



I am delighted you are exploring the physician assistant (PA) role and considering this as a career choice! Our PA program will offer outstanding preparation for this very exciting role in health care.

PAs are nationally certified and state-licensed medical professionals who practice medicine on health care teams with physicians and other providers. They practice and prescribe medication in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the majority of the U.S. territories, and the uniformed services. PAs take medical histories, conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, assist in surgery, perform procedures, make rounds in hospitals, and much more. You will find PAs in every field of medicine.

I am very pleased to serve as assistant dean and program director for the five-year physician assistant studies program in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Prior to joining Valpo, I served for nine years as assistant professor and academic coordinator for Arcadia University's physician assistant program in Newark, Del.

I began my medical career in 1993 as a vascular technologist at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. After graduating from the MCP Hahnemann (Drexel) University Physician Assistant Program in 2000, I practiced medicine full time as a PA in emergency medicine for six years before entering academics in 2007 as a full-time faculty member. I continue to be board certified as a physician assistant through the NCCPA.

I look forward to building the PA program. Valparaiso University has a strong tradition of excellence in health professions, and the PA program complements the current degree programs and fits well with the mission and vision of the University.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation-Provisional to the Valparaiso University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Valparaiso University. Our first class entered the professional phase of the program in August 2018.

We have a good foundation to build upon both academically and literally. Space has been renovated to provide PA students with separate classrooms, distant learning capacity, conference rooms, study rooms, a student lounge, and a state of the art simulation center.

Earning an undergraduate degree in health sciences and moving into the master's PA program has many advantages. Making the choice of where to pursue higher education is a big one, and we are here to help you along the way.

Please feel free to contact me at joseph.zaweski@valpo.edu if you have questions about becoming a PA.