

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Department of Physician Assistant Studies



ORTHO ATLANTA
Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Specialists

Physician Assistant Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program

Physician Assistant Student Handbook

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Introduction to the Residency Program

OrthoAtlanta Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Specialists in partnership with Mercer University are proud to introduce you to our 12-month physician assistant orthopedic residency program. Both institutions are dedicated to elevating your competency in the clinical application of orthopedics to give you a competitive advantage as you enter the market place. OrthoAtlanta is the second largest private orthopedic practice in Atlanta, Georgia with 39 physicians and 26 mid-levels, working out of 14 locations in the Atlanta metropolitan area. We provide a full service of orthopedic care from sports medicine to trauma and joint replacement to complex spine surgery. Our goal is to provide you with an in-depth hands on experience in general orthopedics and its many subspecialties. While there will be a didactic component to this program, the emphasis of our curriculum will be weighted towards an immersive clinical experience.

In collaboration with Mercer University, students will be required to work closely with the faculty of the Physician Assistant (PA) training program to provide teaching assistance in the lab, as well as complete other assignments given by the faculty during the year. Mercer's college of health care professionals has been educating motivated individuals interested in pursuing a Physician Assistant degree since 2008. Every year 60 lucky students are accepted into this very competitive program. The Mercer program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

Program Mission Statement

To provide certified Physician Assistants the knowledge and technical skills necessary to confidently assist in the evaluation and management of a full spectrum of musculoskeletal conditions.

Program Description

Didactic Curriculum (25%): Most didactic learning will be one-on-one with the different preceptors throughout the 12-month program. Assignments will usually mirror the clinical rotations. It is expected that residents will have reviewed the anatomy pertinent to all elective surgeries during each rotation. For example, detailed hand anatomy will be studied during the hand rotation.

Clinical Curriculum (75%): The clinical curriculum will allow the resident to rotate through roughly 8 rotations allowing a full exposure to the many facets of orthopedics. Most rotations will include time in the clinic, emergency room, and operating room. The resident will be expected to perform histories and physical examinations, order and interpret plain x-rays, and offer opinions on the appropriate differential diagnosis. Rounding responsibilities on patients in the hospital and participating in emergency room call will vary depending on the rotation. You will learn how to diagnose and manage a wide variety of fractures, including the art of closed reduction and casting and splinting. Development of the skills necessary to be a competent first assistant in surgery will be emphasized. You will likely be responsible at times for first call in the emergency room, but always with appropriate supervision. Depending on your areas of orthopedic interest, there will be an opportunity to spend additional time in the subspecialties of your choice during elective rotations at the end of the year.

Application for OrthoAtlanta/Mercer University Orthopedic Surgery Physician Assistant Residency Program

Last Name: _____ M.I. _____ First Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
PA School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Please list three Professional/Academic references. New grads should have at least one letter come from a faculty Member and another from a preceptor. References should be sent directly to OrthoAtlanta.

1. Name: _____ Title: _____
Institution/Organization: _____
Address & Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

2. Name: _____ Title: _____
Institution/Organization: _____
Address & Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

3. Name: _____ Title: _____
Institution/Organization: _____
Address & Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Requirements for entrance:

1. Graduate of an NCCPA accredited program
2. Current DEA License
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Physician Assistant (PA) School Transcripts
5. 3 letters of recommendation
6. Personal statement
7. Completed application

Send/Email application form along with other required documents to:

OrthoAtlanta c/o IntraHealth Group
Attn.: Claudia Gramley
900 Circle 75 Pkwy
Suite 1700
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: (770) 953-6929
CGramley@Intrahealthgroup.com

Core Curriculum

Didactic:

- Weekly didactic presentation to medical team.
- Weekly case presentation including diagnostic studies.
- Biweekly clinical application workshop at Mercer.
- Clinical Lab instructor at Mercer.
- 1 week for attending CME conference.

Clinical:

- Complete 8 - 9 clinical rotations beginning with general orthopedics/sports medicine for 12 weeks followed by rotations in each of the major orthopedic subspecialties including spine, upper extremity, joint replacement, hand and elbow, and foot and ankle. Subspecialty rotations will vary from 4-6 weeks.
- An additional rotation will include time shadowing a physical therapist, working with both surgical and nonsurgical patients.
- Elective rotation in subspecialty area of choice.
- Rotation with pain management / physiatry service

The PA Resident will be taught the following technical skills during their clinical rotations, including:

- The ability to perform a comprehensive musculoskeletal examination.
- Both assist in and ultimately perform closed reduction of certain fractures and dislocations.
- The application of casts, splints and braces.
- The placement of intraarticular and trigger point injections using standard sterile techniques.
- How to first assist in orthopedic surgery.
- How to read and properly describe findings on plain x-ray.
- How to evaluate wounds and perform routine dressing changes.

Resident Rotation Schedule

First day- HR Orientation; IntraHealth Group

ROTATION: General Orthopedics (6 weeks)

ROTATION: General/Sports Medicine (6 weeks)

ROTATION: Spine (5 weeks)

ROTATION: Hand and Elbow (5 weeks)

ROTATION: Joint Arthroplasty (4 weeks)

ROTATION: Foot and Ankle (5 weeks)

ROTATION: Physical Therapy (4 weeks)

ROTATION: Elective #1 (6 weeks)

ROTATION: Elective #1 (4 weeks)

Certification Ceremony

Faculty

PA Residency Medical Director:

Douglas Kasow, D.O.
Spine Surgery, OrthoAtlanta
Piedmont Hospital

PA Residency Administrative Director:

Michael Behr, M.D.
Medical Director OrthoAtlanta

PA Residency Program Co-directors:

Stephanie Dotson, PA-C, OrthoAtlanta
Kelly Labbe, PA-C, OrthoAtlanta

Administrative Secretary:

Claudia Gramley , IntraHealth Group

Residency Policies

Physician assistants accepted into the Residency program will be expected to comply with the policies as outlined in the OrthoAtlanta employee handbook. Pertinent areas of the handbook including compliance and behavior policies will be reviewed during orientation and a copy provided to the individual.

Program Completion Requirements

- Successfully complete all rotations to the satisfaction of each preceptor.
- Fulfill all the requirements of a lab instructor at Mercer University.
- Complete an oral exam on 6 of 20 cases collected over the course of the year. The exam will be administered by 3 orthopedic surgeons. The 6 cases will be selected by a committee at least 6 weeks prior to testing.