The Physician Assistant Leadership and Learning Academy (PALLA) is actively recruiting individuals who are interested in pursuing a career as a Physician Assistant (PA) academic in higher education. Now in its sixth year, the PALLA fellowship is a unique opportunity for practicing PAs to engage in a 10-month, structured, professional development training program using active-learning experiences and case-based design to develop the essential skills needed by a PA faculty member in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service.

The vision of PALLA is to create an inclusive learning community dedicated to excellence in PA education in Maryland and beyond. PALLA aims to build faculty capacity to educate the next generation of PA students while advancing PA research, leadership, and policy. PALLA collaborates with the Maryland PA programs. Fellows will participate in virtual seminars, workshops and individual-group mentorship delivered by an interprofessional team of educators/scholars, exploring important topic areas such as adult learning theories, curricular design and development, inclusive pedagogy, instructional strategies, learning assessments, best practices in simulation, PA program accreditation, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and academic leadership within PA education.

PALLA is centrally located at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). UMB is the founding campus of the University System of Maryland and serves as Maryland’s public health, law, and human services university. As the health sciences campus, UMB is uniquely positioned to apply principles of interprofessional education, innovation, and entrepreneurship to advance health and social equality.

**Fellowship Eligibility**

A prospective fellow must:
- have completed an accredited PA Program and be currently certified by NCCPA
- be licensed in the state of Maryland by the start of the fellowship
- be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America

Attainment of a master’s degree or other advanced degree is preferred, but equivalent experiences will be considered in the application process.

Please note: Current employees of the University System of Maryland who are interested in enhancing their skills through the PALLA fellowship should contact Cara Felter (cara.felter@umaryland.edu) to discuss stipend eligibility.

Fellows will be selected based on 1) their promise as a PA academic, 2) alignment of the fellows’ career objectives with the values of PALLA and 3) an expressed commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive academic community. Evidence of current or past teaching experience as an adjunct or preceptor is preferred.

**Fellowship Terms**

The PALLA fellowship consists of a 10-month long professional development training program, beginning on September 5th, 2024. Fellows will participate in required virtual activities on **Thursdays from 3pm-5pm**. Fellows will also work independently and with their mentors on various assigned projects. For the 2024-2025 academic year, there is the opportunity for up to six academic fellows to earn a stipend in the amount of $20,000, to offset clinical practice time, and use towards conference travel and other expenses. Fellows will
earn up to 32 hours of category 1 CME for completion of all fellowship requirements. While the University of Maryland System institutions are not obligated to offer any fellow a faculty appointment upon completion of their fellowship, the fellowship program is intended as a step toward a fellow’s development as a potential faculty member within the system or another institution of higher education.

**Fellowship Expectations and Requirements**

Under the mentorship of the PALLA team, each fellow will develop their educational and scholarly portfolio. Each fellow will be required to develop educational materials and engage in a microteaching experience. In addition, fellows will be provided opportunities to collaborate on manuscripts, grant/foundation proposals, conference proposals as well as community outreach, service learning and/or interprofessional educational activities. Each fellow (with a mentor) is required to generate a scholarly product (such as a poster proposal, an abstract submission, manuscript, etc.) and is encouraged to prepare and/or give at least one presentation in their area of clinical expertise at a state, national or international conference during or within one year of the tenure of the fellowship. All publications, conference presentations, and seminars authored or co-authored by the fellow must acknowledge support by the University of Maryland Baltimore, Physician Assistant Leadership and Learning Academy.

**Fellowship Application Requirements**

For consideration, **applicants must submit the following materials by April 5, 2024:**

- Cover letter describing how the applicant’s academic, employment, and/or personal experience support the expectations of the fellowship and a statement of interest that outlines career goals reflective of the roles (teaching, scholarship, and service) of a faculty position
- A complete resume or curriculum vitae
- Two professional letters of recommendation (one letter must be obtained from a licensed Physician Assistant/Associate)
- Verification of attainment of academic credentials and certification by NCCPA (unofficial transcripts are sufficient documentation of education)
- Verification of Maryland PA licensure
- Applicants are asked to **formally apply** and submit all materials via the application link available at: [https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/palla/The-Fellowship/Application-Requirements/](https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/palla/The-Fellowship/Application-Requirements/)

**Applicant Review and Selection Process**

Applications will be reviewed by the PALLA faculty and staff select committee, with the intent of selecting six fellows for the 2024-2025 cohort. Applicants from underrepresented communities in medicine are highly encouraged to apply.

To learn more about the PALLA fellowship, visit the following sites:

[https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/PALLA/](https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/PALLA/)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvOpju2413M&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvOpju2413M&feature=youtu.be)

*PALLA is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action program. Minorities, women, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*