow Up Clinic Intern
- Medical Assistant
- Pulmonary Function Technician
- Acute Care Physical Therapist
A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE
Life Outside of School

• Weekly yoga
• Mentor Lunches
• Events with Med and Dental Students
• Brewing
• Trivia
• Kayaking
• Volunteering
  – Sharewood
  – Barbara McInnis
  – Pine Street Inn

• Access to outdoors
  – Running & walking
  – Biking
  – Skiing
• Within 60 miles of ME, NH, Western MA
• Museums
• Sports fans
  – Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, Revolution
Getting Around the Area

• Great access to public transportation
  • Train - South Station on Red line is a 5-10 minute walk from campus
  • Subway - Tufts Medical Center is on the Orange line
• Buses
• Drive
• Bike
• Walk
Where do students live?

Students live in a variety of places in Massachusetts including:

- Brookline
- Cambridge
- Malden
- Medford
- Melrose
- Newton
- Somerville
- Quincy
- Waltham
- Weston
- Chicopee
- Dartmouth
- Lexington
- Reading
- Westford
- Westwood
- Weymouth
A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE - Workload

• A typical day:
  29 hours per week of class
  4 hours of studying each night
  1 hour of rounds each week
  Group projects each

• Community Service
  40hrs required in the 1st year

• Is the workload what you expected?
  47% A little more
  24% A lot more
SUMMARY

• 119 graduates
• 69 have already taken their boards (PANCE)
• 69 have passed on first attempt
• 100% graduates have jobs <6 months after graduation

CLASS OF 2016
Where are they now?

Our graduates have gone on to work at various locations throughout the country.
Q&A Time

PA Admissions contact: med-phpd@tufts.edu

PA Program contact: paprogram@tufts.edu

TUSM Financial Aid Office: med-finaid@tufts.edu

http://medicine.tufts.edu/paprogram