Physician Assistant Program
Today’s Session

- Overview of Physician Assistant (PA) Profession
- PA as a Future Career Path
- Admissions Requirements
- OHSU PA Program
- Q&A Opportunity
What is a Physician Assistant?

- Physician Assistants (PAs) are healthcare professionals who are authorized by the state to practice medicine as part of a team with physicians.

- Within the physician/PA relationship, PAs exercise autonomy in medical decision-making and provide patient-centered medical care services as part of the health care team.
Historical Perspective…
the Physician Assistant Profession

• Profession began with the opening of programs in the mid-1960s
  – In response to a shortage and mal-distribution of primary care physicians

• There are over 100,000 certified physician assistants (PA-C) since the inception of the NCCPA
Scope of Practice
Oregon PAs...

- Elicit medical histories & perform physical exams
- Order & interpret diagnostic & lab tests
- Establish diagnosis
- Prescribe treatment
- Health promotion/disease prevention counseling
- Perform clinical & diagnostic procedures
- Assist/perform surgery
Where PAs Practice

- Hospitals
- Group and multi-specialty practices
- Solo and single specialty practices
- Managed care facilities
- Rural Health Clinics
- Migrant Health Clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Community Health Centers
PA Practice

- Primary Care: 31%
- Pediatric Subspecialties: 1%
- Emergency Medicine: 11%
- General Surgery: 3%
- General Surgery & Surgical Subspecialties: 23%
- Internal Medicine Subspecialties: 10%
- Other Specialties: 19%
- Unknown: 2%

*Primary care includes family medicine with and without urgent care, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, and gynecology/obstetrics*
Future Employment Trends

• The Bureau of Labor Statistics has consistently ranked PA profession as one of the **30 fastest-growing occupations** in the country. Projected 38% employment increase expected during 10 year period 2012-2022.

• Glassdoor.com ranked PA as one of the ‘best jobs for 2015” considering earning potential, career opptys, job openings

• USA Today ~ Where the jobs are: Hot prospects for college grads – PA highest growth and wage prospects

• PAs are part of the solution to help ensure access to care for all patient populations. Including the prospects of an aging population (who will need more healthcare services) and the fact that more people are expected to seek care due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
Accredited PA Programs

Source: ARC-PA 10.2014; 120% increase in PA programs in the past 20 years; Programs in application stage: 60+
National PA Salaries 1999-2013

- $84,396
- $78,257
- $72,241
- $68,757
- $60,358
- $89,897
- $95,000
- $57,982
- $58,297
- $63,168
- $65,641
- $71,004
- $76,232
- $80,107
- $75,000
- $65,000
- $60,000
- $50,000


- All PAs
- New Grads

$105,000
$100,000
$95,000
$90,000
$85,000
$80,000
$75,000
$70,000
$65,000
$60,000
$55,000
$50,000

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PA Licensing & Certification

- A PA seeking licensure in Oregon must:
  - be a graduate of accredited program (ARC-PA)
  - pass the Physician Assistant National Certification Exam (PANCE) administered by the NCCPA
  - submit license application to the Oregon Medical Board (OMB)
  - identify supervising physician, negotiate/sign ‘practice agreement’ directly with supervising physician, then submit copy to the OMB
CASPA Features

- CASPA’s Online Application Service
  - Last cycle 21,730 applicants; 5,945 matriculants (3.6 applicants per seat) Current cycle 22,761 applicants for 7,471 seats (3.1)
- Apply to 180+ participating programs
- Letters of Recommendation – e-recs
- Self-report GRE scores on CASPA; official scores sent to program code
- Applicant portal – track application
- Apply early; various deadlines and deadline definitions
- Fee Waiver – $175/one designation, $45 per additional designation
  - based on financial need (first-come, first-serve basis)
OHSU PA Program Overview
We’re Proud

• Since 2003, our first year of eligibility, the OHSU Physician Assistant Program has ranked among the top 10 PA Programs. Currently ranked 6th. (US News & World Report Best Graduate Schools 2015)

• The OHSU PA Program is proud of the record of success our graduates have achieved as first-time takers of the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE).
  – From 1999 through 2010, our graduates achieved a record of twelve straight years of 100% first-time pass rate. In the 18 year history of the program, our graduates have achieved a 99.2% first-time pass rate.
OHSU PA Program Admissions

• Requirements for Admission
  ❖ Academic
    • Bachelor’s Degree
    • Course Prerequisites
    • Minimum Cumulative GPA & BCP GPA of 2.8
  ❖ Health Care Experience
  ❖ CASPA Application
  ❖ GRE Scores
Admissions

- Applications available through Central Application Service for Physician Assistants – April 22, 2015

- OHSU CASPA Application Deadline – September 1, 2015
Graduate Record Exam

• General Test for the GRE — required; accept new or older test format scores — scores cannot be older than 5 yrs

• No minimum score required
Academic Prerequisites

• **Bachelor’s Degree**
• **30 semester/40 quarter hours** of Biology, Chemistry, Physics (BCP) (may include the bio & chem courses below)
• **General Biology** (8 semester/10 quarter credits)
• **General Chemistry** (8 semester/10 quarter credits)
• **Microbiology with Lab** (one course with a lab, minimum of 3 credits)
• **Human Anatomy & Physiology with Lab** (taken within 7 years of matriculation, minimum of 2 semesters/3 quarters of combined A&P or minimum of 1 semester of anatomy with a lab and 1 semester of physiology with a lab)
• **Biostatistics or Statistics** (one course, minimum 3 credits)
• **General or Developmental Psychology** (one course, min 3 credits)
• **Highly Recommended Courses**
  • 300-400 level biology and chemistry courses
  • Epidemiology
  • Medical Terminology
  • Spanish language course(s)
Health Care Experience Expectation

• Experience can be obtained through…
  – Direct, ‘Hands-on’ Patient Care
  – Health Care Related
  – Community Service

• Volunteer or Paid Experience
Health Care Experience

• Admissions Committee Looking for:
  ❖ Type of health care experience
    o Direct or health care related
    o #of Hours
    o Skills acquired
    o Setting
    o Patients
    o Supervision
    o Description of responsibilities (be detailed)
  ❖ Shadowing? Encouraged, not required
  ❖ Types of HCE opportunities…
Types of Health Care Experience

- Paramedic
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomist
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Technologist
- Hospital Corpsman/Medic
- OR/Surgery Tech
- ER Tech
- Clinical Research Assistant
- Scribe
- Registered Nurse
- Community Health Worker/Peace Corps
Interviews & Class Selection

• Interviews
  ➢ Offered to those most qualified
  ➢ September through early January

• Final Class Selection
  ➢ Class (46 seats planned)
  ➢ Alternates

• Reapplicants
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Age range for entering class 2013: 22-49
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## Class Profiles

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<td>Avg GPA</td>
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<td>Avg BCP GPA</td>
<td>3.32</td>
<td>3.48</td>
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<td>Average HCE (yrs)</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>2.98</td>
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* Just finished the acceptance offers for 15-16
Application Review

What is the Admissions Committee looking for?

- Academics
  - Demonstrated ability to manage demanding curriculum
  - Completed just the minimum requirements

- Health Care Experience
  - Remember: Hours, Setting, Supervision, Responsibilities

- Community Service

- Motivation to become a PA

- Knowledge about the PA profession

- Recommendations - selections

- “Well-rounded” individuals
OHSU Opportunities

OHSU Presidential Diversity Scholarship
• Full academic financial support for duration of academic course of study towards medical, physician assistant, nursing, or dental professional degree at OHSU
• No service commitment required after training

Scholars for a Healthy Oregon
• Program created by the Oregon State Legislature supported by and in partnership with OHSU. Currently funded, additional funding dependent upon continued legislative support
• 21 individual available spots: full financial support for academic pursuits in medicine, physician assistant, nursing, and dentistry
• Oregon residency or Oregon heritage and an interest to work in rural & underserved communities
• Two years of tuition awarded for a three-year service commitment to work in a rural or underserved community clinical setting immediately following graduation
• Service commitment required

OHSU Tuition Promise
• OHSU will freeze tuition at incoming first-year rates during the entire course of study and academic program for selected programs.

Loan Forgiveness and Loan Repayment Programs
What can your advisees do now to prepare?

- Regardless of the academic major, take science courses designed to prepare for rigorous coursework in PA school

- Take a health professions exploration course; join health professions club/group

- Consider volunteering – nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, health events, AHA, Red Cross, etc.

- Plan to work or volunteer during summer and other ‘break’ times

- Certification: First aid, CPR, First Responder, EMT-B, CNA
PA Profession Resources

- Explore the PA profession
- American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)
  www.aapa.org
- Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)
  www.paeaonline.org PA Focus; PA Directory
  http://directory.paeaonline.org/
- State Societies – OSPA, WAPA, CAPA
- PA Program Websites – best source
- PA Literature – Books, Journals, Publications
  - What are the “hot topics” in the profession
- Community PAs – Shadowing
OHSU PA Program
Curriculum Overview

• 12-month didactic phase
• 14-month clinical phase
Didactic Year Curriculum

Basic Sciences
- Pharmacology, Pathophysiology, Medical Genetics, Inter-professional Clinical Anatomy

Clinical Medicine
- Physical Diagnosis
- Specialties of Medicine
  - Integrated Physiology, Pathophysiology, Neuroanatomy, Pharmacotherapeutics, Lab Medicine
- Multiple teaching methodologies
  - Team Based Learning
  - Problem Based Learning
- Clinical Practicum – “mentoring”

Behavioral Medicine
Clinical Phase Curriculum

Rotations will provide experiences in:

- Outpatient and Inpatient Medicine settings
- Emergency Department
- Operating Room

With patients seeking:

- Medical care across the life span
- Prenatal and Obstetric Care
- Surgical management (pre-, intra- and post-operative care)
- Care for behavioral/mental health conditions
Clinical Phase Curriculum

In addition:

- Elective rotation in clinical areas reflecting student’s interests
- Community Outreach Project
- Coursework
  - Health Systems
  - Pain Management
  - Medical Errors
Questions & Answers