

Frequently Asked Questions November 2017

1. What is the timeline for CHC-U?

- a. **2018:** CHC-U PA Program application to the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)
- b. **2019:** ARC-PA provisional accreditation received
- c. **2020:** Start of CHC-U PA 1st Year in California
- d. **2021:** Start of CHC-PA 2nd Year in health center campuses

The CHC-U PA program development timeline forecasts receiving provisional accreditation in 2019, we anticipate the inaugural class starting year one at a California campus (exact location to be determined) in 2020, and the CHC-U inaugural PA class beginning their second year of training at health center campuses in 2021.

We need to have commitments from 20 - 25 health center campuses / consortia, with each committed to serve as the educational home for five second-year PA students in 2021 and each year thereafter. These signed commitments must be in place by May 31, 2018, which will allow time to adhere to this timeline and have our application completed for ARC-PA.

2. What needs to be in place at our health center to participate?

As a starting point, you are encouraged to review the attached Campus Criteria Checklist. Once you have had a chance to do so, please email us at CHCU@nachc.com to schedule a telephone consultation.

3. What are the needed prerequisites for applicants to the Program?

The specific requirements for this new program have not been determined. You may use the requirements for admission to the A.T. Still University PA Program at <https://www.atsu.edu/physician-assistant-degree#requirements> as a guide.

4. When can I begin recruiting students?

Preparing members of your community to gain admission to health professions education programs is always encouraged as part of the “grow our own” strategy. Recruitment of students for the CHC-U PA program cannot start until provisional accreditation has been awarded by the ARC-PA. However, you can start work now with interested individuals in your community to assure they have completed / are completing the prerequisites for admission to a PA program.

Assuring the National Safety-Net's Supply of Compassionate, Community-Minded Healers

5. Where can I find information on the PA Program accreditation process?

Information on the accreditation process may be found on the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) web site at <http://www.arc-pa.org/>.

6. What is included in the PA curriculum?

The ARC-PA website provides information on the PA curriculum in their section entitled “Standards of Accreditation”.

7. What financial resources will be available to the health center campus?

For planning purposes, the ballpark figure has been \$30,000 / year for agreed upon deliverables. Each health center campus determines the use of the funding.

8. What are the expected costs to the students?

Our goal is to make attendance at CHC-U as cost-friendly as possible for participants. At the present time, PA Program tuition is projected at \$55,000 / year. In addition, the student will be responsible for room, board and travel.

9. Will there be any sources of financial assistance for students?

Yes, there will be sources of financial assistance available to students. The options currently under review for development include scholarships, loans, and loan repayments. We welcome your thoughts on other options.

10. We currently help train clinicians in several disciplines and receive applications from around the country. One of the components of this program that our health center finds exciting is the promotion of the growth and development of current staff and / or community members, who we believe will stay in our community upon completion of their training. Will there be opportunities for our health center to influence the admissions process?

Yes. Because CHC-U is of, by, and for the health center movement, we expect health center campuses to encourage people from their community to dare to dream and become a PA. Thus, we anticipate these hometown individuals (who meet the entrance requirements and are recommended by health centers) to be at the top of the CHC-U PA program admissions list.