



Becoming a PA



Vallesky (Val) Torrico

PA student

She/Hers

Outline

- Introduction
- What is a PA?
- Life at School
- PA vs MD
- Application Process
- Why Did I Choose PA?
- Questions



Quick Intro

- Cleaning with my Ma
- Navy
- University of Pittsburgh (first to go to college)
 - Clinical Research Assistant in EM
 - Chemistry Major
- Columbia University
 - Clinical Research Coordinator in Heart Tx Surgery
- UC Davis!



What is a PA?

- Health Care Providers
- Diagnose illnesses
- Develop and Manage Treatment Plans
- Prescribe Medications
- Perform Procedures



BETTY IRENE MOORE SCHOOL OF NURSING | January 17, 2023

Future P.A.s suit up for patient care with white coats

[Youtube Video](#)

PA School





My Stats

- GPA
- Science GPA
- GRE Score
- Clinical Hours
- Letters of Rec.
- The whole shabang



PA vs MD



PA

- Master's Degree
- No Residency/Fellowship*
- Endless Specialties
- Independent* (to an extent)
- PANCE (1 test)
- 1 yr of didactic, 1 yr of rotations*
- Application Process
- Work-Life Balance

Both

- See patients
- Take care of patients
- Perform Physicals
- Order Labs, Tests, etc
- Prescribe Medications
- Surgery/Other Procedures

MD

- PhD
- Residency/Fellowship
- 1-2 Specialties
- Independent/Research
- Step 1, Step 2, Step 3, Boards
- 2 yrs of didactic, 2 yrs of rotation
- Application Process
- Competition



Application Process

1. Pre-requisites
2. CASPA
3. Personal Statement
4. Letters of Rec
5. Clinical Care Hours (at least 2000)

**Every program
requires something
different!**

Pre-reqs



CME C

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Microbiology
- Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- English Composition/Writing
- Genetics
- Medical Terminology
- Psychology (general)
- Statistics

CASPA

- Application portal for all applying PA students
- Upload all application documents thru this portal
- Shadowing, Hours, Volunteer

[CASPA Application](#)

<https://paeaonline.org/our-programs>

Clinical Hours

- Medical assistant
- Emergency medical technician
- Paramedic
- Medic or medical corpsman
- Lab assistant/phlebotomist
- Registered nurse
- Emergency room technician
- Surgical tech
- Certified nursing assistant



Why did I choose to become a PA?

Additional Resource



THE MEXICAN PA
MEDICINA Y CULTURA.

 **The Mexican PA**
@themexicanpa 761 subscribers 24 videos
Que onda plebes! My name is Mario R. Navarro, PA-S. I am a second year p... >

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<https://www.youtube.com/@themexicanpa/videos>

Key takeaways



Don't strive to be the perfect applicant



Clinical Care hours and Personal Statement are the bread and butter to your application



Reach out if you need help



Do your RESEARCH on different PA Programs!!
(Most important in my opinion)



Questions?

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