

R·I·T



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

NOVEMBER 2017

In higher education, the accreditation process conducted by an outside review team provides valuable feedback to make continuous improvements for academic programs. RIT's Physician Assistant Program is currently in a continuing accreditation process and we want to take this opportunity to provide an update.

First, some background: RIT's Physician Assistant (PA) Program officially began in September 1993 with 54 students. RIT has graduated over 500 alumni who are practicing in many different clinical disciplines, geographic settings, and in many states and countries across the globe. The PA Program has remained accredited since 1994. Initial accreditation was by the Commission on Accreditation Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP) and then by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) from 2001 to present.

Based on the most recent review in 2017, the ARC-PA granted continuation of accreditation and placed the Program on probation for reasons stated below. The PA Program, the College of Health Sciences and Technology, and the university have immediately initiated an intensive plan for addressing the issues raised. We embrace this review process and it will make us better. **We are fully confident that these corrective measures will meet the ARC-PA Standards with no adverse consequences to currently enrolled, admitted, or prospective students.** Students can continue to apply, matriculate, graduate, take the PANCE, obtain state licensing, and practice medicine.

Details described by the Commission in their following statement:

*At its September 2017 meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) placed the **Rochester Institute of Technology Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by the **Rochester Institute of Technology** on **Accreditation-Probation** status until its next review in **September 2019**.*

Probation is a temporary status of accreditation conferred when a program does not meet the Standards and when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Once placed on probation, programs that still fail to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and/or risk having their accreditation withdrawn.

Specific questions regarding the Program and its plans should be directed to the Program Director, Heidi Miller, PA-C, MPH at hbmscl@rit.edu and/or Vice President and Dean, Daniel Ornt, MD at dbohst@rit.edu.