BOSTON UNIVERSITY
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

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Presentation Outline

- Overview of Physician Assistant Profession
- Overview of PA Education
- BU PA Program Highlights
  - Admission
  - Curriculum Overview
- Implementation Timeline and Logistics
- Questions
Definition

Physician Assistants practice medicine with physician supervision.
PA Certification and Practice Characteristics

NCCPA Certification
- Initial exam MCQ
- Every 2 years-100 hours of CME: QI and SA
- Every 10 years MCQ
Physician Assistant vs. Nurse Practitioner

- Practice with physician supervision
- Generalists training
- Medical Education
- Pass a national certifying exam
- Many specialties

- Independent practice authority
- Specialty training
- Nursing Education
- Pass a national certifying exam in their specialty
- One specialty
Physician Assistant Education

- 164 PA programs
- Train 6,300 graduates/year
- >15,000 applicants to CASPA
- 35% of programs housed in a medical school

- Average Program Length-26.5 months (range 22-36)
- Divided in to 2 phases
  - Classroom
  - Clinical rotations
- 90% grant masters degree
  - Few have a thesis
BU PA Program Mission

The mission of the Boston University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program is to educate physician assistants who will produce exceptional outcomes while caring for a diverse population of patients, including those from vulnerable communities and to cultivate leaders who will advance the physician assistant profession.

We value excellence, integrity, social justice, service, and are committed to developing a successful model for interprofessional education and clinical practice.
Admissions

Bachelors degree with:
- a science GPA of at least 3.0 (mean ~3.6)
- Biology
  - 1 semester general
  - 1 semester of human or animal physiology (preferably at the 300 or 400 level)
  - 3- 300 or 400 level biology courses one of which must be genetics
- Chemistry
  - 1 semester general chem with lab
  - 1 semester organic chem with lab
  - 1 semester of biochemistry
- GRE scores in the 50th percentile or better.
- English proficiency, demonstrated by a minimum TOEFL score greater than 80 for internet-based exam or 550 for paper-based exam (foreign grads).
Didactic Curriculum

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Clinical Curriculum

MANDATORY

• INTERNAL MEDICINE (2)
• FAMILY MEDICINE (2)
• PEDIATRICS
• OB-GYN
• PSYCHIATRY
• EMERGENCY MEDICINE
• SURGERY

ELECTIVE (5)

• PEDIATRIC SUBSPECIALTIES
• INTERNAL MEDICINE SUBSPECIALTIES
• SURGICAL SUBSPECIALTIES
• SUBINTERNSHIPS
Research Curriculum

Thesis proposal- No data collection or oral defense required

3 Chapters: Review of the Literature and Analysis
Methods
Evaluation of the Impact, strength/weaknesses

Topics: Clinical
PA Education
PA workforce
Implementation and Logistics I

Spring 2012
- Degree Send to Charles River Campus
- Curriculum Development
- ARC-PA application

Summer 2012
- ARC-PA site visit
- Faculty and staff recruitment
- Develop didactic curriculum and Clinical sites
- Website and Space

Fall 2012
- Learn ARC-PA result, Degree approved
- Faculty arrive
- Curriculum Development (clinical)
- Recruit 24 students
Implementation and Logistics II

Winter 2013
- Finalize student related manuals and policies
- Clinical Site recruitment

Spring 2013
- First Class of 24 begins
- Mary’s Vacation

Spring 2014
- Class of 36 students matriculates
- First years start clinical rotations
Questions