



Introduction and Consent

2025 PAEA Matriculating Student Survey

Important Information About the PAEA Matriculating Student Survey: Please Read Carefully

The PA Education Association (PAEA) is the national organization that represents PA (i.e., physician assistant or physician associate) programs and advocates on behalf of students, faculty, and educational programs. PAEA administers the Matriculating Student Survey (MSS) annually for all incoming first-year PA students. The MSS seeks information from entering PA students to improve education, recruitment, and retention.

The survey will take approximately **25 to 30 minutes** to complete. Students who complete the survey will have the opportunity to enter into a prize drawing. Questions on the MSS cover topics such as:

- Demographic information
- Factors related to your choice of the PA profession and your PA program
- Educational financing
- Intended specialty and practice environments
- Health and well-being

Participation is Voluntary

Participation in this survey is completely confidential and voluntary. You have the right not to answer any questions you choose. There is no penalty for not completing the survey or for discontinuing it. You may withdraw at any time by simply closing the survey. Although you may skip any questions you do not feel comfortable answering, providing honest and complete information helps improve the reliability and validity of these important data. If you believe you are being coerced into participation, please contact PAEA research staff (research@PAEAonline.org).

Incentives

Respondents who complete the survey will have the opportunity to enter into a drawing for one of four \$50 Amazon gift cards. PAEA will enter each PA program with at least an 80% response rate into a drawing for a \$250 gift card. Additionally, each PA program with at least an 80% response rate will be entered into a drawing for a free 2026 PAEA Education Forum registration.

Confidentiality Statement

The data collected in this survey are classified as confidential. You will have the option of providing your email address if you wish to participate in the incentive drawing. Once this survey closes and incentive drawing participants are contacted, those email addresses will be permanently removed from the dataset to ensure confidentiality. Your identified responses will only be released to your program with your consent for inclusion in their student database. If you do not consent, PAEA will never release your data to any parties and will store your data according to the standard confidentiality and privacy protections outlined below.

In the survey, you will have the opportunity to provide qualitative feedback to your program. Your verbatim comments may be provided to your program for the purposes of program self-evaluation as part of an anonymous report that aggregates the responses of all other consenting students. Comments

shared with your program will not be linked to any of your other responses in this survey. Because shared comments will be unedited, **your responses should not contain self-identifying information unless it is your intention that your identity be known.** Providing feedback to your program is optional. By clicking the button below, you consent that your verbatim responses may be shared with your program in an aggregate report. You may also choose to continue with the survey without providing comments by skipping those specific questions.

The responses you provide on this survey are retained by PAEA in a secure server which may only be accessed by designated PAEA staff trained in human subjects protection and confidentiality procedures. PA programs typically receive data in reports that aggregate responses at the national level. On occasion, for the purpose of conducting further studies, researchers may request a de-identified (i.e., all identifying information is stripped from responses, rendering them anonymous) report of individual-level data. PAEA reduces the probability of connecting responses to specific individuals by not providing information where a small number of respondents in a specific category could potentially allow individuals to be identified. Researchers requesting de-identified data will be required to agree to terms that outline how the data may be used and for how long. Otherwise, your data may only be released to IRB-approved faculty at your PA program and only with your explicit permission. This data collection activity has been reviewed according to PAEA policies and procedures and its Institutional Review Board and is considered to be minimal risk. PAEA has taken extensive measures to ensure the security of the data and the confidentiality of the responses. We believe that there are no anticipated risks associated with taking this survey. PAEA does not use survey data for marketing purposes. You may review PAEA's data policies [**here**](#).

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant or experience technical difficulties while completing the survey, please contact PAEA research staff (research@PAEAonline.org; 703-667-4322).

Thank you for participating and welcome to PA school!

Please select an option below to indicate whether you have read the above disclosure and agree to participate in this research.

- ☐ I have read and understood the preceding information and **freely consent to participate in the survey.** Further, I understand that if I choose to answer any qualitative questions, my unedited responses may be shared with my program.
- ☐ I have read and understood the preceding information and **choose not to participate in the survey.**

The use of unique identifiers (UIDs) in student surveys improves data and analytical quality by mitigating the risk of duplicate or inconsistent submissions, allowing for longitudinal analyses, and helping to protect student anonymity. For more information on UIDs and how they support these efforts, please see [here](#).

Collecting student data at the application phase, the beginning, and end of PA school helps PAEA identify the factors that improve applicant and student experiences and education. To help us link your responses between this survey, the End of Program Survey, and CASPA application data, please submit the following information below. Following the administration of this survey, PAEA Research Staff will use this information to create your UID, which will be kept separate from your survey responses, and researchers outside of PAEA staff will not be able to determine your identity.

Your name and identified responses will only be released to your program with your consent for inclusion in their student database. If you do not consent, PAEA will never release your data to any parties and will store your data according to the standard confidentiality and privacy protections outlined previously. Thank you for helping us conduct important research and improve PA student educational experiences.

First name

Last name

Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

Email address associated with your CASPA account (enter n/a if you did