About Pine Rest

One of the largest free-standing behavioral health providers in the U.S., Pine Rest offers a full continuum of behavioral health services including inpatient, partial hospitalization, outpatient, residential, addiction treatment and recovery, extensive child and adolescent programs, senior care services as well as specialized assessment and treatment clinics. Our dedicated treatment team includes over 700 physicians, nurses, physician assistants, psychologists and therapists.

The Physician Assistant Psychiatry Training Program is located on Pine Rest’s 200-acre Grand Rapids, Michigan campus and is co-located in the Loeks Residency Center along with Pine Rest’s Psychiatry Residency Program.

Our Location
Physician Assistant (PA) Psychiatry Training Program

The Pine Rest PA Psychiatry Training Program is one of the first of its kind in the country. Our model provides one year of on-the-job training for physician assistants to develop the skills to work closely with our psychiatrists in both inpatient and outpatient mental health settings followed by full-time employment as a psychiatric PA. This closely supervised and hands-on training will be essential in preparing PAs to provide the highest quality psychiatric care to their patients upon completion.

Program participants will help Pine Rest meet the growing mental health need in West Michigan, improving access to services and reducing wait times for community members.

Started in 2016, the program accepts two participants each year and will enroll them on an ongoing basis.

Program Details

Pine Rest accepts graduates of accredited PA programs or practicing PAs looking for a career change.

Phase 1

The PA Psychiatry Training Program combines both didactics and on-the-job training in both outpatient and inpatient mental health settings. Each PA is provided with the necessary practical experience and CME credits to sit for the CAQ psychiatry specialty exam at the end of the 12 months.

Phase 2

Upon completion of the training program, individuals will begin working independently as a psychiatric PA within a variety of outpatient and/or inpatient mental health settings (child and adolescent, adult and/or geriatric). Each PA will work in collaboration with a supervising psychiatrist under a Delegation Agreement. This position is responsible for providing initial psychiatric assessments, medication management and giving referrals and advocacy services for patients. Other responsibilities include upholding the highest quality care and keeping up with all best practices, standards and bylaws set by government agencies as well as Pine Rest. Additional responsibilities as designated by department or group.

Program Requirements

- Must be licensed or license-eligible in the State of Michigan to practice as a Physician Assistant.
- Candidates must display a strong interest and aptitude for the practice of psychiatry.

This position offers a competitive salary with a generous benefit package.

To Learn More

1. Web: PineRest.org/PATraining
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3. Call: 616.281.6370