



Preceptor Information Sheet

McMaster University's Bachelor of Health Sciences Physician Assistant degree (BHScPA) is a two-year health professional degree program housed in the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

Program Goals & Overview

The goal of the PA program is to graduate physician assistants who are ready to enter the healthcare workforce as adaptable, knowledgeable and competent health practitioners dedicated to life-long learning.

- Year 1: Students are on campus participating in problem based learning tutorials, medical simulations, large group sessions, professional competency curriculum, communications and clinical skills.
- Year 2: Students are across Ontario completing core and elective clinical clerkship rotations.

Benefits of Being a PA Preceptor

- Unique opportunity to influence an emerging health profession trained to work as physician extenders
- Encourages interdisciplinary education and professional development
- Contributes to CME/teaching hours, in addition to a preceptor stipend
- Allows you to trial a PA in your clinical site before committing to employment

Physician Assistants

- ◆ PAs are trained in the medical model to work as physician extenders and to complement existing services.
- ◆ PAs are currently not regulated in Ontario, but function safely & effectively under medical directives and delegated controlled acts.
- ◆ PAs are employed across Canada in a wide variety of settings, including primary care, emergency medicine, internal medicine, cardiology, dermatology, orthopedics and many others.

Additional Information

- Canadian Association of Physician Assistants
<https://capa-acam.ca/>
- McMaster PAEP website
<https://physicianassistant.mcmaster.ca/>
- Clerkship handbook available upon request from PA Program office



"After getting to work with [a PA clerk], I am very excited, and in fact, extremely impressed by the level at which the PA student can work"

- Pediatric Preceptor

Student and Preceptor Expectations

- A clinical preceptor is expected to be a licensed physician (MD) or a certified (PA-C or CCPA) physician assistant who provides daily supervision and teaching to the PA learner.
- PA clerks should be held to the same standard as final year medical students with identical expectations.
- Delegating tasks to the PA clerk will depend on your comfort, PA clerk level of knowledge, and your working relationship.
- PA clerks may be assigned a comprehensive list of responsibilities, including conducting patient histories, physical exams, developing a differential diagnosis and/or treatment plan, counselling, and assisting with procedures.



Are you interested in becoming a preceptor?

We are actively seeking preceptors in:

- Emergency Medicine
- Electives
- Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry

CONTACT

Sahand Ensafi

Chair, Clinical Rotations
(Clerkship)

ensafis@mcmaster.ca

Dr. Kristen Burrows

Assistant Dean

905-525-9140 x 21557

burrowk@mcmaster.ca

Please contact us with any questions regarding PA education, employment, or other inquiries.

Student Evaluations

- Preceptors are to complete evaluated patient encounters and a final evaluation, in addition to providing daily feedback. Final evaluations are required by the program to issue preceptor payment.
- Final assessments are generated through our eValue evaluation system, and sent to you via an email notification.

What can PA students contribute?

- An opportunity for preceptors to elevate their clinic environment, improve patient care, and contribute to lifelong learning by supporting the growth and development of future health professionals through medical education.

"Our experience with PA clerks over the years has been excellent. They are among the most engaged and hardworking of the students we work with. They feel very privileged to be part of the CTU and work very well on the wards and in tutorial with the MD students."

- Internal Medicine Preceptor

