Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.S.)

Earn a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.S.) degree through an innovative program without having to move away from home.

Blend online coursework with alternating classroom (on-campus) and clinical experiences to obtain an exceptionally comprehensive physician assistant (PA) education. Our admission structure is geared toward practicing health professionals and applicants with a background in science and health care.

Program Snapshot

- **Program type:** Master's Degree
- **Format:** On-campus
- **Est. time to complete:** 2 years
- **Credit hours:** 90 (curriculum includes on-campus and online courses)

Why Earn a Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies at UND?

The UND Department of Physician Assistant Studies prepares you to become a competent physician assistant working collaboratively with physicians, emphasizing care in rural and underserved communities.

Our interdisciplinary approach integrates clinical skill and knowledge, utilizing multiple techniques to facilitate learning. The goal is to prepare you as a primary care provider in a variety of settings, utilizing a problem-oriented approach to logical thinking and sound judgment.

Through innovation in teaching with advanced technology, high-fidelity simulation and collaboration with clinical sites, you will be expected to:

- Demonstrate competencies in patient assessment and management.
- Develop professional primary health care teams.
- Engage in critical analysis of literature related with medical practice experiences to enhance patient care outcomes.
- Serve as health care advocates for future PA students and members of the professional health care team.

After graduation, you'll be accountable and responsible for the quality of your practice and for life-long learning to continually improve the care you deliver.

A Top Physician Assistant Studies Program in the Nation

UND is ranked by *U.S. News & Reports* as a top physician assistant program in 2019.

**TOP 25% - BEST MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAMS**

**#18 - 20 BEST MASTER's in PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAMS**

ARC-PA Accreditation

The [Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)](https://arc-PA.org/) has granted Accreditation-Continued status to the Physician Assistant Program sponsored by the University of North Dakota. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2026.
Lead Your Way

Students gain the necessary experience to lead in healthcare through flexible online and on-campus courses.

Application Deadlines

| Summer: Sept. 1 |

Physician Assistant M.P.A.S.

- Receive personalized attention with an average class size of 35 students.
- Complete online coursework followed by alternating online and on-campus experiences.
- Enjoy a flexible clinical rotation schedule with emphasis to comprehensive primary care medicine.
- Learn from a reputable well-established program with a strong history of success.

Physician Assistant Careers

98%
5-year aggregate pass rate for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE)

37%
projected job growth for physician assistants through 2026*

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Physician assistants have many of the same responsibilities as doctors, though they work under a physician's or surgeon's supervision. A PA can diagnose a patient and prescribe treatment.

To date, there are nearly 2,000 M.P.A.S. graduates from UND employed throughout the United States and around the world. The success in meeting our mission is evidenced by:

- 70% of recent graduates employed in primary care practices.
- 47% of recent graduates in same city or town where they graduated (trained and retained as medical providers in home areas).
- 41% of recent graduates practicing in rural areas. (defined as population 25,000 or less)

When You Earn a master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies

A master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies gives you the strategic skills you need, including:

- Life Support
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)
- Basic Life Support
- Clinical Research
- Electronic Medical Record
- Surgeries

UND Physician Assistant Studies Alumni

Physician Assistant Studies alumni have gone on to a variety of successful careers with:

- Sanford Health
- Altru Health System
- Avera Health
- Essentia Health
- Fairview Health Services
- St. Mary's Hospital, Inc.