

## 2021 Matriculating Student Survey

### Important Information About the PAEA Matriculating Student Survey: Please Read Carefully

The Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) is the national organization that represents physician assistant (PA) programs and advocates on behalf of students, faculty, and educational programs. PAEA administers the Matriculating Student Survey (MSS) annually for all incoming first-year PA students. The MSS seeks information from entering PA students to improve education, recruitment, and retention.

The survey will take approximately 20 to 25 minutes to complete. Students who complete the survey will have the opportunity to enter into a prize drawing. Questions on the MSS cover topics such as:

- Demographic information
- Academic and employment background
- Factors related to your choice of the PA profession and your PA program
- Educational financing
- Intended specialty and practice environments
- Health and well-being

### Incentives

Respondents who complete the survey will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for one of four \$25 Amazon gift cards. PAEA will enter each PA program with at least an 80% response rate into a drawing for a \$250 gift card that can be used to help sponsor a pizza party or other event decided by your class. Additionally, each PA program with at least an 80% response rate will be entered into a drawing for a free 2022 PAEA Education Forum registration.

### Participation is Voluntary

Participation in this survey is completely confidential and voluntary. You have the right to not answer any questions you choose. There is no penalty for not completing the survey or for discontinuing it. You may withdraw at any time by simply closing the survey. Although you may skip any questions you do not feel comfortable answering, providing honest and complete information helps improve the reliability and validity of these important data. If you believe you are being coerced into participation, please contact PAEA research staff ([research@PAEAonline.org](mailto:research@PAEAonline.org)).

### Confidentiality Statement

The data collected in this survey are classified as confidential. You will have the option of providing your email address if you wish to participate in the incentive drawing but it will not be stored with your answers. Once this survey closes and incentive drawing participants are contacted, email addresses will be permanently removed from the dataset to ensure confidentiality. Your email address and identified responses will never be released to your program or any other entity under any circumstances.

The responses you provide on this survey are retained by PAEA in a secure server which may only be accessed by a small number of designated PAEA research staff trained in human subjects protections and confidentiality procedures. PA programs typically receive data in reports that aggregate responses at the national level. On occasion, for the purpose of conducting further studies, researchers may request a de-identified (i.e., all identifying information is stripped from anonymous responses) file of individual-level data. PAEA reduces the probability of connecting responses to specific individuals by not providing information where the small number of respondents in a specific category could potentially allow individuals to be identified. Researchers requesting de-identified files will be required to agree to terms that outline how the data may be used and for how long. Otherwise, your data may only be released to IRB-approved faculty at your PA program and only with your explicit permission. This data collection activity has been reviewed according to PAEA policies and procedures and its Institutional Review Board

and is considered to be minimal risk. PAEA has taken extensive measures to ensure the security of the data and the confidentiality of the responses. We believe that there are no anticipated risks or discomforts associated with taking this survey. PAEA does not use survey data for marketing purposes.

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant or experience technical difficulties while completing the survey, please contact PAEA research staff ([research@PAEAonline.org](mailto:research@PAEAonline.org); 703-667-4328).

Thank you for participating and welcome to PA school!

PAEA Research Staff

Please select an option below to indicate whether you have read the above disclosure and agree to participate in this research.

I have read and understood the preceding information and freely consent to participate in the survey.

I have read and understood the preceding information and choose not to participate in the survey.