STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program

INFORMATION

This is for information only.

BACKGROUND

MEDEX Northwest, established in 1969, is proud of its long-standing mission to train healthcare providers who will practice primary care in medically underserved and rural areas of the UW School of Medicine’s service region. MEDEX also has a formal agreement to train students from Nevada. Most of its 2,100-plus graduates work in the WWAMI region.

MEDEX offers a competency-based training program that accepts applicants with previous healthcare experience, such as nurses (at any level), EMTs, Alaska community health aides, medical assistants, athletic trainers, former military corpsmen, etc. Four classroom sites serve students from a wide geographic range, and clinical training takes place throughout the WWAMI region and beyond. The very diverse MEDEX students fulfill the program’s mission to improve access to primary health care as well as developing new professional roles for PAs.

MEDEX Northwest operates as a section under the Department of Family Medicine, UW Medicine. MEDEX faculty and staff bring considerable experience to the program. The core faculty includes PAs with between 2 and 35-plus years of experience, physicians and research faculty. The cross-site staff includes individuals with extensive involvement in and familiarity with the field of PA education and student assistance.

The following video is a story of origins of MEDEX:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxoU9CYPrmg

The following video is the story of two students from the first MEDEX class that impacted healthcare in the rural town of Othello, Washington:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYfh2XNHjvU

MEDEX is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 2019. This website describes the celebratory event: www.medex50.org
MEDEX Program goals:

1. Contribute to **regional primary care workforce** needs by educating culturally-competent PAs for strategic areas of need in the WWAMI region and beyond.

2. Recruit qualified individuals from **minority and disadvantaged backgrounds** for careers as physician assistants.

3. Utilize **community-based clinical preceptorships** to develop effective physician–physician assistant relationships.

4. Develop, implement and maintain **MEDEX decentralized didactic campuses** in the region for the purpose of increasing access to physician assistant education.

Progress towards goals:

1. **Goal 1:**
   a. Over 74% of program graduates serve the WWAMI region in both primary care and specialty practice.
   
   b. MEDEX graduates working in primary care total 43% with others working in emergency medicine (14%), surgery (20%), medical specialties (8%), and other areas (13%).

2. **Goal 2:**
   a. MEDEX Northwest continues the tradition of training minority students. Accepted students who self-identified as a minority in the 2018 incoming class make up 32% of the total cohort.
   
   b. Of that number, 24% identified as underrepresented minorities with significant increases in students identifying as African American (3.7%), Hispanic/Latino (12.5%), Native American (3.7%), and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (2.2%).
   
   c. MEDEX Tacoma campus makes an active effort to reach out to active duty military and veterans. The percentage of students with military experience selected for the 2018 entering class is 19%.
d. MEDEX is committed to promoting inclusion and diversity in its faculty and staff.

3. **Goal 3:**

   a. MEDEX maintains and cultivates a substantial pool of potential sites and preceptors throughout the WWAMI region, and expects students to travel during the clinical phase of their education.

   b. Students entering into their clinical year have several exciting and educational experiences while rotating through our five-state service region.

4. **Goal 4:**

   a. MEDEX ensures that all of its campuses provide highest quality PA educational experience by recruiting highly qualified and mission fit faculty and staff as well as providing equal access to student services and teaching resources to student at all locations.

**Accreditation**

- MEDEX has a full 7-year accreditation from ARC-PA.
- Last site visit was in April 2019.
- Ongoing accreditation decision is expected in October 2019.

**New Frontiers**

- In 2017 and 2018, MEDEX leadership was invited to the opening day of the Hawaii state legislature, by local leaders and elected officials, to discuss ways to increase health care access in Hawaii. This resulted in securing grass root and political support for opening a new campus for our MEDEX PA program.
- The MEDEX campus in Kona, HI is expected to open in September 2020, contingent on successful outcome of ARC-PA site visit in March 2020.
- Twelve-minute video about MEDEX in Hawaii: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hEYK6uZ6Mo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hEYK6uZ6Mo)
STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program (continued p. 4)

**Challenges**

- MEDEX strives to keep its tuition at the fiftieth percentile while providing the highest quality education and advancing its mission.
- Financial pressure – Ever increasing costs.
- Competition of training sites.

**Attachments**

1. MEDEX Northwest Update
2. What is a PA?
3. MEDEX Presenters’ Biographies
MEDEX NW
Update for
UW Board of Regents

Misbah Keen, MD, MBI, MPH
Michael Smith, DHEd, MPAS, PA-C
Matthew Grisso, MCHS, PA - Recent Graduate
Physician Assistants

- Physician assistants (PAs) practice in all areas of medicine. They are well represented in primary care medicine, which includes the areas of family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. PAs also practice in medical subspecialties, general and specialty surgery and psychiatry.

- See infographic “What is a PA” for more information.
MEDEX History

Richard Smith, MD
MEDEX Founder
Richard Smith MD started the MEDEX at UW in 1969
MEDEX History – Two Videos

• The origins of MEDEX NW (20 minutes)
  • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxoU9CYPrmg

• The Othello Pioneers (9 minutes)
  • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYfh2XNHjvU
MEDEX releases limited edition posters that celebrate the legacy of its founder. The images in the posters are made of pictures of MEDEX graduates (2600) since 1969.
MEDEX in 2019

MEDEX Northwest is a section of the Department of Family Medicine, UW Medicine. Our faculty and staff bring considerable experience to the MEDEX program. The core faculty includes PAs with between 2 and 35-plus years of experience, physicians and research faculty. The cross-site staff includes individuals with extensive involvement in and familiarity with the field of PA education and student assistance.
MEDEX Mission

• MEDEX Northwest, the University of Washington School of Medicine’s Physician Assistant Program, is committed to educating experienced health personnel from diverse backgrounds to practice medicine with physician supervision. The program provides a broad, competency-based curriculum that focuses on primary care with an emphasis on underserved populations. MEDEX encourages life-long learning to meet ever-changing healthcare needs. As a pioneer in PA education, MEDEX continues to be innovative in identifying, creating, and filling new niches for PAs as a strategy for expanding healthcare access.
MEDEX Program Goals

1. Contribute to **regional primary care workforce** needs by educating culturally-competent PAs for strategic areas of need in the WWAMI region and beyond.

2. Recruit qualified individuals from **minority and disadvantaged backgrounds** for careers as physician assistants.

3. Utilize **community-based clinical preceptorships** to develop effective physician–physician assistant relationships.

4. Develop, implement and maintain **MEDEX decentralized didactic campuses** in the region for the purpose of increasing access to physician assistant education.
Goal 1. Contribute to regional primary care workforce.

- Train qualified local candidates
Goal 1. Contribute to regional primary care workforce.

• Over 74% of program graduates serve the WWAMI region in both primary care and specialty practice.

• MEDEX graduates working in primary care total 43% with others working in emergency medicine (14%), surgery (20%), medical specialties (8%), and other areas (13%).
Goal 2. Recruit qualified individuals from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds.

- MEDEX Northwest continues the tradition of training minority students.

- Accepted students who self-identified as a minority in the 2018 incoming class make up 32% of the total cohort.

- Of that number, 24% identified as underrepresented minorities with significant increases in students identifying as African American (3.7%), Hispanic/Latino (12.5%), Native American (3.7%), and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (2.2%).
Goal 2. Recruit qualified individuals from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds.

Self Identified Minority Students at MEDEX Northwest  
2009 - 2018

- 2009: 17% 
- 2010: 18% 
- 2011: 19% 
- 2012: 25% 
- 2013: 22% 
- 2014: 21% 
- 2015: 26% 
- 2016: 13% 
- 2017: 22% 
- 2018: 32%
Commitment to Veterans

• MEDEX is committed to creating opportunities, to participating in outreach activities with a focus on building a strong military applicant pool, and to providing PA training to current and former military members.

• MEDEX Tacoma campus makes an active effort to reach out to active duty military and veterans.

• The percentage of students with military experience selected for the 2018 entering class is 19%.
MEDEX is committed to promoting inclusion and diversity in its faculty and staff.

Terry Scott, MPA, PA-C
MEDEX Program Director

MEDEX is committed to promoting inclusion and diversity in its faculty and staff.
MEDEX faculty hires in 2019

Scott Cooper
PA-C
Lecturer

Daytheon Sturges
MPAS, PA-C
Assistant Professor
Starts 10/1/19

Quante Greenlee
MPH, PA-C
Lecturer
Starts 10/1/19

Sarah Patton
MSHS, PA-C
Lecturer

Maggie Laufenberg
MMS, PA-C
Lecturer

Avery Batts
Ed.D.
Lecturer – Starts 11/1/19
Goal 3. Utilize **community-based** clinical preceptorships.

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**MEDEX Clinical Sites**

MEDEX maintains and cultivates a substantial pool of potential sites and preceptors throughout the WWAMI region, and expects students to travel during the clinical phase of their education.
Students entering into their clinical year have several exciting and educational experiences while rotating through our five-state service region.
Goal 4. Develop, implement and maintain MEDEX decentralized didactic campuses ---

MEDEX ensures that all of its campuses provide highest quality educational experience by recruiting highly qualified and mission fit faculty and staff as well as providing equal access to student services and teaching resources to students at all locations.
Accreditation Status

ARC-PA - Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant

• ARC-PA is the national accrediting body for PA programs.
• MEDEX has a full 7 year accreditation from ARC-PA.
• Last site visit was in April 2019.
• Ongoing accreditation decision is expected in October 2019.
New Frontiers

• In 2017 and 2018, MEDEX leadership was invited to the opening day of the Hawaii state legislature, by local leaders and elected officials, to discuss ways to increase health care access in Hawaii. This resulted in securing grass root and political support for opening a new campus for our MEDEX PA program.

• We expect our campus in Kona, HI to open in September 2020, contingent on successful outcome of ARC-PA site visit in March 2020.

• Here is a video (12 minute) about MEDEX in Hawaii
  • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hEYK6uZ6Mo
Challenges

• MEDEX strives to keep its tuition at the 50th percentile while providing the highest quality education and advancing its mission.

• Financial pressure – Ever increasing costs.

• Competition of training sites.
What is a PA?

PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient’s principal healthcare professional. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PA profession established in</th>
<th>1967</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAs in the U.S.</td>
<td>131,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAs have more than 400 million patient interactions per year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2019 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PA Programs in the U.S.</th>
<th>238</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours of clinical rotations</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educated at Master’s Degree level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2019

Programs are 27 months or 3 academic years (bachelor’s degree is required for acceptance)

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING

To obtain a license, PAs must:

- Graduate from an accredited PA program
- Pass a certification exam

To maintain their certification, PAs must complete:

- 100 hours of continuing medical education (CME after every two years)
- A recertification exam every 10 years
PAs practice in every work setting

- 36.5% - Hospital
- 5.9% - Urgent Care Center
- 4.3% - Other*
- 53.3% - Outpatient Office or Clinic

2019 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.
*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.

PAs practice medicine in all specialties

- 20.8% - Primary Care
- 12.2% - Internal Medicine Subspecialties
- 9.4% - Emergency Medicine
- 1.4% - Pediatric Subspecialties
- 28.8% - Other*
- 27.4% - Surgical Subspecialties

2019 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.
*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.

What Patients Say About PAs

- 93% - PAs are trusted healthcare providers
- 92% - Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments
- 91% - PAs improve the quality of healthcare

2014 Harris Poll*

PA Profession in the News

- #3 Best 100 Jobs List
  US News & World Report 2019
- #1 Best Healthcare Jobs List
  US News & World Report 2019
- #7 Highest Paying Jobs In America
  Forbes 2018
- #5 Fastest Growing Jobs In America
  Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019

"Attitudes Toward PAs: A 2014 Survey by the American Academy of PAs."
The Harris online survey was conducted September 15–22, 2014 among 1,544 adults age 18 and older living in the US, including an oversample of 680 adults who have seen a PA and/or have accompanied a loved one to see a PA in the past 12 months. For full methodology visit aapa.org/media.

AAPA | aapa.org

Updated August 2019
Misbah K. Keen, MD, MBI, MPH
Professor and Executive Vice Chair Department of Family Medicine

Misbah Keen, MD, MBI, MPH is the Executive Vice Chair, Head of Medical Student Education Section and Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Keen graduated from Government Medical College in Srinagar, Kashmir (India) and subsequently completed a family medicine residency at Mercy Health Partners in Toledo, OH. He also completed master’s degrees in Biomedical Informatics through Oregon Health and Sciences University and Public Health through Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Keen joined the University of Washington in 2007 after practicing full-spectrum family medicine for five years in Othello, WA.

As the Executive Vice Chair of Family Medicine, Dr. Keen's main responsibilities are in areas of academic leadership, medical student and PA education. Dr. Keen is the Head of Medical Student Education section and co-directs the UWSOM required Family Medicine Clerkship. He is a proponent of integrative medicine and helped establish the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine at UW.

Dr. Keen’s clinical interests include primary care with a focus on prevention, chronic disease management, and lifestyle changes. He also sees patients for Travel Medicine consultations. Dr. Keen practices a patient-centered approach to medical care and values collaborative decision making.

In his free time Dr. Keen enjoys traveling, especially visiting our great National Parks, and his goal is to have visited (at least one overnight stay) all 50 states by 2021. He is a so-so golfer but is intent on exploring why so-so golfers make better physicians.
Michael Smith, DHEd, MPAS, PA-C  
Lecturer, Spokane Site Director

I am a fifth-generation Washingtonian; my great-great grandparents were pioneers who moved to King County, Washington Territory in the 1860’s. Although Washington is home, I joined the Air Force to see the world after graduating from Bethel High School in Spanaway, WA. My father was somewhat of a pioneer as well; he was a Vietnam War veteran who attended the Army’s Physician Assistant (PA) program in the early 1970’s when the profession was just emerging. I was living in the United Kingdom when the notion to follow in my father’s footsteps struck me and I began attending college to work on my prerequisites. The opportunity for me to actually attend PA school came in 1992, shortly after returning from Saudi Arabia where I supported Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The Air Force’s PA program took me to Wichita Falls, TX for didactics and the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO for my clinical rotations. This is where my wife (who is also a PA) and I were married. Upon completing PA school, we moved to Cheyenne, WY and worked in family practice. At this time, I also earned my Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. After four years in primary care, I completed a fellowship and worked for the oncology and bone marrow transplant service at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. In the latter stages of my military career I served as the Director of Medical Operations for the Air Force Survival School at Fairchild AFB, WA. My final military assignment was with Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, FL as an Aeromedical Physician Assistant; in this capacity I was honored to serve in Jordan and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After retiring from active duty in 2008, we decided to move back home to the Pacific Northwest. I worked for the Joint Personnel Recovery Academy in Spokane, WA where I provided medical and consultative services to them and other Department of Defense survival schools. This work fueled my desire to teach; I attended A.T. Still University’s School of Health Management and earned my Doctor of Health Education (DHEd) degree in 2012. In 2014, I joined the University of Washington MEDEX faculty and now teach in Basic Clinical Skills, Adult Medicine, Patient Management, Emergency Medicine, Technical Skills, Professional Role Development, and Investigative Skills. I have been the Spokane Site Director since 2017. I am proud to teach the next generation of PAs; many of whom will stay and practice in the WWAMI region. My research interests are military/survival medicine as well as sports medicine.
Matthew Grisso, MCHS, PA
Recent Graduate, UW MEDEX NW, Spokane Class 21

I am new to Washington state. I was born and raised in Southern California in the Mojave Desert, Northeast of Los Angeles. I previously vacationed in the Pacific-Northwest and had a desire to move to the region. While researching PA Schools, I found MEDEX to have a Mission statement that best fit with my ideals and background. As an added bonus, it was located in the Pacific-Northwest.

My career prior to PA school was quite varied with jobs ranging from professional kayaker, president of a disabled veteran’s charity, to civilian paramedic. I worked as a paramedic for 10 years in many capacities including fire department based 9-1-1, tactical paramedicine in a United States Penitentiary, and hospital based in a cardiology section. During my time working as a paramedic in the penitentiary, I was severely injured as the result of an altercation. The resulting injury effectively ended my paramedic career, as I could not be medically cleared to return to work status. At that time the PAs I worked with in the prison encouraged me to pursue the PA field.

While working on my pre-requisite course work for PA school, I worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Loma Linda VA Hospital. In this setting I was working in a cardiology section, and was mentored by many physicians and advanced practice providers. They continued to encourage my desire to pursue further education. Through the twists and turns in life, it took me some time to finish my undergraduate degree and pre-requisites. After working at the VA for 8 years I applied to UW MEDEX Northwest, and was subsequently accepted for Spokane Class 21.

During my didactic and clinical education at MEDEX I was honored to receive the Dr. Richard Smith Scholarship, and be named as a National Scholar for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Professionals Scholarship Program (HPSP). As a HPSP scholar I signed a contract to work for the VA healthcare system. My wife and I have chosen to stay in the Spokane area. I accepted a position in outpatient primary care at the VA hospital in Spokane WA. I have significant interests in medical education; I have future goals of precepting students and eventually joining the MEDEX faculty.