



**PHILADELPHIA**  
UNIVERSITY

## News

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### Philadelphia University To Offer Highly Regarded Physician Assistant Studies Program at New Campus Site in Atlantic City, N.J.

*The South Jersey program, in collaboration with Richard Stockton College and Reliance Medical Group, will help meet state's need for health care practitioners*

**PHILADELPHIA, July 1, 2014**— To help meet the growing need for health care providers in New Jersey, Philadelphia University is establishing an Atlantic City, N.J., campus for its highly regarded Physician Assistant Studies program starting July 2015, in collaboration with Reliance Medical Group and Richard Stockton College.

The two-year PA program will provide exactly the same curriculum as the one on Philadelphia University's main campus in East Falls, Philadelphia. The University's PA program has been ranked 18th best in the country by *U.S. News and World Reports*.

"There is a big need for health care providers in New Jersey," said Matt Baker, DHSC, executive dean of Philadelphia University's College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts and a physician assistant who previously was director of the University's PA program. "Being able to provide Philadelphia University's highly regarded Physician Assistant Studies program in Atlantic County, which has no current program, with superb partners who understand both the educational and medical needs of the region is a wonderful opportunity for all involved."

Reliance Medical Group, which is headquartered in Pleasantville, N.J., with 30 medical offices in six surrounding counties, will provide medical and clinical support for the program, including classroom space, a medical director and clinical sites for the students to complete medical rotations necessary for their training.

Richard Stockton College, in Galloway, N.J., will provide students with the first tier of a new five-year degree option to earn both their B.S. in health sciences and M.S. in physician assistant studies, completing the first three years at Stockton and the last two years in PhilaU's PA program in Atlantic City. Stockton also will provide space for a new anatomy laboratory for the PA students at its nearby campus, with equipment provided by Philadelphia University, as well as access to their library.

This 3+2 program will allow students to earn their M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies on a faster track, an option that PhilaU also offers on its main campus. In addition, students who have earned undergraduate degrees from other programs and other colleges and universities can apply directly to PhilaU's two-year master's PA program in Atlantic City.

“Philadelphia University is known for its transdisciplinary and collaborative approach to teaching and learning, both within our institution and also with external partners,” said President Stephen Spinelli Jr. “This new site for the University’s highly respected physician assistant studies program leverages the strengths of all three partners and provides tremendous value in terms of education and health care to the South Jersey region.”

The Atlantic City program will enroll up to 24 students in its first class, while 50 new PA students will start classes the same day on PhilaU’s main campus in July 2015. Students complete required courses the first year in the program and in the second year participate in clinical rotations in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings to gain experience treating patients.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that physician assistants will be the second-fastest-growing profession in the next decade. PAs practice and can prescribe medications in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In the U.S., PAs practice in a wide range of medical settings including hospitals, physician offices, urgent care centers, military and Veterans Administration installations, nursing homes, industrial health and correctional institutions. PAs work in conjunction with physicians and have a wide array of responsibilities including taking medical histories, performing physical examinations, ordering or performing diagnostic tests, synthesizing data to make a proper diagnosis, developing treatment plans, performing various procedures such as casting and suturing, and assisting in surgery.

“Reliance is proud to be providing the medical and clinical leadership for what will be one of the most prestigious physician assistant programs in the country,” said Dr. Jon Regis, president and CEO of Reliance Medical Group. “We are honored to have outstanding partners such as Philadelphia University and Richard Stockton College in this endeavor.”

The new satellite campus site for the M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies will be formally announced at a July 1 press conference at City Hall in Atlantic City. “With the growing popularity of PA educational programs and Reliance, Philadelphia University and Richard Stockton College working together, I know this will be a great success and a major addition to the city’s revitalization plans,” said Mayor Donald Guardian.

Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president of Richard Stockton College, said, “Our administration, faculty, facilities and student body will play a vital role in helping build and successfully operate this program.”

Philadelphia University’s Physician Assistant Studies program is accredited through the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The new program site in Atlantic City has been approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.

*Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,600 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model for professional university education, the University prepares students to be leaders in their professions in an active, collaborative and real-world learning environment infused with the liberal arts. Philadelphia University includes the innovative Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce; the College of Architecture and the Built Environment; and the College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts. The University’s M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies Program has been ranked 18th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. For more information, go to [www.PhilaU.edu](http://www.PhilaU.edu). For more information on the M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies, go to <http://www.philau.edu/paprogram/index.html>.*