

University of Saint Francis | Physician Assistant Studies Program

Program Goals and Outcomes

Program Goals (Data updated 5/2024)

1. Select competent, experienced, and service-oriented students dedicated to the PA profession from a diverse pool of applicants.

- Selecting Competent Applicants:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Average undergraduate cumulative GPA / ≥ 3.3 average for each matriculating cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023	Cohort 2024	Cohort 2025
Average undergraduate cumulative GPA	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6

- Selecting Experienced Applicants:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Average Direct Patient Care (DPC) hours of the matriculating cohort / average 1000 DPC hours per cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023	Cohort 2024	Cohort 2025
Average Direct Patient Care (DPC) hours	2191 hrs	1706 hrs	1181 hrs	2549 hrs	3710 hrs

- Selecting Service-Oriented Applicants:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Average Volunteer/Community Enrichment (VCE) hours of the matriculating cohort / average 100 VCE hours per cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023	Cohort 2024	Cohort 2025
Average Volunteer/Community Enrichment (VCE) hours	133 hrs	172 hrs	272 hrs	157 hrs	188 hrs

*Measure/Benchmark was established in 2024.

- Selecting Students from a Diverse Pool of Applicants:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Percentage of first-generation college students / $\geq 10\%$ of the applicant pool
 - Percentage of students from medically underserved areas (MUAs) / $\geq 10\%$ of the applicant pool
 - Percentage of students from rural areas and small towns / $\geq 20\%$ of the applicant pool
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023	Cohort 2024	Cohort 2025
Percent of 1 st generation students	15%	15%	15%	22%	14%
Percent of students from MUAs	11%	10%	11%	11%	18%
Percent of students from rural areas and small towns	24%	21%	28%	30%	42%

* Measure/Benchmark was established in 2024.

2. Provide a quality educational experience in the biomedical and clinical sciences that emphasizes the development of critical thinking/clinical reasoning and evidence-based medical practices necessary for entry-level practice.

- Development of critical thinking/clinical reasoning:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Preceptor Evaluation of Student Performance (student performance in problem-solving and critical thinking skills) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Student End of Didactic Phase Survey (problem-solving skills / critical thinking) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum (student preparation in problem-solving skills / critical thinking) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Graduate Exit Survey (problem-solving skills / critical thinking) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Preceptor Evaluation of Student	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.4
Student End of Didactic Phase	-	-	4.3	4.6	4.5
Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum	-	4.7	4.9	5.0	4.9
Graduate Exit Survey	-	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.5

* Goal was established in 2020.

- Development of evidence-based medicine practices:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Preceptor Evaluation of Student Performance (student performance in practicing evidence-based medicine) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Student End of Didactic Phase Survey (practicing evidence-based medicine) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum (practicing evidence-based medicine) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Graduate Exit Survey (practicing evidence-based medicine) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Preceptor Evaluation of Student	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.4
Student End of Didactic Phase	-	-	4.2	4.7	4.4
Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum	-	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.8
Graduate Exit Survey	-	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.5

* Goal was established in 2020.

3. Provide students with clinical skills needed to assess and diagnose patients appropriately.

- Provide students with history taking skills:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Preceptor Evaluation of Student Performance (student performance in history taking) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Student End of Didactic Phase Survey (history taking) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum (student preparation in history taking) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Graduate Exit Survey (history taking) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Preceptor Evaluation of Student	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.4
Student End of Didactic Phase	-	-	4.2	4.7	4.4
Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum	-	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.6
Graduate Exit Survey	-	4.0	4.3	4.7	4.4

* Goal was established in 2020.

- Provide students with physical exam skills:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Preceptor Evaluation of Student Performance (student performance in physical exam) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Student End of Didactic Phase Survey (physical exam) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum (student preparation in physical exam) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Graduate Exit Survey (physical exam) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Preceptor Evaluation of Student	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.4
Student End of Didactic Phase	-	-	4.2	4.4	4.2
Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum	-	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.6
Graduate Exit Survey	-	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.3

* Goal was established in 2020.

- Provide students with procedural skills:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Preceptor Evaluation of Student Performance (student performance in clinical procedures) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Student End of Didactic Phase Survey (clinical procedures) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum (student preparation in clinical procedures) /average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Graduate Exit Survey (clinical procedures) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Preceptor Evaluation of Student	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5
Student End of Didactic Phase	-	-	3.5	4.2	4.1
Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum	-	4.0	4.1	4.6	4.4
Graduate Exit Survey	-	3.5	3.8	3.7	4.3

* Goal was established in 2020.

4. Prepare students to be practitioners who engage in service learning and care for the underserved.

- Engaged in service learning:
 - Measure/Benchmark
 - Calculated average of student submitted service-learning hours / Average of > 10 hours of service learning per student throughout the program.
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Service-learning hour average by student	12 hrs	12 hrs	12 hrs	14 hrs	13 hrs

- Engaged in care for the underserved:
 - Measure/Benchmark
 - Average number of underserved patients seen by each matriculated cohort (logged in Typhon) >300 visits per student
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Number of underserved patients seen by students in each matriculated cohort	328 patients	329 patients	273 patients	517 patients	503 patients

5. Prepare PA students for successful passage of the PANCE.

- Student PANCE Performance:
 - Measures/Benchmark
 - PANCE Performance 1st time test takers at or above national average
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Nat'l Ave 2019	Cohort 2020	Nat'l Ave 2020	Cohort 2021	Nat'l Ave 2021	Cohort 2022	Nat'l Ave 2022	Cohort 2023	Nat'l Ave 2023
PANCE Performance 1st time test takers	95%	93%	92%	95%	92%	93%	100%	92%	94%	92%

6. Foster an environment where students are culturally sensitive and prepared to work with diverse patient populations.

- Culturally sensitive and prepared to work with diverse patients:
 - Measure/Benchmark:
 - Preceptor Evaluation of Student Performance (student performance regarding cultural sensitivity and working with diverse patients) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Student End of Didactic Phase Survey (preparation in cultural awareness and working with diverse patients) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum (student preparation in cultural sensitivity and working with diverse patients) /average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Graduate Exit Survey (preparation in cultural awareness and working with diverse patients) / average 3.5 out of 5 per cohort
 - Success of Goal:

Criteria	Cohort 2019	Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Preceptor Evaluation of Student	-	-	4.7	4.6	4.6
Student End of Didactic Phase	-	-	3.6	4.2	4.1
Faculty Evaluation of Curriculum	-	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.5
Graduate Exit Survey	-	3.5	4.0	4.1	4.4

* Goal was established in 2023.