

As Mount Union finds itself less than one year away from its 175<sup>th</sup> year, recent adaptation has been necessary to lay the groundwork for the next 175 and beyond. In the past decade, graduate programs have gone from forward-thinking endeavors to foundational components of Mount Union's academic offerings.

As undergraduate demographics continue to decline in the Midwest, the additional attention paid to graduate programs has been a successful strategy for the institution. Since 2013, Mount Union's graduate student enrollment has increased by 142%, enrolling students from 14 different states across its three existing graduate programs: Master of Science in physician assistant studies, Master of Education, and Doctor of Physical Therapy.

"Graduate work was first offered at Mount Union in 1872. So, graduate education is not an entirely new imprint for our institution," said Dr. Jeffrey Breese, vice president of academic affairs and provost. "Tamerlane Pliny Marsh served as the second president of then Mount Union College, and he was an early champion of graduate education here. I have to believe he would be very pleased and honored to see his vision from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century being embraced and realized."

Now, with the addition of a fully-online Master of Business Administration degree approved by the Higher Learning Commission and Ohio Department of Higher Education (see page 3), and the potential for a Master of Science in exercise and nutrient metabolism awaiting appropriate approvals, continued graduate program success seems imminent.



## Physician Assistant Studies

- First cohort: **2010**
- Total number of graduates: **309**  
(including 54 Mount Union undergraduate alumni)
- Accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

The PA program has consistently been ranked in the top three in Ohio each year since 2014 by *U.S. News and World Report* and has had a 98% first-time passage rate on the PANCE exam since 2015.

*"The program has an excellent reputation. One of the most impactful aspects of Mount Union's program is its emphasis on professionalism. I felt prepared to successfully interview and enter the workforce."*

**-Meghan Byram M'18**

Clinical Care PA, Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, Ohio

**Learn more:**

[mountunion.edu/graduate-degrees](http://mountunion.edu/graduate-degrees)

# Graduate Program Success



## Physical Therapy

- First cohort: **2016**
- Total number of graduates: **56**  
(including three Mount Union undergraduate alumni)
- Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

Mount Union's first doctoral degree, the PT program has filled nearly every available seat to students since its inception. Utilizing the state-of-the-art facilities of Gallaher Hall, its students have hands-on experiences to prepare them for the field.

*"Mount Union's PT program is so different from the rest because the professors are so dedicated to the students and it shows. I am from Illinois, and I didn't really want to go far from family, but I knew this was the place for me!"*

**-Victoria Van Cura D'22**  
Physical Therapy Student

## Master of Education

- First cohort: **2013**
- Total number of graduates: **105**  
(including 60 Mount Union undergraduate alumni)
- Accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

Education has been one of Mount Union's largest and most successful programs for decades, and the M.Ed. degree has continued that trend. With three annual cohort options, four concentrations, and a fully-online curriculum, 2020 found more professionals enrolled in the M.Ed. than ever before.

*"Mount Union has a very special place in my heart, and Purple Raiders are well known across the country. The professors are extremely positive and passionate about what they do."*

**- Joshua Chadima '13, M'18**  
Content Teacher, High School Football and Basketball Coach,  
Manchester Local Schools