Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

CENTER FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES
Hone your knowledge of clinical medicine, medical science and therapeutics through evidence-based practice at JWU — and gain the knowledge and clinical work experience you need to provide essential patient care.

**MISSION**
To educate students to become collaborative practitioners with the respect, empathy and trust inherent to patient-centered, humanistic health care.

**ACCREDITATION-PROVISIONAL STATEMENT**
The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Physician Assistant Studies Program sponsored by Johnson & Wales University.

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program’s ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

To learn more about the ARC-PA (Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.) visit their website: www.arc-pa.org.
RHODE ISLAND’S FIRST PROGRAM

JWU’s PA program, the first in the state, is poised to take advantage of Rhode Island’s strengths as an incubator: small size, high population density and an interlinked medical and education network.

This year-round, 24-month program is housed in JWU’s new world-class Center for Physician Assistant Studies dedicated to the health sciences.

Our curriculum is designed to prepare you to meet the complex needs of patients — and to integrate seamlessly into a patient-centered medical team.

If you want to become a health care professional who treats the whole patient — mind, body and spirit — then we want to hear from you.

PARTNERSHIP WITH BROWN UNIVERSITY

Our partnership with the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University provides students and faculty access to Brown’s state-of-the-art clinical skills training center and standardized patient program.
OUR PROGRAM

JWU’s Physician Assistant Program is a 104-credit, full-time course of study. Upon successful completion, a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies is awarded and successful graduates are qualified to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) that is required for licensure as a physician assistant. (For more information, visit www.nccpa.net.)

During the first 12 months of the program, you will follow a curriculum of preclinical studies in preparation for 12 months of clinical experiences.

Year One

Your preclinical courses are progressive and integrated to optimize in-class and personal/group study time. The first summer semester builds a foundation in basic science and patient care skills. During the fall and spring semesters, you will study each individual body system (cardiovascular, pulmonary, GI, etc.) one at a time, focusing on the physiology, pathophysiology, medicine, diagnosis and treatment of diseases in each system before moving on to the next. You will then move on to modules in specific populations and specialties including pediatrics, geriatrics, emergency medicine and surgery.

Year Two

Your second year consists of clinical studies, beginning with a three-week Introduction to Clinical Practice. You will complete nine clinical rotations, including seven required rotations in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatric Medicine, Women’s Health, Behavioral and Mental Health, Emergency Medicine and General Surgery. The remaining two rotations are electives that allow you to further develop skills in the area that you plan to practice.
STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

The Center for Physician Assistant Studies is an 18,000-square-foot building in Providence’s Knowledge District, home to many high-tech health services, research and medical facilities including Rhode Island Hospital, Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Brown University’s Warren Alpert Medical School.

JWU is one of only a few universities in the country with an entire facility dedicated to the education of physician assistants. The center contains

- lecture halls and active learning classrooms, all with global teleconferencing and lecture-capture capabilities
- cadaver-based anatomy lab with access to e-study guides at each dissection station
- a Learning Commons for individual and group study
- a clinical skills practice center with simulated exam rooms equipped with the latest electronic medical record technology
CAREER GROWTH

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ website, “Employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 38 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Increased demand for healthcare services from the growing and aging population and widespread chronic disease, combined with a shortage of physicians, will result in increased demand for healthcare providers, such as physician assistants.”

By becoming part of the fast-growing physician assistant field, you’ll gain a versatile skill set that can be applied to virtually all facets of the medical field, including primary care, hospitalist medicine, surgery and emergency.

For more information, visit the American Academy of Physician Assistants at www.aapa.org.

PA IS A TOP JOB

- Forbes.com reports that a master’s degree in Physician Assistant Studies is the “No. 1 Best Master’s Degree for Jobs.”

- U.S. News & World Report lists Physician Assistant as number 13 in its list of “100 Best Jobs.”

- CNN/Money lists Physician Assistant as number 21 (out of 100) for its “Best Jobs in America.”

- Merritt Hawkins, a national healthcare search firm, reports that demand for physician assistants rose by more than 300 percent in the last three years.
Dr. Bottomley, a native Rhode Islander, earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Rhode Island and a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine at Michigan State University. He completed residencies in comparative medicine and pathology at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, veterinary pathology at Cornell University and the San Diego Zoo, and a NASA-funded fellowship in pathology at Kansas State University.

As a National Health Service Corps Scholarship recipient, Dr. Bottomley attended the Yale School of Medicine Physician Associate Program and became a primary care PA in an inner-city New Haven, Conn., community health center. His practice background is with the underserved and the homeless.

On a national level, Dr. Bottomley was appointed by the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) to chair the committee that created Pi Alpha, the first national honor society for the physician assistant profession. He was the PAEA Regional Consortium Chair for the Northeast, and is currently chair of the Northeast Special Interest Group. He served two terms as a committee member responsible for writing the Pathway II Examination, the recertification examination for physician assistants developed by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and the National Board of Medical Examiners. He was the first academic coordinator and vice chair of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences PA Program, director of research and interim program director of the Yale Physician Associate Program, founder of the Salus University PA Program, and director of the Central Michigan University and University of New England PA programs.
Contact:
Katie Spolidoro, Admissions Counselor
Center for Physician Assistant Studies
kspolidoro@jwu.edu  401-598-2381

jwu.edu/pa

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