



UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Class of 2026
HOODING
Ceremony

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 5:00 pm

Ballroom, Geary Student Union

— UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON —
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

CLASS OF 2026

Sawyer Kaye Agnew
Brooke Catarina Barlow
Caroline Rose Bishop
Johannah Kristen Crumpton
Daniel Michael Early
Julia Anne Eix
Bailey Lynn Fedun
Paige Marie Gatliff
Arianna Elizabeth Golden
Maria Camila Espinosa Gonzalez
Jan-Lukas Anton Haeuptle
Kaitlyn McKenzie Halstead
Mumphord Holland-Rudolphus Kendall
Alisha Ann Kulka
Skye Alexandria Majka
Jacob Daniel Marthinsen
Emilee Brooke Maynard
Chase Alan Mitton
Aron Kent Moss
Mark Martin Ovesny
Isha Passi
Cameron Choong-Shik Price
Courtney Grace Santifort
Brittney Marie Sawyer
Victoria Izabela Seston
Grace Marie Steward
Kathleen Nicole Summers
Trent Nathan Tallman
Hannah Louise Elizabeth Timmons
Recelito Trau
Karolina Uscillo
Gabrielle Kyra Wagner
Ross Neely Webb
Brooke Joan West
Emily Elise Wood

— HOODING CEREMONY 2026 —

Processional.....Class of 2026 and PA Faculty
Michelle Hontz, Pianist

Invocation.....Tim Hontz, MPAS, PA-C
University of Charleston Physician Assistant Program Alumnus

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

University Singers.....Josie Fisher
Director of Choral Activities

Class of 2026 Awards.....Lesley Adkins, MSPA, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

 Excellence in Student Professionalism Award..... Sawyer Agnew, PA-S
 Bailey Fedun, PA-S
 Grace Steward, PA-S

 Excellence in Clinical Achievement Award..... Alisha Kulka, PA-S

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

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

Presentation of Graduates.....Heather Carpenter, MSPAS, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

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

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

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 Ballroom
Reception immediately following in the Ballroom Annex*

— 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 2026

— KEYNOTE SPEAKER —

ASHLEY PORTZ, MSPA, PA-C



Ashley completed her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Alderson Broaddus College in 2009. Following graduation, she spent six years working in an emergency department, where she honed the clinical skills she had developed during her physician assistant training.

Ashley discovered her passion for community-based care after joining Cabin Creek Health Systems at the Dawes Cabin Creek Health Center in Dawes, West Virginia. In October 2022, she assumed the role of Lead Clinician at the health center. Over the past decade, she has dedicated much of her time to serving the Cabin Creek community—providing care, offering education, and building meaningful relationships with her patients. She has also completed her third year directing the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program at the Dawes clinic, where the team has achieved strong outcomes for individuals seeking their services.

Ashley is an active member of the West Virginia Association of Physician Assistants (WVAPA) and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). She is also a member of the University of Charleston Physician Assistant Community Advisory Board. Being committed to lifelong learning, she regularly participates in continuing education and professional development opportunities. As a dedicated student advocate, she was honored with the University of Charleston Physician Assistant Program Preceptor of the Year Award in 2024.

In her spare time, Ashley finds herself working in her yard, gardening, and tending to her house plants. She is honored to have the opportunity to speak to the graduating class this evening.

— CLASS OF 2026 STUDENT LEADERS —

Mark Ovesny, *President*
Paige Gatliff, *Vice President*
Arianna Golden, *Secretary*
Emilee Maynard, *Outreach Chair*
Hannah Timmons, *Fundraising Chair*
Emily Wood, *SAR Representative*
Brittney Sawyer, *WVAPA Representative*
Brooke West, *Homecoming Chair*
Caroline Bishop, *Social Chair*
Mumphord “Lee” Kendall, *Alumni Chair*
Maria Espinosa Gonzalez, *Diversity Chair*
Victoria “Tori” Seston, *Historian*

— FACULTY —

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

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

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

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

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

Heather Carpenter MSPAS, PA-C
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

Julie A. DeTemple, MD, FAAFP
Medical Director

— STAFF —

Jacqueline Robinson, AAS
Clinical Coordinator

Jeanette Bane, M.A.
Admissions Coordinator

Lori Thornton
Administrative Assistant

Timothy Richards, AAS
Administrative Assistant



UC - PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT - CLASS OF 2026

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:

University Audiovisual Services
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University Administrators and Offices

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