

Physician Assistant Fellowship Program - Orthopaed

Contact Information:

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The Orthopaedic Surgery Physician Assistant Residency Program at Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC) is a 12 month didactic and clinical training program designed to prepare the primary care graduate Physician Assistant for a career specializing in Orthopaedic Surgery.

General Objectives:

1. To provide training in inpatient, outpatient and surgical services to patients with acute and chronic musculoskeletal problems.
2. To provide training in the pre- and post-operative management of the acutely traumatized orthopaedic patient.
3. To provide exposure to the subspecialty areas of the upper and lower extremities, sports medicine, spine, foot and ankle and total joint replacement.
4. To become familiar with the rehabilitation process, particularly of the acutely injured patient, and those patients on which reconstructive procedures have been performed.
5. To develop diagnostic and decision-making skills particularly in the outpatient and post-trauma patients that would benefit from reconstructive surgery.
6. To provide surgical assist training in order to advance technical skills for the many and varied orthopaedic procedures.
7. To train the orthopaedic surgery physician assistant resident to perform a history and physical exam and to evaluate the acutely traumatized patient and those for possible reconstructive procedures.
8. To provide hands on training in the manipulative reductions of fractures and dislocations of the upper and lower extremities. This will include skin and skeletal traction and/or splinting and casting as the situation warrants.

Application Process

The 12-month academic year for the Residency Program runs from January through December. The Program begins accepting applications in August prior to the start of the program. Interviews are mandatory and are held in November. Not all applicants will be granted an interview. An admissions committee reviews all applications and makes a determination with regard to who will be interviewed. The same committee interviews applicants and makes the final decision with regard to which two applicants to accept into the program. The admissions committee consists of the Program / Medical Director, one additional attending physician, the most senior Orthopaedic Surgery resident physician on Service and one Physician Assistant.

Applicants must be a graduate of a CAHEA-accredited primary care physician assistant program. Additionally, applicants must have passed the NCCPA exam by the time of interview -- if granted -- and have current certification by the start of the program. The applicants accepted into the program will be employees of Riverside County Regional Medical Center and, therefore, must meet all RCRMC pre-employment requirements and all Medical Staff requirements for Allied Health Staff Privileges. Failure to meet these requirements will result in an applicant being withdrawn from the program. As residents are employees of RCRMC, their hiring and employment is covered by the RCRMC policies and procedures regarding fair practices.