



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

not apply through CASPA)

Screening

1. Did you start your current PA program **less than three months ago**?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1a. Will you be starting your PA program within the next month?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Your PA Program

Your PA Program

2. Please select the state in which your program is located from the drop-down list below.

3. Please select your program from the drop-down list below.

Note: Several programs have similar names; please make sure that you select the correct one.

3a. Are you enrolled at a distant or satellite campus?

☐ Yes

☐ No

3b. Please provide the full name of the distant or satellite campus you are enrolled in.

Consent to be included in a student database

Some programs are seeking to collect student data for inclusion in a student database for use in educational research and program improvement. To support this use of data, PAEA accepts applications from member programs to access their own consenting students' identified (i.e., *including* consenting students' names) or deidentified (i.e., *excluding* students' names and other personally identifying information such as ZIP code) MSS responses.

PAEA will only release your data to $\{q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices\}$ with your written consent and if at least 50% of your cohort completes this survey. You have the right to withhold consent without penalty. 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. If you choose not to release your data to $\{q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices\}$ you can still complete the survey and are eligible to win any prizes associated with completing the survey.

If you consent to release your **identified** data to $\{q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices\}$, your first and last name will be supplied to your program before being permanently removed from the PAEA database.

If you consent to release your **de-identified** data to $\{q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices\}$, your PA program will protect this information using the standards and protections detailed in their IRB agreement with their home institution and may not share your data with any external individuals or parties.

If you consent to releasing either your identified or de-identified data, $\{q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices\}$ will protect this information using the standards and protections detailed in their IRB agreement with their home institution and may not share your data with any external individuals or parties.

Please select an option below to indicate whether you have read the above disclosure and agree to release your data to \$ {q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices}.

- ☐ I have read and understood the preceding information and freely **agree** that **PAEA may release my identified data** to \$ {q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices} for inclusion in a student database.
- ☐ I have read and understood the preceding information and freely **agree** that **PAEA may release my de-identified data** to \$ {q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices} for educational research and program improvement.
- ☐ I have read and understood the preceding information and choose **NOT** to release my data to \$ {q://QID19/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices} for inclusion in a student database.

Demographics

Demographics

4. Please enter your age at the time you entered the [graduate, professional phase](#) of your PA program.

5. Which of the options below best describes your current gender identity?

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Indigenous or other cultural gender minority (e.g. two-spirit)
- ☐ I prefer to self-describe, below:
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

6. What sex were you assigned at birth, meaning on your original birth certificate?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ I don't know the answer
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

7. Which of the following best represents your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay or lesbian or homosexual
- ☐ Straight or heterosexual
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I don't know the answer
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

7a. How would you describe your institution's inclusivity toward the LGBTQIA+ community?

- ☐ Not Inclusive
- ☐ Somewhat Inclusive
- ☐ Generally Inclusive
- ☐ Very Inclusive (e.g., the institution actively promotes and prioritizes inclusivity, with comprehensive resources and a highly welcoming environment for the LGBTQIA+ community.)
- ☐ Not applicable, too early in my program to know
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

7b. What specific experiences, observations, or factors influenced your perception of your institution's inclusivity toward the LGBTQIA+ community?

8. Is your program supportive of the needs of **underrepresented minority (URM)** students? Support includes providing encouragement, opportunities, and the means for students to succeed during and after PA school.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable, too early in my program to know
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

9. To your knowledge, does your program have established goals related to inclusive practices?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable, too early in my program to know

10. Do you identify as a person with a disability? These may include visible, non-apparent, and/or learning disabilities

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

10a. Have you or do you intend to seek reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

10b. How would you rate your institution's effectiveness in providing accommodations for your needs under the ADA Act?

- ☐ Not Effective
- ☐ Somewhat Effective
- ☐ Generally Effective
- ☐ Very Effective
- ☐ I intend to seek reasonable accommodations but have yet to do so
- ☐ Not applicable, too early in my program to know
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

10c. What specific experiences, observations, or factors influenced your

perception of your institution's effectiveness in providing accommodations for your needs under the ADA Act?

11. What is your race/ethnicity? Please check as many as apply.

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White

☐ Other, please specify:

☐ I prefer not to answer

11a. How do you self-identify? Please check as many as apply.

☐ Bangladeshi

☐ Cambodian

☐ Chinese

☐ Filipino

☐ Hmong

☐ Indian

☐ Indonesian

☐ Japanese

☐ Korean

☐ Laotian

☐ Malaysian

☐ Pakistani

☐ Taiwanese

☐ Thai

☐ Vietnamese

☐ Other Asian, please specify:

☐ I prefer not to answer

11b. How do you self-identify? Please check as many as apply.

- ☐ African
- ☐ African American
- ☐ Afro-Caribbean
- ☐ Other Black or African American, please specify:

- ☐ I prefer not to answer

11c. How do you self-identify? Please check as many as apply.

- ☐ Guamanian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Tongan
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander, please specify:

- ☐ I prefer not to answer

11d. How do you self-identify? Please check as many as apply.

- ☐ Argentinean
- ☐ Colombian
- ☐ Cuban
- ☐ Dominican
- ☐ Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/Chicana
- ☐ Peruvian
- ☐ Puerto Rican
- ☐ Other Hispanic or Latino, please specify:

- ☐ I prefer not to answer

11e. How do you self-identify? Please check as many as apply.

- ☐ Arab/Arabic
- ☐ Armenian/Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac
- ☐ Egyptian
- ☐ Iranian
- ☐ Iraqi
- ☐ Israeli
- ☐ Jordanian
- ☐ Lebanese
- ☐ Moroccan
- ☐ Palestinian
- ☐ Syrian
- ☐ Turkish
- ☐ Other Middle Eastern or North African, please specify:
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

12. Did you spend the majority of your life before age 18 within the United States and its territories?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12a. Please enter the five-digit ZIP code for the place you spent the majority of your life before age 18.

Note: Please do not enter the ZIP code of the college or university attended while applying to your PA program—unless you grew up in that ZIP code in addition to attending college there.

Your Family

Your Family

13. Which of the following best describes your current civil status? Note: If you are engaged, please select "single".

☐ Single

☐ Partnered/Married

☐ Other, please specify:

☐ I prefer not to answer

14. Other than yourself, how many legal dependents do you have? If you do not have any legal dependents, please enter "0".

15. Are you considered a dependent by your parents or legal guardian(s) (i.e., did they claim you on their income taxes last year)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

16. What is the [combined estimated annual gross income](#) for the household in which you are currently living? This includes your income in addition to the income of your spouse/partner, if applicable.

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$124,999
- ☐ \$125,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 to \$174,999
- ☐ \$175,000 to \$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 to \$249,999
- ☐ \$250,000 to \$299,999
- ☐ \$300,000 or higher
- ☐ I do not know
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

17. What is the highest level of education of your parent(s) or guardian(s)?
For example, if one parent/guardian holds an associate degree, and one holds a master's degree, please select "Master's degree."

- ☐ Grade school (did not enter high school or partially completed high school)
- ☐ High School/GED
- ☐ Associate degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Doctorate (academic or professional)
- ☐ Other, please specify:
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

Military Experience

Military Experience

18. Are you currently, or have you ever, served in the military?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

18a. What is your current military status?

- ☐ Veteran/Commitment complete
- ☐ Active duty
- ☐ Reserves
- ☐ National Guard
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

18b. In which of the following branches did you serve/do you currently serve?
If you served in more than one branch, please select the branch in which you served the most time

- ☐ Air Force
- ☐ Army
- ☐ Coast Guard
- ☐ Marine Corps
- ☐ Navy
- ☐ Space Force

18c. How many years were you/have you been in military service?

18d. Did you gain experience providing direct patient care during your time in the military? Please do not count administrative or indirect patient care experience.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

Work Experience

Work Experience

19. Have you ever been employed in a health care field? Please exclude internships, unpaid work, or other experiences related to completion of a degree.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

19a. Please check the appropriate box(es) if you have experience in one or more of the following healthcare professions or fields.

- ☐ Athletic trainer
- ☐ Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- ☐ EMT/Paramedic/ Emergency room technician
- ☐ Medical Assistant
- ☐ Military medical training (medic, corpsman)
- ☐ Nurse (LPN, RN, NP)
- ☐ Patient Care Assistant/Tech (PCA)
- ☐ Personal trainer
- ☐ Physical therapy assistant/technician
- ☐ Scribe
- ☐ Other, please specify:

19b. Approximately, how many total hours did you work in a healthcare field?
If none, please enter '0'. **Please only include paid work experiences.**

Hours

Direct patient
contact (e.g., Nurse
or nursing aide)

0

Health care setting
(indirect patient
contact; e.g.,
medical secretary or
receptionist)

0

#Conjoint, Total#

0

20. Have you ever participated in any paid and/or unpaid **voluntary community service work** (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, service-learning activities, mission work)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

20a. What type of community service work did you participate in? Please check all that apply.

	Paid experiences	Volunteer experiences	Service learning experiences associated with completion of academic studies
International medical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
International non-medical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U.S. medical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U.S. non-medical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Education

Your Education

21. Please indicate the highest level of education you completed prior to entering the [graduate, professional phase](#) of your PA program. If your exact degree is not listed, please select the degree that most closely match yours.

- ☐ Some college but no degree
- ☐ Associate degree
- ☐ Bachelor of Arts
- ☐ Bachelor of Science
- ☐ Other Bachelor's degree (e.g., business, BFA)
- ☐ Master's degree (health- or natural sciences-related; e.g., MPH)
- ☐ Master's degree (not health- or natural-sciences related; e.g., MBA)
- ☐ Academic doctorate (health- or natural sciences-related; e.g., Biology PhD)
- ☐ Academic doctorate (not health- or natural sciences-related; e.g., EdD)
- ☐ Professional doctorate (health-related; e.g., MD, PharmD, DPT)
- ☐ Professional doctorate (not health-related; e.g., JD)
- ☐ Foreign medical graduate
- ☐ Other, please specify:
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

21a. What was your college/university undergraduate **overall grade point average (GPA)** at the time of your graduation?

Note: Do not include cumulative GPA for additional college work done after graduation for prerequisites-requisites. Use a 4-point scale where an A = 4.0. If not applicable, please leave the space below blank.

22. Did you take additional credit-awarding courses outside of your degree requirements to satisfy prerequisite requirements for the programs to which you applied?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

22a. Please estimate the number of credits you took to satisfy prerequisite requirements for the programs to which you applied.

22b. Please estimate the total cost of taking additional credits to satisfy prerequisite requirements for the programs you applied to.

- ☐ No cost (\$0)
- ☐ \$1 to \$999
- ☐ \$1,000 to \$1,999
- ☐ \$2,000 to \$2,999
- ☐ \$3,000 to \$3,999
- ☐ \$4,000 to \$4,999
- ☐ \$5,000 to \$5,999
- ☐ \$6,000 to \$6,999
- ☐ \$7,000 or more
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

Applying to PA School

Applying to PA School

23. When did you decide to become a PA?

- ☐ Before high school
- ☐ During high school/before college
- ☐ During college (undergraduate)
- ☐ After receiving a Bachelor's degree
- ☐ During advanced/graduate training or degree (non-PA)
- ☐ After completing an advanced/graduate training or degree (non-PA)

24. People choose to pursue a PA career for many reasons. Please check all the reasons you chose to become a PA.

- ☐ Excitement of health care
- ☐ Graduate-level education
- ☐ Length of education
- ☐ Prestige
- ☐ Other health professions were less appealing
- ☐ Cost of education/affordability
- ☐ Desire to influence the direction of health care
- ☐ Work-life balance
- ☐ Desire to care for patients
- ☐ A calling to the healthcare profession
- ☐ Mobility within PA specialties
- ☐ Financial stability
- ☐ Geographic mobility
- ☐ Other, please specify

25. Are you in a direct entry PA program that combines both an undergraduate and a graduate program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

26. For the following statements regarding your application to PA programs for the current school year, please enter the appropriate number of programs:

Number of PA programs

Submitted an application

0

Offered an interview

0

Completed an interview

0

Received an acceptance letter

0

26a. What factor(s) caused you to interview at fewer programs than you were offered to interview at? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Already accepted an offer at another school
- ☐ Cost associated with traveling to the interview
- ☐ Virtual interview format was not an option
- ☐ No longer interested in program(s)
- ☐ Other, please specify

27. Please estimate the total amount of money you spent applying to PA school, including fees and cost of interviews, for this year only.

Note: Please do not include costs from campus visits that were not associated with an interview, other non-mandatory expenses (e.g., interview clothes), prerequisite coursework, or the cost of applying to PA school in previous years

- ☐ No cost (\$0)
- ☐ \$1 to \$999
- ☐ \$1,000 to \$1,999
- ☐ \$2,000 to \$2,999
- ☐ \$3,000 to \$3,999
- ☐ \$4,000 to \$4,999
- ☐ \$5,000 to \$5,999
- ☐ \$6,000 to \$6,999
- ☐ \$7,000 or more
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

28. Did you engage with any of the following **paid** services to prepare for your application to PA schools? Please check all that apply and do not select services that were provided to you for free.

- ☐ GRE prep course
- ☐ GRE prep books, materials, or services outside of a formal course
- ☐ MCAT prep course
- ☐ MCAT prep books, materials, or services outside of a formal course
- ☐ PA-CAT prep course
- ☐ PA-CAT prep course materials, or services outside of a formal course
- ☐ Admissions consulting
- ☐ Interview coaching/interview prep book
- ☐ Assistance with personal statement preparation
- ☐ Admissions books or other materials
- ☐ Other, please specify:
- ☐ Not applicable, I did not engage any paid services to prepare for PA school applications

29. How many total programs did you apply to in the most recent cycle?

- ☐ 1-3 programs
- ☐ 4-6 programs
- ☐ 7-10 programs
- ☐ 11-14 programs
- ☐ 15 or more programs

30. Have you applied to PA school **before this application cycle**?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

30a. Including the cycle in which you matriculated into your program, how many cycles have you applied to one or more PA programs?

31. Did you apply to or seriously consider a career in another health profession (e.g., MD, NP, PT)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

31a. Why did you choose to attend PA school **instead** of pursuing training in another health profession? Please select all factors that apply.

- ☐ Ability to change specialties
- ☐ Wanted collaborating physician relationship
- ☐ Wanted to work in the medical model
- ☐ Length of PA education was shorter
- ☐ Opportunity to work in a team environment
- ☐ PA education provided the right amount of intellectual challenge
- ☐ Wanted to spend more time providing direct patient care
- ☐ Cost of attending PA school was lower
- ☐ Work-life balance
- ☐ PA scope of practice
- ☐ Was not accepted by another health professions program
- ☐ Other, please describe:

32. Many factors may have influenced your decision to become a PA. Please select all of the factors that contributed to your decision to become a PA.

- ☐ Social media
- ☐ College/campus admissions department
- ☐ Project Access
- ☐ Family members/friends
- ☐ AAPA website/literature
- ☐ Previous healthcare experience
- ☐ PAEA website/literature
- ☐ Physician who treated me or my family/other physician acquaintance
- ☐ Career counselor/teacher/academic advisor (high school or college)
- ☐ PA program faculty/staff
- ☐ PA who treated me or my family/other PA acquaintance
- ☐ Other, please specify:
- ☐ PAEA recruitment events

33. **As you were choosing which PA programs you would like to attend,** which of the following program attributes did you consider and how important was it to you that your PA program have these attributes?

	Did not consider	Did consider: Not important	Did consider: Somewhat important	Did consider: Very important	Did consider: Essential
Small class size/ student-faculty ratio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HBCU PA Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to participate in community service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diverse faculty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How long since program was established	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desirable program location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program structure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Did not consider	Did consider: Not important	Did consider: Somewhat important	Did consider: Very important	Did consider: Essential
Many opportunities to gain clinical experience (e.g., rotations)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desirable program community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program is part of a					

Program is part of a
hospital or clinic
system

☐☐☐☐☐

High likelihood of
admission

☐☐☐☐☐

Accessible/
Responsive faculty

☐☐☐☐☐

Lower tuition

☐☐☐☐☐

Job placement rates

☐☐☐☐☐

Did **not**
consider

Did
consider:
Not
important

Did
consider:
Somewhat
important

Did
consider:
Very
important

Did
consider:
Essential

Program mission
consistent with
personal values

☐☐☐☐☐

High PANCE pass
rates

☐☐☐☐☐

Proximity to home/
current place of
residence

☐☐☐☐☐

Rigorous clinical
curriculum

☐☐☐☐☐

Program is affiliated
with or offering a
doctoral degree
such as the DMSc or
DHSc

☐☐☐☐☐

Diverse student
body

☐☐☐☐☐

Program offers
scholarships and
financial aid

☐☐☐☐☐

	Did not consider	Did consider: Not important	Did consider: Somewhat important	Did consider: Very important	Did consider: Essential
Time to degree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Good faculty reputation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Required few or no prerequisites beyond what I had already completed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost of application and interview process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality program facilities (e.g., labs and equipment)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dual degree offered (e.g. PA plus MPH)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Good program reputation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Did not consider	Did consider: Not important	Did consider: Somewhat important	Did consider: Very important	Did consider: Essential
Program accreditation status	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accommodation for students with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mentorship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34. Which program attributes were the **most important** in helping you decide to attend your current program rather than the others you were accepted at? Please select and rank **only the 3 most important** deciding factors by importance. Note: You may drag and reorder your desired selections further up in the list prior to placing them in the box on the right.

Items

High likelihood of admission

Program offers scholarships and financial aid

Rigorous clinical curriculum

Opportunities to participate in community service

Required few or no prerequisites beyond what I had already completed

How long since program was established

Desirable program community

Low tuition

— . . .

Top 3 Most Important Deciding Factors

Desirable program
location

Diverse faculty

Quality program
facilities (e.g., labs
and equipment)

Dual degree offered
(e.g. PA plus MPH)

High PANCE pass
rates

Good faculty
reputation

Program is part of a
hospital or clinic
system

Program mission
consistent with
personal values

Small class size/
student-faculty ratio

Program
accreditation status

Many opportunities
to gain clinical
experience (e.g.,
rotations)

Diverse student body

Accessible /

ACCESSIBLE/

Responsive faculty

Good program
reputation

Program Structure

Cost of application
and interview
process

Time to degree

Accommodation for
students with
disabilities

Proximity to home/
current place of
residence

Job placement rates

Program is affiliated
with or offering a
doctoral degree
such as the DMSc or
DHSc

HBCU PA program

Mentorship

35. Please rate how the following **experiences** influenced your decision to accept the offer of admission to the program in which you are currently enrolled.

36. In your opinion, how important is it that your program's curriculum cover the following topics?

	No influence Made no decision to attend the program	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential
Conversations with program faculty and staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance use disorders/Addiction medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conversations with program alumni	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program admissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disease prevention/outreach/Health maintenance recruitment efforts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Role of community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conversations with health and social current students service agencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program interview Leadership/experience advocacy training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential
Public health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social justice/Anti-racism training and curriculum	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Palliative/End of life care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Implicit bias training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research principles (study design and biostatistics)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential

Health equity/Social
determinants of
health

☐☐☐☐

Telemedicine

☐☐☐☐

Burnout prevention/
Provider wellbeing

☐☐☐☐

Oral health

☐☐☐☐

Culturally
appropriate care for
diverse populations

☐☐☐☐

Application Process

Application Process

37. Did you interview **virtually**?

- ☐ Yes, for all my programs I applied to
- ☐ Yes, for most of my programs I applied to
- ☐ Yes, for some of my programs I applied to
- ☐ No, I did not interview virtually for the programs I applied to

37a. Did the option of interviewing virtually increase the number of programs to which you applied?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Financing Your Education

Financing Your Education

We recommend having your student loan information available for this portion of the survey. All the information you share in this survey, including financial data, is confidential.

The information you provide will help the PA community and PAEA better understand the costs of education and inform advocacy efforts to make PA education more affordable.

38. Have you received any scholarships, stipends, or grants **(not loans)** for the [graduate, professional phase](#) of your PA program? This includes VA education benefits such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

38a. Please select the category that best represents the amount of scholarships, stipends, grants (not loans) that has been offered to you, and you have accepted, for the [graduate, professional phase](#) of your PA program?

- ☐ \$1 to \$4,999
- ☐ \$5,000 to \$9,999
- ☐ \$10,000 to \$14,999
- ☐ \$15,000 to \$19,999
- ☐ \$20,000 to \$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$29,999
- ☐ \$30,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 or more
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

39. Do you have any outstanding **pre-PA (undergraduate or non-PA graduate)** educational loans?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable, I am in a direct entry program
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

39a. Please select the category that best represents the amount you owe on your outstanding pre-PA educational loans.

Amount you owe of **outstanding pre-PA (undergraduate or non-PA graduate)** educational loans, excluding interest:

- ☐ \$1 to \$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$124,999
- ☐ \$125,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 to \$174,999
- ☐ \$175,000 to \$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 to \$224,999
- ☐ \$225,000 or more
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

40. How were your **pre-PA (undergraduate and/or pre-PA graduate)** education costs paid? This refers to any education costs prior to entering your professional/graduate PA program. Please select all sources that apply.

- ☐ Employer support (e.g., tuition reimbursement)
- ☐ Federal Direct/Stafford loans
- ☐ Federal Grad PLUS loans
- ☐ Private loans
- ☐ Military benefits (e.g., GI Bill/VA tuition assistance)
- ☐ Money earned by spouse/partner
- ☐ Other family support (excludes money from spouse/partner)
- ☐ Personal income and savings
- ☐ Scholarships or awards from external sources
- ☐ Scholarships or awards from your college/university
- ☐ Work study program
- ☐ Other, please specify:
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

41. How do you plan to finance the [graduate, professional phase](#) of your PA education? Please select all sources that apply.

- ☐ Employer support (e.g., tuition reimbursement)
- ☐ Federal Direct/Stafford loans
- ☐ Federal Grad PLUS loans
- ☐ Private loans
- ☐ Military benefits (e.g., GI Bill/VA tuition assistance)
- ☐ Money earned by spouse/partner
- ☐ Other family support (excludes money from spouse/partner)
- ☐ Personal income and savings
- ☐ Scholarships or awards from external sources
- ☐ Scholarships or awards from your college/university
- ☐ Work study program
- ☐ Other, please specify
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

42. Have you taken out any **educational loans** to pay for the [graduate, professional phase](#) of your PA education?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

42a. Please select the category that best represents the amount of **outstanding educational loans** you intend to take out for the [graduate, professional phase](#) of your PA education, **excluding interest**:

- ☐ \$1 to \$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$124,999
- ☐ \$125,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 to \$174,999
- ☐ \$175,000 to \$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 to \$224,999
- ☐ \$225,000 or more
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

43. Please indicate your plans regarding the below loan forgiveness/repayment program(s) to finance your [graduate, professional PA education](#) after your graduation.

	Have already enrolled	Plan to participate/ apply	N/A: Do not plan to participate
Armed Services (e.g., military service)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employer-based program (e.g., hospital-based loan repayment)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

43a. Please select the type of service requirement and/or loan forgiveness/repayment program(s) you are considering to finance your [graduate, professional PA education](#).

	Plan to participate/apply	N/A: Do not plan to participate
Department of Education's Public-Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indian Health Service Corps (IHSC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Health Service Corps (NHSC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-NHSC state loan forgiveness program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Plan to participate/apply	N/A: Do not plan to participate
Veterans Affairs Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Uniformed Service (e.g., Center of Disease Control [CDC], Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], Public Health Service [PHS] commissioned officer corp)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify: <div></div>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Your Future Practice

Your Future Practice

44. Please rate the desirability of practicing in the following environments.

	Very undesirable	Undesirable	Neither desirable or undesirable	Desirable	Very desirable
Rural	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Suburban	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urban	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal/State prison system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Military base(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Practice outside the US	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native American/ American Indian Reservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Veterans Affairs (VA) facility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance use disorder (SUD) practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

45. Please rate the desirability of working with a [medically-underserved community](#) after graduation. Examples of medically underserved communities include low-income, ethnic/racial minorities, and rural areas.

- ☐ Very undesirable
- ☐ Undesirable
- ☐ Neither desirable nor undesirable
- ☐ Desirable
- ☐ Very desirable

46. Please rate the desirability of practicing in the following specialty areas after your graduation.

	Undesirable	Neither desirable nor undesirable	Desirable	Do not know enough about it
Behavioral and mental health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pediatrics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geriatrics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Obstetrics/ Gynecology/ Women's health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inpatient specialties (e.g., critical care, hospitalist)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urgent care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency medicine (not urgent care)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal medicine specialties (e.g., cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, infectious disease, nephrology, oncology/ hematology,	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

rheumatology,
sports medicine)

Surgical

specialties (e.g.,
cardiovascular/
cardiothoracic,
neurosurgery,
orthopedic, plastic,
urologic,
dermatology)

☐☐☐☐

47. Please estimate the annual salary you expect at graduation for a full-time position as a PA.

- ☐ \$49,999 or less
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$59,999
- ☐ \$60,000 to \$69,999
- ☐ \$70,000 to \$79,999
- ☐ \$80,000 to \$89,999
- ☐ \$90,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to 109,999
- ☐ \$110,000 to \$119,999
- ☐ \$120,000 to \$129,999
- ☐ \$130,000 to \$139,999
- ☐ \$140,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 to \$159,999
- ☐ \$160,000 or more
- ☐ I do not know

About Your Health and Well-Being

About Your Health and Well-Being

Your responses to the following questions about your health and well-being may be sensitive. Because of this, you have the right to skip any of the following questions in this section.

[Why do we collect this information?](#)

This section is based on the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ).

48. Please select the number that best describes your feelings **during the past week, including today**. "0" represents "as bad as it can be" and "10" represents "as good as it can be."

	As bad as it can be 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	As good as it can be 10
Overall quality of life (the standard of health, comfort, and happiness experienced by an individual or group)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall mental well- being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall physical well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall emotional well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Level of social activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spiritual well-being (expanding a sense of purpose and meaning in life, including one's morals and ethics. It may or may not involve religious activities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

49. Please select the number that best describes your level of fatigue, on average, **during the past 30 days**. "0" represents "no fatigue" and "10" represents "constant tiredness."

	No fatigue											Constant tiredness
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Level of fatigue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

50. Please select the number that best describes your level of satisfaction with social support from friends and family **during the past 30 days**. "0" represents "not at all satisfied" and "10" represents "highly satisfied."

	Not at all satisfied											Highly satisfied
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Level of social support from friends and family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

51. Please select the number that best describes your financial concerns **during the past 30 days**. "0" represents "no concerns" and "10" represents "constant concerns."

	No concerns											Constant concerns
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Financial concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

52. Please indicate how often you felt or thought a certain way **during the past 30 days**.

Never Almost
never Sometimes Fairly often Very often

In the last month,
how often have you
felt that you were
unable to control the
important things in
your life?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

In the last month,
how often have you
felt confident about
your ability to handle
your personal
problems?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

In the last month,
how often have you
felt that things were
going your way?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

In the last month,
how often have you
felt difficulties were
piling up so high
that you could not
overcome them?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

52a. Can you describe the specific situations or factors that have contributed to your feelings of control over important aspects of your life?

52b. Can you describe the specific situations or factors that have contributed to your inability to handle your personal problems?

52c. Can you describe the specific situations or factors that have contributed to your feelings that things were not going your way?

52d. Can you describe the specific situations or factors that have contributed to the feeling that difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?

53. What would you rate your anticipated stress level during PA school? 0" represents "no stress" and "10" represents "constant stress."

	No stress										Constant stress
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level of stress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

54. Please rank the **five** aspects of PA training that you think will be **most stressful**, with the item causing the greatest amount of stress first.

You may drag lower listed options towards the top before placing in the box on the right.

Items

Volume of learning
expected

Interpersonal
dynamics between
faculty/preceptors

Other, please specify

Initial transition to PA
training

Financial concerns

Physical health
issues

Relocating to a new
area

Lack of control over
schedule

Frequency of tests
and other
assessments

Clinical phase
assessment

Top 5 Most Stressful Aspects of
PA training

COURSEWORK

Personal issues

Mental health issues

Interpersonal
dynamics between
peers

Didactic phase
coursework

Transition from
didactic to clinical
phase of training

Conclusion and Thank You

Thank you for your participation. Please comment below on any questions that you considered to be confusing or difficult to respond to. We would also appreciate any other feedback you would like to offer in order to improve our survey.

If you are interested in being entered into a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card, please provide your email address below. This email address is not stored with your responses and will be permanently deleted as soon as the drawing is complete.

If you have any questions or need to report any errors concerning your survey, please contact research@PAEAonline.org. If you need to change any responses, PAEA Research Staff will be happy to assist you. Please be sure to hit the "submit" button and close this browser window when you are done in order to protect your privacy.

Best wishes for your PA career,

PAEA Research Staff

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