

The Physician Assistant Profession

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Should a Bachelor's degree be required for entrance to all PA programs? How many programs require a Bachelor's degree?

- ◆ There are 102 PA programs that require a Bachelor's degree in the United States (AAPA)

◆ ADVANTAGES of not having a Bachelor's degree

- Increases the number of applicants.
- Shortens route to being a licensed medical practitioner.
- Less educational requirements = less cost

◆ DISADVANTAGES of not having a Bachelor's degree

- Not having a Liberal Arts education.
- Inability to spend part of college abroad.
- Less exposure to cultural diversities and life experiences.

◆ Recent Trends

- More applicants have Bachelor's degrees.
- There is an increase in the number Master's programs in the United States.

Should PA programs become Master's programs? How many programs are now granting Master degrees in the U.S.?

- ◆ In the U.S., there are 102 PA programs that grant a Master's degree.
- ◆ Our group feels it is not necessary to pursue an advanced degree.

What are the advantages for a Physician Assistant with an advanced degree?

- ◆ A PA would be able to pursue a non-clinical aspect of Physician Assistant profession.
- ◆ Having a Master's degree could increase the credibility of the profession.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of movement towards higher degrees for the profession?

♦ Advantages

- Increased knowledge and skills.
- Increase the credibility of the PA profession and expansion of practice, in some states.
- May provide greater career opportunities.

♦ Disadvantages

- Negative impact on entry level education.
- Focusing on a degree is a move away from the primary care mission of the profession.
- May have an impact on the delivery of care.