



Faculty of Health Sciences
Michael G. DeGroote
School of Medicine

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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 & efficiently under medical directives and delegated 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://fhs.mcmaster.ca/physicianassistant/>

McMaster Physician Assistant Education Program

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



"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"

~2017 Pediatric Preceptor

Canada Needs Physician Assistants!
Le Canada a besoin des adjoints au médecin!



Physician Assistants working in partnership with physicians and other health providers are:

- Improving outcomes for patients
- Increasing access to quality care
- Saving the healthcare system money
- Reducing wait times

En travaillant en collaboration avec les médecins et d'autres fournisseurs de soins, les adjoints au médecin contribuent à :

- Améliorer les résultats pour les patients
- Améliorer l'accès à des soins de qualité
- Réduire les dépenses du système de soins de santé
- Réduire les temps d'attente

To know more, visit capa-acam.ca

Pour en savoir plus, visitez capa-acam.ca

Are you interested in being a preceptor?

We are actively seeking preceptors in:

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

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Please feel free to contact us with any questions regarding PA education, employment or other inquiries!

Student & Preceptor Expectations

Supervisory Role

A clinical preceptor is expected to be a licensed physician and/or certified 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.

Student Evaluation

Preceptors complete a mid-unit and final evaluation, in addition to daily feedback. Formal evaluations are required by the program to issue preceptor payment. Final assessments are generated through our E*Value evaluation system, and sent to you via an email notification.

Function of PA Clerk

PA clerks may be assigned a comprehensive list of responsibilities, including conducting patient histories, interviews, physical exams, diagnosing and treating, counseling and assisting with procedures.

What can PA students contribute to a clinic?

- ◆ Preceptors may see more patients during the day with the help of a PA clerk
- ◆ Preceptors may do paperwork or return phone calls while the PA clerk interviews the patient
- ◆ Patients may enjoy shorter wait times, longer amounts of time with a provider, and generally feel more satisfied with their visit

"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

