FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern California University Of Health Sciences To Launch Physician Assistant Program This Fall

SCU’s Accredited Provisional Program Will Enable Graduates To Provide Critical Support For Physicians Across The Integrative Healthcare Industry

Whittier, CA, April 7, 2016 - Southern California University of Health Sciences (SCU), one of the nation's leading colleges for chiropractic, and acupuncture and Oriental medicine, has announced the launch of a dynamic new Master of Science: Physician Assistant (MSPA) program.

The 28-month course of study, to be offered by SCU beginning September 2016, adds a focused component to the University’s comprehensive curriculum that trains the latest generation of integrative healthcare practitioners. In today’s rapidly expanding healthcare environment, there is a critical need for trained Physician Assistants. As of April 1, 2016 the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation - Provisional status to the Master in Science: Physician Assistant program sponsored by Southern California University of Health Sciences. WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), SCU’s regional accrediting agency, also approved the program.

SCU’s MSPA graduates will be educated in basic core sciences during the didactic first year. The second year will be devoted primarily to supervised, clinical practice experiences. MSPA students will graduate with the clinical knowledge and skills necessary to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and assist in surgeries. They will possess an important competitive edge across the burgeoning health sciences landscape. By training students along with other practitioners in lifestyle/preventive medicine, graduates will understand and appreciate the value they bring to integrative, evidence-based patient care. The Physician Assistant program was developed to enable graduates to become the critical support for doctors in the primary care system.

“A primary goal of introducing this MSPA program is to prepare today’s students with the skills necessary to contribute to the health system of the future,” says SCU President, Dr. John Scaringe. “As the nation’s healthcare system becomes more integrative, this new program will help various segments of the industry to work together in a more cohesive and effective way.”

The university excels in preparing health practitioners in a variety of disciplines. Acupuncture and chiropractic are among the mostly widely utilized forms of integrative therapies and are
embraced by millions around the world. SCU emphasizes clinical expertise founded on principles of interprofessional collaboration with significant on-site clinical training in the SCU University Health Center.

**About Southern California University of Health Sciences:**
Southern California University of Health Sciences was founded in 1911. For over a century, SCU has trained men and women for successful and significant careers in patient care. SCU is located on a beautiful 25-acre campus located in Whittier, California, about 20 miles Southeast of Los Angeles and on the border of Orange County. Students enjoy a quiet suburban atmosphere and the advantages of being near a large city. For information on Southern California University of Health Sciences, please visit: [http://www.scuhs.edu](http://www.scuhs.edu).

**Additional Accreditation Information:**
The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation - Provisional status to the Master in Science: Physician Assistant program sponsored by Southern California University of Health Sciences. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program’s ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

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