



News

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Philadelphia University Physician Assistant Studies program ranked 18th nationally by U.S. News and World Report

PHILADELPHIA, March 16, 2011—Philadelphia University's Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program has been ranked the 18th best program in the U.S., according to just-released rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*. The ranking places the program in the top 20 nationally, tying with Yale University, Wake Forest and the University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio.

"We are thrilled at this national recognition for Philadelphia University's Physician Assistant Studies program," said Matt Dane Baker, PA-C, DHSc., dean of the School of Science and Health and professor of physician assistant studies. "This well-deserved recognition reflects the quality of our educational program and award-winning faculty, as well as the high level of success of our graduates in sitting for their national exams and as practicing clinicians."

In all, there are 154 accredited physician assistant programs in the U.S., many of them at large research universities with medical schools, Baker said, making this an even more significant achievement for the PhilaU program, which was established in 1994.

The average first-time pass rate of PhilaU's graduates on the national PA certifying exam since the program's inception is above 95 percent, with a 100 percent pass rate in four of those years.

It also was recently announced that Michael "Rocky" Rackover, PA-C, associate professor and associate director of the PA program, will receive the 2011 PAragon Outstanding PA of the Year from the American Academy of Physician Assistants at the group's annual meeting in Las Vegas in May. Rackover, who has championed the incorporation of genomics into the education and practice of physician assistants through his work with the National Human Genome Research Institute, was cited for exemplary service to the profession.

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Philadelphia University offers B.S./M.S. and M.S. degrees in Physician Assistant Studies, as well as a joint M.B.A./M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies.

To see the complete rankings, go to <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-physician-assistant-schools/physician-assistant-rankings>.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is developing the model for professional university education in the 21st century. With 3,500 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs, the University focuses on professional programs that prepare students to be leaders in their professions, in an active, collaborative and real-world learning environment with a strong foundation in the liberal arts. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Engineering, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.