Cooperative Graduate Programs

Master of Clinical Health Services (MCHS)

University of Washington/UAA Physician Assistant Program (http://depts.washington.edu/medex/pa-program/)

Bragaw Office Complex (BOC), (907) 784-5481

Physician assistants (PAs) are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and write prescriptions. PAs practice in primary care medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and in surgery and the surgical subspecialties. Within the physician-PA relationship, PAs collaborate in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. PA practice may also include education, research and administrative services.

The University of Washington (UW) MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant program (UW MEDEX), established in 1969, is proud of its long-standing mission to train healthcare providers who will practice primary care in medically underserved and rural areas of the UW School of Medicine’s service region. The UW MEDEX program currently operates four classroom sites as a strategy to better serve potential students throughout the five-state northwest service region, and ultimately, to best serve the patients in these communities. The UW MEDEX program opened an Anchorage campus in 2009 and operates out of the state-of-the-art Health Sciences Building at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), alongside the WWAMI medical school program and the UAA School of Nursing. WWAMI is a reference to the geographic region of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.

The two primary components of the UW MEDEX curriculum are the classroom (known as didactic) phase and the clinical phase. Each phase spans approximately one year, including an additional quarter of material preparing students for advanced clinical and leadership roles. The Anchorage campus primarily serves students from Alaska, who complete the didactic phase in Anchorage and the clinical phase at various training sites across the state and the greater WWAMI region.

Graduates of the program receive a Master of Clinical Health Services from the University of Washington.

Each year, up to 24 students complete their PA training at the UW MEDEX Anchorage campus. UW MEDEX offers a competency-based program that accepts applicants with previous healthcare experience, such as nurses (at any level), EMTs, Alaska community health aides, medical assistants, athletic trainers, former military corpsmen, etc. For additional program details, contact the Anchorage campus program office at (907) 786-5481 or visit the UW MEDEX program website. (http://depts.washington.edu/medex/pa-program/)

Eligibility

To be eligible for the program, applicants must have a bachelor’s degree and meet the required prerequisites set by the University of Washington. For additional information on the UW program prerequisites, visit the program's prerequisites website. (http://depts.washington.edu/medex/applicants/program-prerequisites/)

Admissions

Application to the program requires a Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) as well as a UW MEDEX supplemental application to be submitted to the University of Washington. For additional information on gaining admission into the UW MEDEX Northwest PA program, visit the program’s admissions website. (https://depts.washington.edu/medex/applicants/)

Accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted continued accreditation to the UW MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant program. After successful completion of the program, students are eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Exam and to apply for licensure. For additional information on the UW curriculum, visit the program’s curriculum website. (https://depts.washington.edu/medex/pa-program/curriculum/)