

**VA****U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Fellowship

Overview

Program description

NY Harbor Healthcare System Veterans Affairs Hospital offers a 12-month postgraduate Physician Assistant Fellowship in Emergency Medicine. The program trains highly qualified graduate physician assistants to become skilled, compassionate, and efficient hospital-based PA.

The curriculum contains diverse didactic instruction and direct patient care clinical experience, embedded in the foundation of the VA hospital: excellence in patient care, education, and research. The program provides the graduate PA with the training needed to provide the highest quality of care to Emergency Department patients.

The fellowship curriculum is designed in a diverse format that accommodates all learner types. Based on the physician "Core Competencies" from SEMPA, the PA fellow will complete various medical specialty rotations that are two to four weeks in duration. The curriculum includes formal didactic instruction, journal club and case review, and project-based learning through hands-on experience.

Program goals

The Physician Assistant Fellowship in Emergency Medicine at the VA will enable fellows to:

- Acquire a comprehensive and multifaceted knowledge base of the common disease processes for which patients are hospitalized, understanding various presenting clinical presentations and disease prognosis.
- Develop a diverse differential diagnosis and corresponding diagnostic & treatment plan formulated by the patient's presenting symptoms along with evidence-based and cost-effective medical care.
- Identify logistical and methodical measures within the institution to maintain the utmost quality of patient care while improving patient outcomes, such as length of stay in the hospital and patient safety.
- Manage patients effectively throughout the whole ER stay, while remaining mindful of the patient's emotional and physical needs.

- Refine verbal skills to articulate effective communication with colleagues, physicians, patients, and ancillary staff to ultimately become a key part of the ED health care delivery team.
- Develop practice management skills, including strategies in training physician assistant students.

Facilities

NY Harbor Healthcare System as two VA hospital campuses, in Manhattan & Brooklyn. Both facilities contain Emergency departments, full-service laboratory & pharmacies. The physician assistant fellowship program will combine rigorous didactics with clinical experiences preparing graduates for a successful career in Emergency Medicine.

Physician assistants in the Emergency Fellowship Program will work with and under the supervision of emergency medicine, internal medicine, surgical and critical care physician assistants and physicians.

As fellows, physician assistants complete several activities:

- Rotate through the hospital Emergency Departments, intensive care units and medicine wards. Other medical and surgical subspecialties will be used to augment the fellows' training.
- Monitor, diagnose and treat patients in the Emergency Department.
- Receive hands-on experience to prepare for supervised bedside interventions.
- Receive procedural training within rotations.
- Attend and participate in daily morning reports, toxicology rounds, journal club, EM didactic lectures, conferences, and departmental lectures.
- Rapid Response Conference
- Anesthesia rotation with hands-on supervised endotracheal intubation
- A Trauma Surgery Rotation will be held at our hospital affiliate NYU Winthrop.

Curriculum

The VA Physician Assistant Emergency Medicine Residency Program has a strong emphasis on both clinical and didactic training providing physician assistants with further education, specialized clinical and professional experience to prepare them for a career in emergency medicine as competent, highly functional members of the emergency medicine team. As part of the clinical curriculum, fellows will be involved in the evaluation and management of a diverse emergency medicine veteran population handling cases involving:

- Acute care
- Resuscitation
- Critical care
- Urgent clinical care
- Clinical observation unit
- Virtual Healthcare Follow-up

Other educational weekly opportunities for EM PA fellows include:

- Weekly didactic EMPA sessions
- Weekly Wednesday Conference
- SIM Lab
- Hands-on procedural training
- Bedside ultrasound training

This intensive training program has been designed to provide a comprehensive understanding, diagnosis and treatment of disease and traumatic injuries. Topics include all aspects of the practice of emergency medicine. This broad range of EM experience is enhanced with rotations in critical care, woman's health, toxicology, orthopedics, the surgical intensive care unit and many more. During clinical rotations, fellows will be trained to monitor, diagnose, and provide excellent treatment for a variety of patients. In addition to bedside clinical experience, fellows will gain hands-on training that prepares them for providing great bedside patient care through simulation activities and ultrasound courses.

Admissions Criteria:

Applicants must have:

- Graduated from a PA Program approved by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) prior to matriculation into the program.
- Official copy of NCCPA scores (must be certified prior to the residency start date)
- National Certification by the NCCPA (new graduates may receive acceptance into the program, pending successful completion of the PANCE)
- Accepted residents must take and pass their PANCE exam prior to residency start date.
- Eligibility for NY State and DEA licensure
- Official sealed transcripts from Colleges/Universities and the PA Program (a copy of your PA school diploma or if still in school, a letter from the school's director to verify your status as a student and your expected graduation date).
- Three professional letters of recommendation (For new graduates, one of these letters must be from your PA Program Director in a sealed envelope. For current PA's, one letter must be from the current or most recent employer). All letters of recommendation must be emailed directly from the person writing the recommendation to: Vallerie.Hirsch@va.gov
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Personal statement stating personal & professional goals and your future plans.
- Those selected must complete a personal interview before final acceptance into the fellowship program.
- We'll send you an email notification when we receive your completed application packet.

Application timeline

- December 2023 - Applications are accepted
- February 23rd, 2024 - Latest date that applications will be accepted
- March 2024 - Candidate interviews will be conducted
- April 2024 - Candidate selection
- Early September 2024 -Start of Orientation for the two selected PA Fellows
- Program admission is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of an employee health screening and the VA Hospital credentialing process.
- Candidates may confirm their place by submitting the PA Residency Employment Agreement and begin credentialing through Human Resources department in Spring 2024.

Graduation and certification

After successfully completing this PA fellowship, the PA fellow will receive a certificate of completion of postgraduate training in the field of Emergency Medicine from the Veterans Hospital Administration and will be well-prepared to take the Emergency Medicine CAQ Exam. Upon this achievement and the PA fellow upholding the VA's core values of teamwork, honest communication, and integrity, they will be considered for a staff PA position within the VA hospital departments.

Hours

For most of the fellowship, the learning schedule includes 10-hour days, five days a week, including weekends. Hours while on subspecialty rotations vary depending on the requirements and needs of the particular service.

Benefits

- No tuition or application fee
- Post graduate training stipend of \$92,071 for the 12- month program
- 13 days paid vacation
- 13 days paid sick leave
- 10 paid holidays
- Travel/Federal Commuter benefits
- Professional liability insurance
- Medical Insurance offered with a family option plan
- Preferential hiring within VA upon completion
- Fellowship year as a trainee will apply towards a future federal pension if employed by the VA
- Medical Coats & Scrubs provided
- Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP) may be available upon employment, depending on site, and subject to funding
- Access to online medical literature



VA
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Defining
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**NY Harbor Healthcare System
VA Hospital facilities
Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant
Residency/Fellowship
Application Packet**

Instructions:

Please follow the instructions below to submit your application.

- 1) Complete the demographic information page below
- 2) Attach an up-to-date CV
- 3) Attach a personal statement on why you wish to complete an Emergency Medicine fellowship and your future plans.
- 4) Attach the name & contact information for 3 professional individuals who will provide letters of recommendation. For new graduates, one of these letters must be from your program director. Address letters to attention: Vallerie Hirsch, MSPAS, PA-C
- 5) Attach College / PA School Transcripts. Unofficial transcripts are sufficient for application but after your graduate, an official transcript will also be needed for credentialing if an offer is extended.
- 6) Submit the completed application packet and request all letters of recommendation to be emailed or scanned to by providers writing the letters to: Vallerie.Hirsch@va.gov
- 7) Personal references must be from different individuals than who wrote the letters of recommendation.

NY VA Harbor EM PA Residency Application

Demographic Information:

Date of application_____

Last Name_____

First Name_____ **Middle I.**_____

Email Address _____

Date of Birth_____ **U.S. Citizen** _____

Address (Street) _____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip Code**_____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Education/Experience:

PA Program _____ **State**_____

Date or Expected date of graduation_____

Expected Date of NCCPA_____

Cumulative PA School GPA_____

Degrees (Awards) _____

College/Univ. & Degree: _____

Attendance from Date: _____

Attendance to Date: _____

Two References in addition to the 3 letters of recommendation:

Name: _____ **Title/Position:** _____

Employer: _____ **Contact #:** _____

Name: _____ **Title/Position:** _____

Employer: _____ **Contact #:** _____

Please list any other relevant experience:

Signature_____

Thank you for your interest in the NY Harbor VA PA Emergency Medicine Fellowship.
If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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