



**College of Nursing and Health Professions**



**An Invitation to Apply:  
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
FOUNDING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT FACULTY MEMBER  
POSITIONS**

**THE SEARCH**

Valparaiso University (<http://www.valpo.edu>) invites applications and nominations for the position of Founding Physician Assistant Faculty Member. Valparaiso University is the first institution in Northwest Indiana to offer a physician assistant program. The Physician Assistant (PA) Program (<https://www.valpo.edu/physician-assistant-program>) is one of many programs which comprise the College of Nursing and Health Professions (<http://www.valpo.edu/nursing>) (CONHP). The successful candidate will be eligible for appointment at a faculty rank appropriate to their prior experience. Founding PA Faculty are directly responsible to the Assistant Dean and Program Director for the Physician Assistant Program, Director of Didactic Education (DDE), or Director of Clinical Education (DCE) depending upon specific individual roles.

Founding PA Faculty have full-time faculty appointments and are responsible for the delivery of the educational content of the Physician Assistant Program, and participation in PA program, overall College of Nursing and Health Professions (CONHP), and University level committee assignments. Related activities include participation in the development of the mission, goals, outcomes, and objectives of the CONHP in general, and the PA Program specifically. Related to the PA program this would entail: curriculum design and development; student instruction; academic advising; program evaluation;

accreditation management; and participation in local, state, regional, and national professional activities and organizations.

Valparaiso University (“Valpo”) is an independent Lutheran institution in Valparaiso, Indiana, an hour’s drive from Chicago. Founded in 1859, Valpo offers a thorough grounding in the liberal arts as well as professional education and graduate study, helping students find their own paths to lifelong professional, personal, and spiritual growth.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION**

Responsibilities of Founding Physician Assistant Faculty Members include:

### Administrative

- Evaluate student performance and progress
- Assist the DDE and DCE in the evaluation, revision, and maintenance of the curriculum to ensure compliance with PA Program mission, goals, and outcomes; educational objectives; ARC-PA Standards; and University regulations
- Craft learning goals and objectives that support defined professional competencies
- Serve as a member of the Faculty Committee, Curriculum Committee, Student Progress Committee, and Admissions Committee as assigned by the Program Director

### Teaching

- Serve as Instructor for assigned courses
- Instruct and supervise students in assigned clinical practice labs
- Serve as a small group facilitator for problem-based learning
- Evaluate student performance in clinical simulation examinations
- Participate in student remediation sessions in coordination with the DDE or DCE
- Design learning experiences and opportunities that use a variety of instructional methodologies that cultivate critical thinking skills

### Student Advisor

- Model professional standards and adhere to ethical principles that demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect
- Meet formally with students a minimum of once during each semester of the program to review performance
- Assess student's readiness for progression in the program
- Provide opportunity for the student to clarify/express concerns, verbalize positive aspects of the program and the student's role
- Provide formative feedback to any student who is performing unsatisfactorily either academically or professionally

### Service

- Participate in continuous professional development
- Participate in ARC-PA accreditation review, evaluation, and site visit

- Attend and contribute to faculty, program, and CONHP meetings
- Participate in student applicant admissions
- Serve as faculty advisor to student organizations as assigned by the Program Director.
- Serve as an elected or appointed representative in the College of Nursing and Health Professions and University committees/activities
- Participate in local, state, regional, and national professional activities and organizations

#### Research/Scholarship

- Engage in some level of scholarly activities appropriate for level of academic ranking
- Conduct presentations at professional conferences
- Submit publications in professional journals
- Facilitate or partner with others in an area of research interest

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- An understanding and commitment to the Vision, Mission and Values of the University (<http://www.valpo.edu/about/mission-values>).
- Ability to engage in active listening, foster open dialogue, and participate in problem solving as a member of a team
- General knowledge and proficiency in classroom instruction
- General knowledge and proficiency in clinical skills
- Knowledge of the primary care role of the physician assistant
- Ability to develop and utilize competency-based materials for physician assistant education
- Awareness of trends in educational methodologies for teaching clinical skills, and adapting these methodologies to the program
- Ability to design and implement scholarly activities within an established area of expertise
- Professional demeanor to represent the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and the PA Program within Valparaiso University and the local community
- Master's Degree, in health-related field
- Graduate from an accredited physician assistant program
- Current NCCPA certification
- At least 3 years of clinical experience as a practicing PA preferred
- Eligibility for licensure in the state of Indiana
- Previous teaching experience preferred

### **TO APPLY:**

The executive search firm *The Hollander Group* has been retained by Valparaiso University to assist in these recruitments. Applications, comprising cover letter and

curriculum vitae, as well as nominations and inquiries, should be submitted electronically to [info@thehollandergroup.net](mailto:info@thehollandergroup.net). Employment at Valparaiso University will require a satisfactory criminal background check. Review will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. For full consideration, interested persons are encouraged to apply early.

*Valparaiso University provides equality of opportunity to its applicants for admission, enrolled students, graduates, and employees. The University does not discriminate with respect to hiring, continuation of employment, promotion, and tenure, other employment practices, applications for admission, or career services and placement on the basis of race, color, gender, age, disability, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, or (as qualified herein) religion. An institution committed to its Lutheran tradition, the University reserves its right to promote the teaching of the church and to exercise preferences in admissions and employment-related practices in favor of Lutherans.*

## **VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY**

*“Valparaiso University, a community of learning dedicated to excellence and grounded in the Lutheran tradition of scholarship, freedom, and faith, prepares students to lead and serve in both church and society.”*

—Valparaiso University Mission Statement

Founded in 1859, the University currently enrolls 3,255 undergraduates and 802 law and graduate students. The University has 288 full time faculty and strives for a 13:1 student-faculty ratio with an average class size of 20.

Valparaiso University offers more than 70 undergraduate degree programs and interdisciplinary options throughout its five undergraduate colleges, as well as programs through its Graduate School and Law School.

The freedom to pursue truth wherever it leads is at the heart of Valpo’s sense of community, uniting its academic and spiritual missions. The University aims to foster in its students a lifelong commitment to this search for truth, encouraging the development of a sense of personal vocation as well as the intellectual and professional skills needed to pursue it. An active, inclusive community and an accomplished faculty prepare Valpo graduates to choose and navigate their own paths through life.

### *Strengthening, Serving, and Leading Communities*

Life at Valpo offers students a model of community participation, personal responsibility, and respectful concern for others.

- A collaborative system of University governance assigns students considerable responsibility for residential and social life.
- The Office of Volunteer Programs and the Community Research and Service Center exemplify a commitment to learning through service that results in Valpo students' logging over 60,000 hours of service—15 hours per student—each academic year.
- Extensive study-abroad programs and a commitment to institutional diversity deepen students' understanding of the world's variety of cultural and religious traditions.

Guided by a strong sense of ethics and informed by a broad understanding of the scientific, religious, and cultural heritage of human society, Valpo alumni have assumed leadership roles in their professions, communities, churches, social institutions, the nation, and the world.

## **COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

For nearly 50 years, Valparaiso University's College of Nursing and Health Professions has built a tradition of excellence. Students are prepared for the 21st century health care workplace by teaching them to not only be strong clinicians, but also adaptive, collaborative, and visionary. Throughout its history, the College has maintained high academic and professional standards that guide its ongoing response to the changing educational requirements in health care. It has translated the trust of the founders of the College into a quest for excellence that has resulted in wide respect for the college and for the ability of its graduates. Within the College of Nursing and Health Professions, a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in innovative degree programs. Undergraduate programs comprise: Nursing, Health Science, Public Health and Health Care Leadership. Graduate programs comprise: Health Care Administration, Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Public Health and Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

## **THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

In 2015, the first class of the 5-year Physician Assistant Program was admitted to the undergraduate BSHS phase. The Program develops essential skills in critical thinking, communication, leadership, and patient care and is committed to educating PAs for practice in a variety of health care settings. The Program works with other disciplines in the College of Nursing and Health Professions and has an inter-disciplinary curriculum and opportunities to study, work, and learn abroad.

### **Program Mission**

The mission of the Valparaiso University Physician Assistant Program is to create a student-centered educational environment that develops graduates who are compassionate, competent physician assistants who provide excellent patient care and who lead and serve in dynamic health care environments.

### **Program Vision Statement**

The Valparaiso University Physician Assistant Program will be acclaimed nationally for preparing physician assistants who are known for their knowledge, character, integrity, and service.

### **Program Goals**

To accomplish these outcomes, the Valparaiso University Physician Assistant Program has established the following Program Goals:

**Goal 1:** Prepare graduates with the skills to be compassionate and culturally competent physician assistants.

**Goal 2:** Provide a student-centered adult learner educational environment that enables student success.

**Goal 3:** Prepare graduates to provide high-quality patient-centered care as collaborative members of an interprofessional health care team.

**Goal 4:** Prepare graduates to lead and serve the profession and in dynamic health care environments.

### **Physician Assistant Academic Programs**

Students admitted to Valparaiso University Physician Assistant Program will follow a 3+2 curriculum and work to complete a Bachelor of Science in Health Science degree in three years. They will also have the opportunity to pursue a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and complete the degree in two additional years.

#### Bachelor of Science in Health Science

The Health Science program is the undergraduate phase of the 5-Year Physician Assistant Program which will culminate in the awarding of a Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS) in 3 years. This accelerated, challenging program is for students entering Valparaiso University as a first-semester freshman.

Valpo's BSHS program is designed for physician assistant preparation. Students will follow a prescribed academic sequence consisting of liberal arts, required physician assistant preparatory science courses, and courses related to health care. The curriculum also includes over 200 hours of field experience which is built around a faculty-guided, academic framework. Graduates of the Health Science program will be exceptionally prepared to be successful in any physician assistant graduate program or graduate programs in other health care areas such as public health and health administration.

### Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program is a two-year professional program divided into a 12-month didactic phase followed by a 12-month clinical education phase in the form of on-site supervised clinical practice experiences. This program is an extension of the 3-year Valparaiso University Undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS) program and will serve as the culminating phase of the 5-Year Physician Assistant Program (3 + 2).

The MSPA program will provide students currently pursuing their BSHS prerequisite course work with the culminating accredited phase of their five-year program. The curriculum will provide the didactic and practical hands-on training required to complete their education as physician assistant students.

### **Program Student Profile**

Close to 100 students are currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Health Science program. In August of 2018, the first cohort of students will enter the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program.

### **Curriculum**

The two-year MSPA professional graduate program is divided into a 12-month didactic phase and a 12-month clinical education phase. The didactic phase is innovatively designed as a modular integrated curriculum organized in foundational, organ system-based, and population based courses delivered in a newly designed, adult-centered active learning environment. A recently renovated health care clinic with over 10,000 square feet of space provides a home for the MSPA program with separate classrooms, distant learning capacity, conference rooms, study rooms, a student lounge, and a state of the art simulation center. The clinical phase of the curriculum offers broad-based training in seven core clinical areas — family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health, behavioral health, general surgery, and emergency medicine. The College of Nursing and Health Professions is uniquely situated to administer the physician assistant curriculum in a team-centric manner, providing opportunities to work with nursing, public health, health care leadership, and health administration students.

### **Program Accreditation**

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, the two-year culminating phase of the program, is the portion of the program seeking provisional accreditation. Valparaiso University has applied for Accreditation - Provisional\* from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). Valparaiso University anticipates matriculating its first class in Fall 2018, pending achieving Accreditation - Provisional status at the March 2018 ARC-PA meeting.

The Physician Assistant Program is in the advanced stages of the initial provisional accreditation process. The application was submitted in July 2017 and the initial provisional site visit was completed by the ARC-PA this past October.

*\*Accreditation - Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding accreditation-provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.*

## **Appendix A- Valparaiso, Indiana**

Valparaiso, Indiana is the county seat for Porter County. Located 55 miles southeast of Chicago, Valparaiso is considered by many to be the southeastern most suburb in the Chicagoland area. The city is located on the Valparaiso Moraine, which provides gorgeous, gently rolling hills to the north with several kettle lakes scattered about its terrain. Valparaiso is also located only 15 miles south of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. On the shores of Lake Michigan, this national park contains miles of hiking and biking trails alongside its beautiful beaches. Valparaiso is the largest city in Porter County with over 30,000 people.

Valparaiso community schools are comprised of one high school, two middle schools, and eight elementary schools with three elementary schools and the high school being designated by the Indiana Department of Education as top-rated, four-star schools. In addition to the award winning public school system, there are three exceptional private schools as well: Immanuel Lutheran School, Saint Paul's Catholic School, and Victory Christian Academy. For early care and education, there are many excellent childcare and preschool programs to accommodate working families with young children.

Valparaiso boasts both award winning cultural and recreational activities as well. Whether you enjoy listening to music in the outdoor amphitheater or ice-skating under the new pavilion, there are plenty of activities for individuals and families of all ages. In 2016, Valparaiso was a finalist in the America's Best Communities competition. The city was honored the same year with the Hoosier Planning Award by the American Planning Association, Indiana Chapter for its Creative District Plan.