Performing Arts Medicine Graduate Certificates

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY
Division of Athletic Training
Shenandoah University offers two unique graduate certificates in Performing Arts Medicine and Performing Arts Health and Fitness. These programs prepare you to serve the unique needs of performers and combine your passion for the arts with your desire to make a difference in the lives of performers.

Performing Arts Medicine Certificate

Our 15-credit Performing Arts Medicine graduate certificate is designed to educate health care professionals on the prevention, assessment and management of injuries and disorders specific to dancers, theatre artists and musicians. The program also promotes clinical research to determine best practices and embodies collaboration between various health professions alongside educators of the performing arts. The flexible, hybrid format combines online learning and live weekend lecture/lab instruction to fit your schedule and your life. You can choose to complete the program in either two or three years.

This program is open to the following licensed health care professionals:

- Medical Doctors
- Physical Therapists
- Athletic Trainers
- Occupational Therapists
- Podiatrists
- Chiropractors
- Physician Assistants
- Nurse Practitioners

Performing Arts Health and Fitness Certificate

Our 15-credit Performing Arts Health and Fitness graduate certificate is designed to improve teaching within performing arts, to increase performance while mitigating injury risk, and to promote business opportunities as a fitness professional or massage therapist catering to the needs of a performing artist. The program prepares you to be a leader in performing arts health and fitness.

The flexible, hybrid format features online programming with live seminars on the Winchester campus. You can choose to complete the program in either two or three years.
Key Features

- **Flexible hybrid format** combines online learning with on-site lectures and labs.
- Clinical experiences include backstage care of performing artists, wellness screenings, musician ergonomic assessments, and the opportunity to shadow performing arts healthcare professionals across the nation.
- Faculty experts provide **valuable practical experience**.
- Program research projects have been published and presented nationally and internationally.
- Option to complete the program in **two or three years**.
What Our Students Say

“Coming from a traditional sports and orthopedic background, the only dancing I ever did was at weddings. However, the experience, knowledge, and mentorship I gained from the Performing Arts Medicine program at Shenandoah University, exposed me to an incredible population of underserved individuals that needs knowledgeable and skilled clinicians. I will be forever grateful for the clinical reasoning and communication skills that I developed over this course series that have allowed me to better serve dancers, gymnasts, cheerleaders, musicians, and vocalists that come through the clinic. The PAM program helped me find a passion I didn’t know I had.”

— Jacob Manley ’17 PT, DPT, MS, LATC, CSCS
PRO Physical Therapy, Performance Physical Therapist and Athletic Trainer

“The PAM program helped me gain a background in dance terminology, injuries and evaluation that has been instrumental in building rapport with injured ballet dancers. When a dancer realizes that they do not have to worry about explaining fundamental ballet positions and movement, they can focus on their pain and they feel more comfortable and confident coming to me with their injuries. The comprehensive knowledge taught in the PAM program regarding evaluation and prevention of dance-specific injuries cultivated a high level of confidence going into my clinical rotation. The clinical rotation through Shenandoah’s PAM program directly translated into getting a job providing care for professional and pre-professional ballet dancers after I graduated.”

— Leanne Wonesh ’18, MS, LAT, ATC
Outreach Athletic Trainer | Houston Ballet & Academy
Houston Methodist Orthopedics and Sports Medicine