



Physician Assistant Programs at SMU

Samuel Merritt University has one degree program leading to the Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C) licensure: the Master Physician Assistant (MPA) program. SMU's MPA program is accredited by the [Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant \(ARC-PA\)](#). Graduates of Samuel Merritt University's MPA program are eligible to sit for the [Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination® \(PANCE\)](#) certification exam in all US states, territories, and commonwealths, *with the exceptions noted below*. However, PA licenses are granted by the licensing authority in individual states and certain licensing boards may require additional licensing requirements specific to that state. Prior to enrollment, prospective students must review the information below.

The [Physician Assistant Board of California](#) is the licensing authority for Physician Assistants in California. California requires completion of a controlled substance course in order to obtain licensure within the state. ([Click here](#) for more information on the Physician Assistant Board website.) Samuel Merritt University will assist applicants and students as they determine licensure requirements in other states. Please contact Tana Summers (tsummers@samuelmerritt.edu), Chair, Department of Physician Assistant, for more information. Contact information for Physician Assistant state licensing boards outside of California can be found on the following page on the [National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants \(NCCPA\) website](#).

States/Territories/Commonwealths for which SMU's Physician Assistant program MEETS the educational requirements for licensure or certification:

- All US states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS LISTED BELOW.

States/Territories/Commonwealths for which SMU's Physician Assistant program DOES NOT MEET the educational requirements for licensure or certification:

- Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and Republic of the Marshall Islands