



**Position Summary:**

The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is offering an eight-week internship for students currently working toward their Ph.D. in psychometrics (or other relevant fields), with at least two years of graduate coursework. During the program, the intern will have the opportunity to gain experience in operational psychometric tasks involved in administering and scoring a certification assessment and to take the lead on a research project, in collaboration with psychometric staff. The research effort will include submission of a proposal to NCME, AERA, or similar conference, and will culminate in a research paper that can be delivered at that conference.

Candidates will undertake a project that meets their interests and skills and supports NCCPA's exam-related research agenda. Current topics of interest to NCCPA revolve largely around longitudinal assessment. Specific areas of interest include automated item generation (AIG), adaptive testing, enemy item identification using machine learning methods, detecting bias in test content, detecting compromised test content, response time modeling, natural language processing and machine learning projects, studies related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in testing, and growth models.

This program is scheduled to begin in June and to conclude by the end of August. While interns will work remotely, during week one of the internship, they will work closely with the psychometric team to develop a research plan for the remaining weeks. This initial project development week may be at the NCCPA offices in Johns Creek, GA, conditions permitting. In the event of an on-site experience, travel and lodging expenses will be covered by NCCPA. Over the following weeks, interns will convene in virtual weekly meetings with a mentor to discuss progress and to address questions. All finalized deliverables will be provided to NCCPA at the completion of the internship.

**Application Procedure:** A complete application includes a curriculum vitae, student copy of graduate school transcript (does not need to be an official transcript), two letters of recommendation, and a statement of purpose describing your interest in the internship as well as your general research interests. Application materials may be emailed or mailed to NCCPA and must be received by February 16, 2022. The internship award will be announced by March 9, 2022. The award includes a \$6,000 stipend. Conference travel will be offset, and travel/lodging for trips to the NCCPA offices will be reimbursed in accordance with NCCPA's policies.

Materials and/or questions should be submitted to:

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NCCPA is the only nationally recognized certification organization for physician assistants (PAs). Established as a not-for-profit organization in 1974, NCCPA is dedicated to providing certification programs that reflect standards for clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning, and other medical skills and professional behaviors required upon entry into practice and throughout the careers of PAs. All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories rely on NCCPA certification as one of the criteria for initial licensure or regulation of PAs. More than 175,000 PAs have been certified by NCCPA since 1975. NCCPA is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies and recognized in 2019, 2020, and 2021 by Modern Healthcare as a Best Place to Work. To learn more about working at NCCPA, please visit <https://www.nccpa.net/>.