

2016

# Physician Assistant/Master of Public Health Concurrent Degree Program Overview

Nova Southeastern University

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## NSUWorks Citation

Nova Southeastern University, "Physician Assistant/Master of Public Health Concurrent Degree Program Overview" (2016). *Health Professions Divisions Course Catalogs*. 86.  
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**Nova Southeastern University  
HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION**

**Physician Assistant/  
Master of Public Health**

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**Interprofessional  
Concurrent Degree Program**

*Be a leader for the next generation  
of health care professionals.*



## OVERVIEW

The PA/M.P.H. Interprofessional Concurrent Degree is a collaborative degree program consisting of the Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.) in Physician Assistant Studies offered by the College of Health Care Sciences and the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) offered by the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Students admitted to the Physician Assistant Program who elect to pursue a Master of Public Health degree simultaneously take online courses each semester of the PA course of study with completion of the remaining required M.P.H. courses soon after completion of the M.M.S. degree. Although the M.P.H. may be completed in three years, students have up to five years for completion.

Concurrently enrolled students receive a \$100 discount per credit hour on M.P.H. classes while in the PA Program and may be eligible to receive a \$5,000 scholarship toward their studies.



# CURRICULUM

Students will be assigned a faculty adviser for both the M.M.S. and M.P.H. programs.

Students enrolled in the PA/M.P.H. Interprofessional Concurrent Degree Program benefit from an individualized timeline for two master's degrees. Courses required by both the M.M.S. Program and M.P.H. Program will be taught interprofessionally such as Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (PUH 5002), Community Health Project (PUH 6022), and Public Health Field Experience (PUH 6002). Students will follow the normal outlined course timeline for the PA Program and will matriculate through the program with their entering class.

*For details about  
the full list of courses,  
please visit  
[www.medicine.nova.edu/ph](http://www.medicine.nova.edu/ph) and  
[www.nova.edu/chcs/pa](http://www.nova.edu/chcs/pa).*



# INTERPROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (ILP)

Students enrolled in the concurrent degree program are also accepted into the Interprofessional Leadership Program (ILP). This program offers leadership development opportunities, focuses on community-oriented primary care, cultural competency, and team-based skills. ILP scholars will have an opportunity for national exposure and the possibility to publish their work in a peer-reviewed journal.

ILP scholars will also have the opportunity to participate in an Interprofessional Journal Club and the HPD Connection Café, where an interprofessional panel interacts with scholars to discuss a hot topic in health care.

ILP scholars receive a Certificate in Interprofessional Education and a Certificate in Interprofessional Leadership as well as award recognition.



# ADVANTAGES OF A MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

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Health professions education is undergoing a transformation in which health professions students engage in interactive learning with those outside their profession as a routine part of their education. Interprofessional education is designed to prepare students to work together with the common goal of building a safer and better patient-centered health care system.

The Physician Assistant/Master of Public Health (PA/M.P.H.) Interprofessional Concurrent Degree Program is designed to provide future physician assistants with training in public health. Participation in the PA/M.P.H. degree program requires prior acceptance into the Physician Assistant Program.

Students accepted into the PA Program may pursue an online M.P.H. degree concurrently and complete it soon after completing the Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.) in Physician Assistant Studies. This program will focus on developing interprofessional public health practitioners who link public health training to community-oriented primary care.

The PA profession is a major provider of primary care in the United States and plays a significant role in the improvement of access to primary care for underserved populations. PAs who hold an M.P.H. may actively participate in the planning, development, implementation, evaluation, and administration of health-related services to resolve public health problems.

PA/M.P.H. concurrent degree graduates stand out when applying for competitive employment, given their understanding of health care systems and the skills acquired in prevention, assessment, and planning. Ultimately, PAs who hold an M.P.H. degree are prepared for the future of health care.



## **Health Professions Division**

### **College of Health Care Sciences**

Physician Assistant Program

### **College of Osteopathic Medicine**

Master of Public Health Program

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THE CENTER FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Funding for this program is provided by the Bureau of Health Professions (BHP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under grant No. T85HP24466.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's, baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University.

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