

Wichita State University Physician Assistant Program



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Chair and Associate Professor

Physician Assistant Overview of Profession

- First PA students enrolled at Duke University in 1967
- Response to shortage and uneven distribution of primary care physicians
- Curriculum is based on medical school model
- One national certification exam for graduates of all programs in US
 - 100 hours continuing medical education every 2 years
 - All PAs required to pass *primary care recertification* exam every 6 years

Physician Assistant Overview of Profession

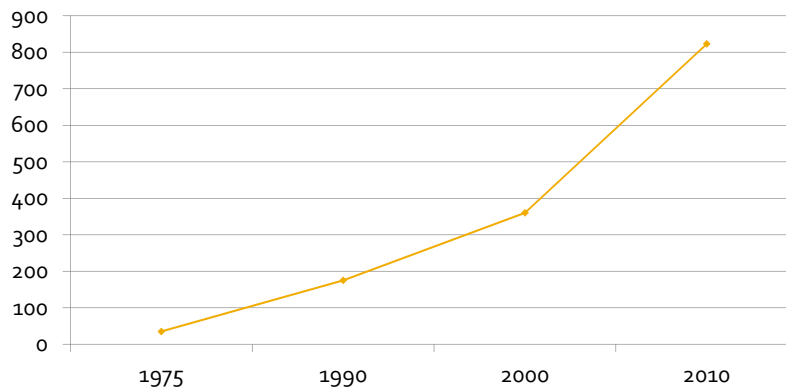
- Recognized in all 50 states
- Licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision
 - Diagnose and treat illnesses
 - Order and interpret diagnostic tests
 - Assist in surgery
 - Write prescriptions
 - Counsel and educate patients
- Approx. 75 – 80% of care provided by primary care physician
- Scope of practice dependent on supervising physician
- Practicing in all medical specialties

Physician Assistants in Kansas

- National certification exam
- Licensed by Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (KSBHA)
- Broad definition of supervision
 - Written protocol filed with KSBHA – outlines scope of practice (including prescriptions)
 - Physical presence of supervising physician not required
 - Supervising physician available for communication within 30 minutes
 - *Review of patient medical records within 14 days*

Physician Assistants in Kansas

KANSAS – Licensed PAs

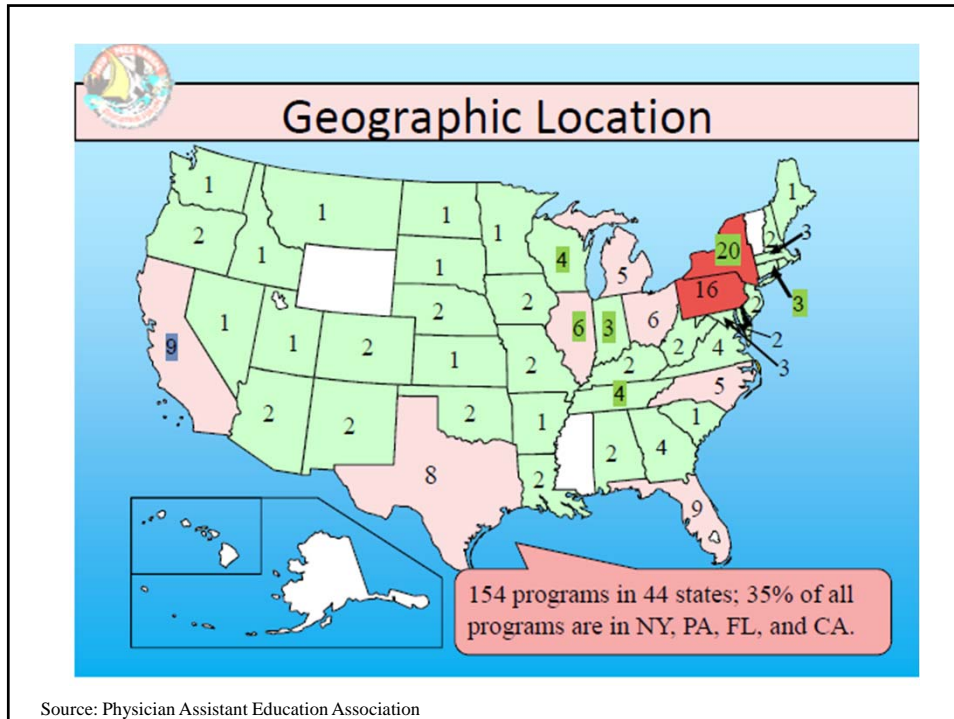


Source: KAPA, KSBHA

PA Practice in Kansas

- Est. Patient Visits (2008) – 2,842,630
- Est. Prescriptions Written (2008) – 3,695,419

Source: AAPA Census, 2008
Cipher DJ, Hooker RS, Guerra P. Prescribing trends by nurse practitioners and physician assistants in the United States. *J Am Acad Nurse Pract*. 2006 Jun;18(6):291-6.



WSU Physician Assistant Program Overview

- Only PA training program in Kansas
- Over 1200 graduates
- Certificate program – first class in 1972
- Bachelor degree – first class in 1990
- **Master degree** – first class 2004
 - Master of Physician Assistant
- Located on main WSU campus
 - College of Health Professions
- *Accreditation through 2018*

www.chp.wichita.edu/pa

WSU Physician Assistant Program Overview

- Full-time, lock step program
- 26 months in length
- Students admitted once per year (June)
 - Class size – 48 students (increased 14% in 2010)
 - Currently enrolled – 90 students
- Program Tuition
 - \$22,000 - WSU
 - \$31,000 – nationwide (avg. in-state for public university)

Source: Physician Assistant Education Association, 2010

WSU Physician Assistant Program Overview

- Primary care emphasis
 - patient education, preventive care, prenatal to geriatrics
- Competency based
 - Academic warning system
 - 3 warnings = faculty review
 - 4 warnings = dismissal
 - Formal remediation plans
 - Summative evaluation prior to graduation

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor degree
 - majority of applicants have science degrees
 - Minimum GPA – 3.0
- Prerequisite courses
 - Chemistry, biology, microbiology, anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, statistics, etc.
 - Minimum GPA – 3.0
- Previous healthcare experience
 - Strongly recommended
- Interview

Mission and Philosophy

Mission

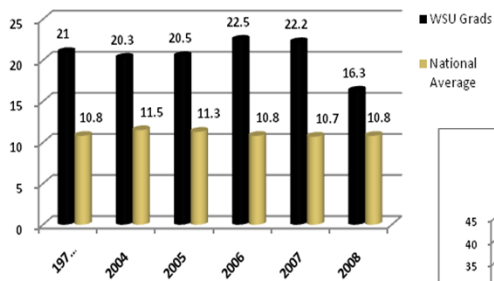
- The mission of the Department of Physician Assistant is to be a learning community dedicated to developing generalist health care professionals by:
 - Valuing students
 - Integrating teaching, scholarship, practice, and service
 - Partnering with the community

Educational Philosophy

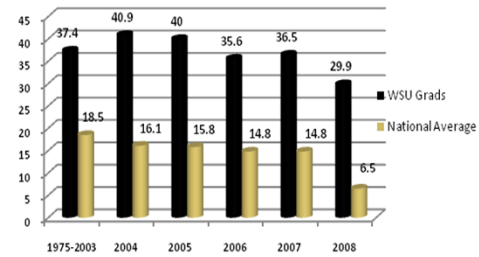
- The educational philosophy of the Program centers on the premise that the education and training received will prepare and encourage students to provide primary care in areas where the need is greatest. Service and clinical education in underserved and rural areas and with minority populations is emphasized.

Mission and Philosophy

WSU PA Practice in Underserved Communities (%)

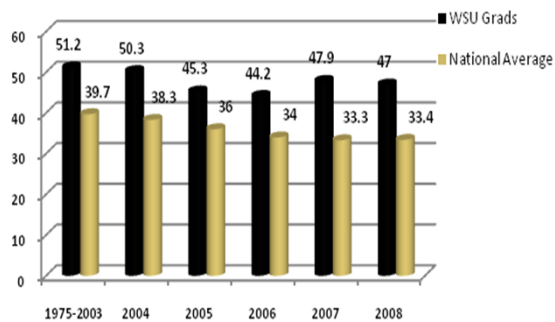


WSU PA Practice in Rural Communities (%)



Mission and Philosophy

WSU PA Practice in Primary Care (%)



Faculty

Faculty

- Sue Nyberg, MHS, PA-C
 - Program Director
- LaDonna Hale, PharmD
 - Assistant Program Director
- Pat Bunton, MS, PA-C
 - Academic Coordinator
- Open
 - Dir. of Clinical Education
- Gina Brown, MPAS, PA-C
- Kayla Keuter, MPH, PA-C

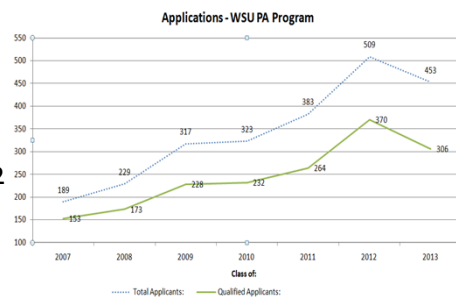
- Darron Smith, PhD, PA-C
- Lucas Williams, MPA, PA-C

Medical Director

- Garold Minns, MD
 - Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor – KU School of Medicine

Applicants – Class of 2013

- Total applications – 453
- Qualified Applicants - 306
 - 49 US states and Canada
 - 38% Kansas residents
- Applicants Interviewed - 142
 - 22 US states and Canada
 - 64% Kansas residents
- Applicants Accepted – 48
 - 63% Kansas residents



Students

- 48 students per class
 - Class size increased from 28 in late '80's after KHF grant
 - Class size increased from 42 in 2010
- Average age – 26
- Average incoming GPA – 3.6
- Prior health care experience – average 14 months
- 3:1 Female:Male
- Attrition - approx. 1 student per class



Curriculum - Didactic

- 1st year – 14 months
 - Average 30 – 35 hrs/week in classroom
 - Anatomy – 5 credit hours
 - Pharmacology – 6 credit hours
 - Clinical medicine – 20 credit hours
 - Physical diagnosis/assessment – 6 credit hours
 - Research – 9 credit hours

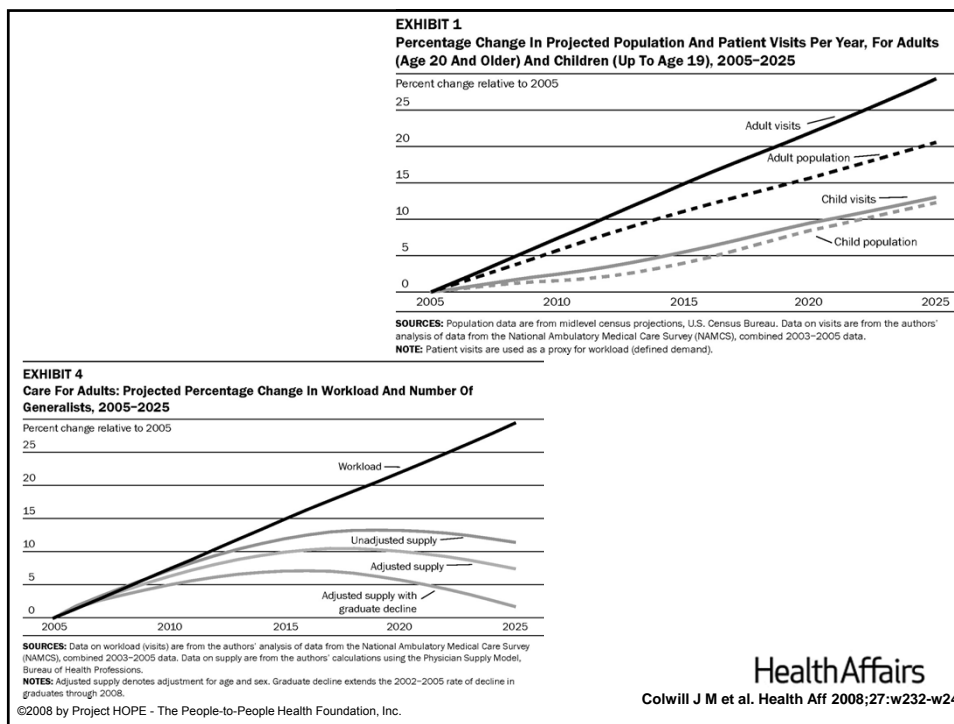


Curriculum – Clinical Rotations

- 2nd year – 12 months
 - 4 – 6 weeks in length
 - Primary care, ER, surgery, women's health, etc.
 - Average 40 – 45 hrs/week (full-time)
 - approx. 100 volunteer preceptors (physicians, PAs) across Kansas
 - room and board provided by most preceptors in rural areas
 - emphasis on primary care
 - required 12 weeks in rural setting

Student Co-Authored Research since 2006

- 17 peer-reviewed journal articles
- 6 book chapters
- 33 scientific posters presented nationally
- 6 national research awards
- 11 university research awards



American Academy of Physician Assistants/American College of Physicians – Joint Stmt 2010

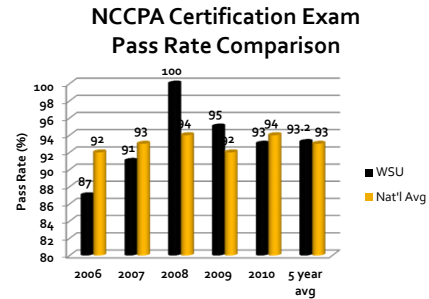
1. Physicians and PAs working together in a medical home is a proven model for delivering high quality, cost-effective care.
 - a. Recognize that PAs function as primary care providers in a medical home when supervised by a physician
2. Encourage training programs to promote and support opportunities for internists to precept PA students
3. Encourage interdisciplinary education of medical and PA students

Source: American College of Physicians, "Internists and Physician Assistants: Team Based Primary Care", 2010

Future Growth

■ Opportunities

- Established program
 - Certification exam scores at national average
 - Continuously accredited
 - Strong research record
- Excellent program reputation
- Excellent support by medical community
 - classroom lectures, clinical rotations
 - 4 year medical school in Wichita
 - opportunities for collaboration



Future Growth

■ Barriers

- *Faculty shortage*
 - Most faculty come from clinical practice
 - Faculty development takes time, resources
 - Average clinical salary (source: AAPA)
 - 1985 - \$22,500
 - 2010 - \$ 88,500
 - Average faculty salary (source: PAEA)
 - WSU - \$78,500
 - Nationwide - \$85,000
 - Region - \$93,723 (Heartland consortium)

Future Growth

- Barriers
 - *Availability of clinical sites*
 - shortage of clinical sites in many specialties, particularly rural family practice
 - clinical preceptors volunteer time and resources, “burn out” is common
 - *Limited physical space*
 - no room for expansion in current building
 - *Limited resources*
 - *Graduate job market*
 - need physicians willing to hire/supervise

Summary

- PAs accepted as quality, cost-effective providers of primary care
- WSU PA Program is an established, stable program with high graduation rates
- Strong applicant interest
- Shortage of faculty and clinical training sites
- Expansion of PA graduates linked to physician willingness to hire/utilize PAs

Questions ?



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

*COLLEGE OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONS*

Department of Physician Assistant