INTRODUCTION
Research suggests some individuals in the medical and health professions engage in various acts of academic dishonesty during their training. While the exact prevalence of cheating in U.S. medical schools is unknown, research has identified rates of academic dishonesty ranging from 0% to 58.2%. Little research on physician assistant (PA) students’ attitudes toward academic dishonesty has been conducted and the national prevalence of cheating in PA schools has not been established.

RESULTS
❖ A total of 493 self-selected clinical-year PA students responded to the survey.
❖ The majority of respondents were female (79.6%).
❖ Only 3% of clinical-year PA students self-reported cheating during PA school.
❖ Males self-reported significantly higher rates of cheating across all education levels.
❖ The strongest predictor of cheating in PA school was a history of cheating as an undergraduate.
❖ The most common cheating behavior that clinical-year PA students reported observing or hearing about in PA school was receiving information about an exam prior to its administration (70.9%).
❖ Females were significantly more likely than males to disagree with the statements that everyone cheats in PA school at some point ($U = 15599.50, z = -2.75, p = .012$) and cheating in PA school does not hurt anyone in the long run ($U = 15933.00, z = -2.15, p = .032$).
❖ The majority of respondents ($n = 262, 53.4\%$) reported that a person who cheated on exams in PA school is likely to be less trustworthy as a PA.

REFERENCES