

Message from the Director

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you to the SIUC Physician Assistant (PA) Program Website! We are excited that you are interested in our program.

The SIUC PA Program began in 1997 with 18 students and has graduated 220 students since its inception. The PA Program desires to provide an educational environment that is enriched by its student population who possess a variety of health care backgrounds, educational and life experiences, and diversity. The faculty expects students to become acculturated to the role of a well-prepared professional who will provide comprehensive care, and fosters a non-competitive attitude during the program.

The SIUC PA Program provides an outstanding curriculum utilizing the Barrowsian Problem-Based Learning (PBL) format, as well as alternative and traditional curriculum designs in a dynamic learning environment. The focus of the Program is driven by the needs of the local and global community with a strong commitment to rural and underserved populations. Because much of the didactic phase is completed in small groups, students benefit from a great deal of contact with faculty members. The SIUC PA Program is nationally recognized as an outstanding model in PA education and is accredited by the ARC-PA. Our graduates enjoy an overall pass-rate of >99% on the PANCE certification exam, as well as a 100% employment rate within 3 months of graduation.

Completing the curriculum in a PA program is extremely challenging. The role of the PA is very rewarding, but the responsibilities of the job demand that you possess excellent intellectual, professional, and personal characteristics to enable you to provide excellent medical care to your patients. The SIUC PA Program faculty and staff all work together to ensure that students learn about patient care utilizing a holistic and comprehensive approach using real patient cases, laboratory experiences, simulated patients, and early clinical mentoring at community sites.

The purpose of this Website is to provide prospective students with information regarding program mission, goals, and priorities, application procedures, as well as an overview of our curriculum. Additionally, important application forms, prerequisite information, and contact information are included for your use.

Again, we welcome you and wish you the best in your path to becoming a certified physician assistant and a graduate of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Physician Assistant Program! We invite you to visit our beautiful campus and to schedule an appointment to observe a PBL group session. Please feel free to contact us via email or phone for further information.

Sincerely,

Laurie Dunn-Ryznyk, MPAS, PA-C
Program Director

