

Melissa Walker

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Where are you from, and where did you complete your undergraduate studies?

My hometown is Fairfax, Virginia. I was privileged to receive a full athletic scholarship to play Division-I basketball at Boston University for my undergraduate studies. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management and a minor in Business Administration.

Why did you choose FIU Master in Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)?

The FIU MPAS program stood out from others because of the warm culture, the student-professor ratio, the robust curriculum, and the state-of-the-art simulation lab. The faculty is also amicable, with experienced clinicians eager to share their knowledge; furthermore, the program provides healthcare access to the underserved community through Neighborhood HELP, which will help me to hone my clinical skills.

How would you describe FIU MPAS?

The demanding curriculum is carefully balanced with fun lectures and hands-on clinical skills labs. It is fast paced but well organized with a strategic overlap in the courses, making the material easier to assimilate and apply.

What is your favorite part of FIU and/or the FIU MPAS program?

The mentorship and support that I have received so far in the MPAS program have been immense in such a short amount of time. I am incredibly grateful for the faculty who treat me like family.



What are your other personal interests?

My hobbies are playing the piano, playing basketball, enjoying the diverse gastronomy of South Florida, and dancing Salsa. I also love spending quality time with my spouse and my two dogs.

What is your favorite quote, and what does it say about you?

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." – Mahatma Gandhi. This quote defines my journey thus far since serving others is the key to a purposeful life.

What advice would you give a prospective student?

I would advise prospective students to choose FIU because it is an exceptional program with plenty of opportunities to grow professionally. The MPAS program prepares students to become competent clinicians while offering a solid network of partnerships with various reputable organizations.

What is your greatest accomplishment thus far?

My career transition from hospitality management to healthcare is one of my most significant accomplishments, made possible after completing my Healthcare MBA. As a Process Improvement Consultant for a large hospital organization, I worked alongside multi-specialty providers that led me to find my true passion for patient care – the PA profession.

Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

I see myself working in an intense, fast-paced environment like emergency medicine while, simultaneously, being part of faculty in a PA program.