



## PAEA Personalized Student Insights 2021 Matriculating Student Survey

Program name

### Health and Well-Being

In the <i>past week</i> , rate...	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Overall quality of life			
Overall emotional well-being			
Overall mental well-being			
Overall physical well-being			
Level of social activity			
Spiritual well-being			

*Note: 0 = As bad as it can be, 10 = As good as it can be.*

In the <i>past 30 days</i> , rate...	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Financial concerns			
Level of fatigue			
Level of satisfaction with social support from friends and family			

*Note: Financial concerns: 0 = No concerns, 10 = Constant concerns.  
Fatigue: 0 = No fatigue, 10 = Constant tiredness.  
Social support: 0 = Not at all satisfied, 10 = Highly satisfied.*

In the <i>last month</i> , how often have you felt...	<i>n</i>	Mean	Median
Unable to control the important things in your life?			
Confident about your ability to handle your personal problems?			
Things were going your way?			
Difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?			

*Note: 1 = Never, 5 = Very often.*



<b>Obstacles you are <i>currently</i> facing specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic</b>	<i>n</i>	%
Concerned about not being able to pay rent or mortgage		
Difficulty securing loans		
Facilitating children's virtual learning		
Food insecurity		
Inadequate internet connection		
Inadequate technology (e.g., lack of laptop)		
Lack of adequate support from PA program		
Lack of conducive workspace and/or study space		
Personally becoming infected with COVID-19		
Social isolation		
Taking care of dependent adult		
Taking care of dependent children		
Taking care of family member diagnosed with COVID-19		
Unanticipated financial challenges (e.g., partner being furloughed)		
Other		
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple obstacles. Students who selected "N/A: None of these" were excluded*

## PA School Application Process

<b>Reasons to pursue a PA career</b>	<i>n</i>	%
A "calling" to the healthcare profession		
Cost of education/affordability		
Desire to care for patients		
Desire to influence the direction of health care		
Excitement of health care		
Financial stability		
Geographic mobility		
Graduate-level education		
Length of education		
Mobility within PA specialties		
Other health professions were less appealing		
Prestige		
Work-life balance		
Other		
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple reasons.*



<b>Number of programs...</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>
Applied to			
Offered an interview by			
Received an acceptance letter from			

*Note: Zeroes were excluded.*

<b>Did you apply to and/or seriously consider a career in another health profession?</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>%</b>
Yes		
No		
<b>Total</b>		

<b>Reasons you chose to attend PA school <i>instead of</i> pursuing training in another health profession</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>%</b>
Ability to change specialties		
Cost of attending PA school was lower		
Length of PA education was shorter		
Opportunity to work in a team environment		
PA education provided the right amount of intellectual challenge		
PA scope of practice		
Wanted collaborating physician relationship		
Wanted to spend more time providing direct patient care		
Wanted to work in the medical model		
Was not accepted by another health professions program		
Work-life balance		
Other		
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple reasons.*

<b>Factors influencing decision to become a PA</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>%</b>
AAPA website/literature		
PA program literature		
PA program faculty/staff		
PAEA website/literature		
College/campus admissions department		
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

*Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% because students could select multiple influences. This table does not present all possible factors students were able to choose from.*



<b>Consideration of program attributes when choosing which PA programs you would like to attend</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Considered (%)</b>	<b>Importance (Mean)</b>	<b>Importance (Median)</b>
Accessible/Responsive faculty				
Desirable program community				
Desirable program location				
Diverse faculty				
Diverse student body				
Dual degree offered (e.g. PA plus MPH)				
Good faculty reputation				
Good program reputation				
High likelihood of admission				
High PANCE pass rates				
How long since program was established				
Low tuition				
Many opportunities to gain clinical experience (e.g., rotations)				
Opportunities to participate in community service				
Program accreditation status				
Program is part of a hospital or clinic system				
Program mission consistent with personal values				
Program offers scholarships and financial aid				
Quality program facilities (e.g., labs and equipment)				
Required few or no prerequisites beyond what I had already completed				
Rigorous clinical curriculum				
Small class size/student-faculty ratio				

*Note: "n" represents the total number of students who responded to each item. "Considered (%)" represents the proportion of responding students who indicated that they considered each attribute. Mean and median importance are reported for those students who did consider each factor, and who reported the factor's importance on a scale from 1 = "Not important" to 4 = "Essential."*

<b>Influences of program experiences on decision to accept admissions offer at current program</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Made student <i>not</i> want to attend (%)</b>	<b>No influence on decision (%)</b>	<b>Made student <i>want</i> to attend (%)</b>
Conversations with program faculty and staff				
Conversations with current students				
Conversations with program alumni				
Program interview experience				
Program admissions outreach/recruitment efforts				

*Note: Students who selected "Did not experience/Not applicable" were excluded.*



<b>Importance that program curriculum covers select topics</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>
Burnout prevention/Provider wellbeing			
Culturally appropriate care for diverse populations			
Disease prevention/Health maintenance			
Health equity/Social determinants of health			
Implicit bias training			
Leadership training			
Nutrition			
Oral health			
Palliative/End of life care			
Public health			
Role of community health and social service agencies			
Social justice/Anti-racism training and curriculum			
Substance use disorders			
Telemedicine			

*Note: 1 = "Not important" to 4 = "Essential"*

## Future Practice Plans

<b>Desirability of various practice environments</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>
Rural			
Suburban			
Urban			
Urban underserved			
Federal/State prison system			
Military base(s)			
Native American/American Indian Reservation			
Practice outside the US			
Substance Use Disorder (SUD) practice			
Veterans Affairs (VA) facility			

*Note: 1 = "Very undesirable" to 5 = "Very desirable"*

<b>Desirability of working with a medically underserved community</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>
Desirability			

*Note: 1 = "Very undesirable" to 5 = "Very desirable." The following were listed as examples of MUCs: urban underserved, rural, prison, military and VA facilities, and Native American/American Indian reservations.*



<b>Desirability of various specialties</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Undesirable (%)</b>	<b>Neither desirable nor undesirable (%)</b>	<b>Desirable (%)</b>
Behavioral and mental health care				
Emergency medicine (not urgent care)				
Family medicine				
Geriatrics				
Internal medicine				
Obstetrics/Gynecology/Women's health				
Pediatrics				
Inpatient specialties (e.g., critical care, hospitalist)				
Internal medicine specialties (e.g., cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, infectious disease, nephrology, oncology/hematology, rheumatology)				
Primary care				
Surgical specialties (e.g., cardiovascular/cardiothoracic, neurosurgery, orthopedic, plastic, urologic)				
Urgent care				

*Note: Students who selected "Do not know enough about it" were excluded.*



## Finances

<b>Did you take additional semester credits to satisfy prerequisite requirements for the programs to which you applied?</b>	<i>n</i>	%
Yes		
No		
<b>Total</b>		

<b>Estimated total cost of additional semester credits to satisfy prerequisite requirements for the programs you applied to.</b>	<i>n</i>	%
No cost (\$)		
\$1 to \$499		
\$500 to \$999		
\$1,000 to \$1,499		
\$1,500 to \$1,999		
\$2,000 to \$2,499		
\$2,500 to \$2,999		
\$3,000 to \$3,499		
\$3,500 to \$3,999		
\$4,000 to \$4,499		
\$4,500 to \$4,999		
\$5,000 to \$5,499		
\$5,500 to \$5,999		
\$6,000 to \$ 6,499		
\$6,500 to \$6,999		
\$7,000 or more		
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

*Note: Only students who reported taking additional semester credits to satisfy prerequisites were asked to respond to this question. This table excludes students who selected "prefer not to answer."*



<b>Estimated total cost of applying to PA school for this year only</b>	<i>n</i>	%
No cost (\$)		
\$1 to \$499		
\$500 to \$999		
\$1,000 to \$1,499		
\$1,500 to \$1,999		
\$2,000 to \$2,499		
\$2,500 to \$2,999		
\$3,000 to \$3,499		
\$3,500 to \$3,999		
\$4,000 to \$4,499		
\$4,500 to \$4,999		
\$5,000 to \$5,499		
\$5,500 to \$5,999		
\$6,000 to \$ 6,499		
\$6,500 to \$6,999		
\$7,000 or more		
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

*Note: Students were asked to include fees and cost of interviews but exclude costs from campus visits that were not associated with an interview, other non-mandatory expenses (e.g., interview clothes), prerequisite coursework, or the cost of applying to PA school in previous years.*

<b>Engagement of paid services to prepare for PA school applications</b>	<i>n</i>	%
N/A: Did not engage paid services to prepare for PA school applications		
Admissions books or other materials		
Admissions consulting		
Assistance with personal statement preparation		
Interview coaching		
GRE prep course		
GRE prep materials or services outside of a formal course		
MCAT prep course		
MCAT prep materials or services outside of a formal course		
Other		
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

*Note: Students were asked to exclude services provided to them for free.*





<b>Did you take any educational loans to pay for the graduate, professional phase of PA education?</b>	<i>n</i>	%
Yes		
No		
<b>Total</b>		

*Note: Students who selected "I prefer not to answer" were excluded.*

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