



UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Class of 2025
HOODING
Ceremony

Friday, April 25, 2025 | 4:00 pm

Geary Auditorium, Riggleman Hall

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

CLASS OF 2025

Katelyn Elizabeth Barnhart
Morgan Christine Bland
Joan Sebastian Bolanos Lopez
Claire Esther Boutwell
Viviana Marlin Castañeda
Katharine Allison Chadwick
Makenzie Marie Cook
Racheal Lynn Coppage
Christopher Yong Seung Do
Mateusz Dawid Firchal
Morgan Elizabeth Grimes
Alexis Morgan Hall
Thao Thanh Viet Hoang
Enoch Chiang Koo
Samantha Julia Moore
Isaac Arrington Morrise
Seth Michael Northway
Kelby Iris Pierce
Billie Claire Roberts
Melissa Rojas
Aria Sonya Rowshan
Elysia Kristina Ruiz
William Huckle Harrison Thorpe
Maria Fernanda Uribe
Lauren Jean-Marie Vande Hei
Maya Hadas Wahl
Kienan Brian Whetstone
Joseph Richard Wisnieski
Brendan Bert Wong

HOODING CEREMONY 2025

Processional.....Class of 2025 and PA Faculty
Michelle Hontz, Pianist

Invocation..... Tim Hontz, MPAS, PA-C
UCPAP Alumnus

Welcome..... Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C
Program Director

University Singers..... Christopher Brown
Director of Choral Activities

Class of 2025 Awards..... Lesley Adkins, MSPA, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

Excellence in Service & Altruism Award.....Mateusz Firchal, PA-S

Excellence in Student Leadership Award.....Enoch Koo, PA-S

Introduction of Speaker.....Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C
Program Director

Keynote Speaker..... Ashley Portz, PA-C

Presentation of Graduates..... Madeleine Long, MPAS, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

Hooders:..... Michelle Davis, MSPA, PA-C
Director of Clinical Education/Assistant Professor
Angela Elkins, MSPA, PA-C
Director of Didactic Education/Assistant Professor
Melissa Jensen, MSPA, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor
Ashley Mellert, MPAS, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor
Lesley Adkins, MSPA, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

Charge to the Class & Closing Remarks.....Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C
Program Director

Recessional.....Michelle Hontz, Pianist

*Audience, please remain seated until graduates and faculty have left the auditorium
Reception immediately following in the Rotunda*

— PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL OATH —

*I pledge to perform the following duties
with honesty and dedication*

I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings.

I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice.

I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.

I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.

I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.

I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.

I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.

I will work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.

I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.

I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.

I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.

*These duties are pledged with sincerity
and upon my honor.*

— HISTORY OF THE HOODING CEREMONY AND ACADEMIC REGALIA —

The pageantry of commencement has its roots in medieval times, dating to the early tradition of Europe's first universities. In 1895, the United States set for its universities a uniform academic costume code which is reflected in most regalia worn today.

The colorful hood is a special part of academic regalia and denotes scholarly and professional achievements. The hood's coloring and size represents the type and subject of degree earned, as well as the institution from which it is awarded. The master's degree hood is 3.5 feet in length. The velvet edge of the hood color represents the specific degree. Kelly green is the designated color of the hood for master's level graduates in medicine.

Gowns represent the level of academic degrees. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The sleeve base hangs down; the rear part of its oblong shape is square cut, and the front part has an arc cut away. The color in the United States is usually black.

Headwear is also an important component of traditional regalia. The cap may vary with the level of academic achievement. Master's degree recipients wear the mortarboard cap to match the gown. The tassel worn on the mortarboard provides the greatest opportunity for latitude in American academic dress. It may be black, university colors, or the color of the specific college or discipline.



Physician Assistant Program | Class of 2025

— KEYNOTE SPEAKER —

ASHLEY PORTZ, PA-C



Ashley Portz is a Physician Assistant with a love for rural health and family medicine. Ashley completed her Master of Science - Physician Assistant studies from Alderson Broaddus College in 2009. After graduation, Ashley worked in the ER for six years honing the skills she developed during her clinical rotations.

Ashley found her calling when she started at Cabin Creek Health Systems - Dawes. She took on the position of Lead Clinician in October of 2022. In the last ten years Ashley has devoted much of her time to the community of Cabin Creek, treating, educating and getting to know her patients. She is just finishing up her third year of directing the Medication Assisted Treatment program at her Dawes clinic. The MAT Team has had good success with those individuals that have sought out their services.

Ashley is an active member of the WVAPA and AAPA . She has a love of learning and participates regularly in seminars and educational opportunities made available to her. Ashley has been a longtime advocate of students and received the Preceptor of the Year award in 2024 from the UC PA Program.

In her spare time Ashley finds herself working in her yard and gardening when it's warm and tending to her house plants. She is honored to speak to the graduating class today.

— CLASS OF 2025 STUDENT LEADERS —

Makenzie Cook , *President*
Enoch Koo, *Vice President*
Alexis Hall, *Secretary*
Isaac Morrise, *Treasurer*
Mateusz Firchal, *Outreach Chair*
Katharine Chadwick, *Fundraising Chair*
Lauren Vande Hei, *SAR Representative*
Morgan Grimes, *WVAPA Representative*
Kelby Pierce, *Homecoming Chair*
Claire Boutwell, *Social Chair*
Huck Thorpe, *Alumni Chair*
Maria Uribe, *Diversity Chair*
Samantha Moore, *Historian*

— FACULTY —

Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C
Program Director

Michelle Davis, MSPA, PA-C
Director of Clinical Education/Assistant Professor

Angela Elkins, MSPA, PA-C
Director of Didactic Education/Assistant Professor

Melissa Jensen, MSPA, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

Ashley Mellert, MPAS, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

Lesley Adkins, MSPA, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

Madeleine Long, MPAS, PA-C
Principal Faculty / Assistant Professor

Julie A. DeTemple, MD, FAAFP
Medical Director

— STAFF —

Jacqueline Robinson, AAS
Clinical Coordinator

Jeanette Bane, M.A.
UCPAP Admissions Coordinator

Lori Thornton
Administrative Assistant

Kathryn Knolton, B.A.
Administrative Assistant



UC - PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT - CLASS OF 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON MISSION

The mission of the University of Charleston is to educate each student for a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the University of Charleston Physician Assistant Program is to prepare competent physician assistants who value and provide comprehensive, patient-centered, culturally sensitive primary care, and are committed to lifelong-learning, professional growth, community health, and caring for underserved populations.

Special thanks to the following for their generosity and support:

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UC Catering Services

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