

Thomas Rogers, PA-C

CO 2019 Alumnus

Where are you from, and when did you graduate from the FIU Master in Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program?

I am from Cloquet, Minnesota, and I graduated from FIU MPAS in 2019.

Who or what inspired you to pursue your career?

My father inspired me to pursue a career in medicine as he is a Family Practice physician. I learned many important values of how to care for patients from the way he practices.

What did you enjoy the most about the FIU MPAS program?

I always felt welcomed and part of a family being at FIU. Throughout the whole process, even starting with the interview to the White Coat Ceremony, I felt as though the MPAS program genuinely wanted to invest in me and my fellow classmates. Of course, having a fun cohort to go out on the weekends never hurts.

What did you learn in the FIU MPAS program that has been helpful in your career as a PA?

I will always remember listening to Dr. Ley drilling us about good bedside manner and treating the patient as a person and friend and not just a number.

What do you like best about being a PA?

I love having the autonomy to evaluate patients on my own and being an integral part in Surgery.



What has been your greatest accomplishment since graduating?

My greatest accomplishment has been getting married amidst COVID 19 to a fellow FIU MPAS alumni (cohort 2020), Hazel Rogers (De Leon)!

How has COVID 19 impacted your profession?

COVID19 drastically impacted my profession while elective surgeries were canceled. Fellow colleagues and I were put on a rotating furlough schedule due to the severe decrease in orthopedic surgeries and clinic visits. Once elective surgeries were allowed, our numbers began to increase, but they are still not close to pre-COVID 19 days.

What advice would you give a PA student?

Run! Then, go for another run after that! In all reality, make sure you continue to enjoy life. My outlet was running and the exercise was an amazing way to blow off steam. PA school is stressful and demands your time and energy, but if you aren't enjoying each and every day PA school will feel like an eternity.