Institutional Effectiveness Report

Name of Program:	Physician Assistant Studies
Year:	2017-2018
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Program Mission Statement

- The Francis Marion University Physician Assistant Program seeks to educate excellent primary care physician assistants to become compassionate, ethical, and clinically skillful graduates who are ready to provide health care services with personal and professional integrity.
- The FMU Mission Statement establishes a priority of excellence in teaching and learning while serving the Pee Dee region and the state of South Carolina. The FMU PA Program mission statement aligns with these goals by educating excellent primary care PA's to serve by providing health care services to the residents of the Pee Dee and South Carolina.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

- Matriculate a diverse student body who reflect the richness of South Carolina's population
- Promote an educational atmosphere that empowers students to become self-directed, life-long learners
- Provide Physician Assistant students with superior knowledge and skills for the evaluation, monitoring, diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of patients across their lifespan
- Foster the development of compassionate, ethical, culturally aware healthcare providers
- Prepare students to practice as part of an efficient and effective health care team
- Emphasize the needs of underserved populations and prepare and encourage graduates to serve those populations, particularly in the Pee Dee
- Fully comply with the standards established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

Executive Summary of Report

- The Student Learning Outcomes were revised by the faculty of the PA program to ensure full competency as determined by the governing bodies of the Physician Assistant profession. The current Student Learning Outcomes now address all competencies expected of a Physician Assistant graduate to include medical knowledge, patient care, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement, and systems-based practice.
- Currently, there is only one cohort of data compiled and as future cohorts matriculate the benchmarks may be adjusted with targets created. Changes have been incorporated to

ensure achievement of benchmarks. The PA program has a robust assessment plan for process improvement and will continue to analyze data across the program to determine if there are factors that relate to unachieved benchmarks.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1) Demonstrate the knowledge to diagnose, treat, and educate patients from diverse populations presenting with diseases across all organ systems and across the life span.

   SUPPORTS the following PLOs:

   - Promote an educational atmosphere that empowers students to become self-directed, life-long learners
   - Provide Physician Assistant students with superior knowledge and skills for the evaluation, monitoring, diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of patients across their lifespan
   - Foster the development of compassionate, ethical, culturally aware healthcare providers
   - Prepare students to practice as part of an efficient and effective health care team
   - Emphasize the needs of underserved populations and prepare and encourage graduates to serve those populations, particularly in the Pee Dee
   - Fully comply with the standards established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

2) Demonstrate the skills necessary to effectively collaborate interprofessionally with all members of the healthcare team as well as communicate with patients and their families to provide optimal care.

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   - Provide Physician Assistant students with superior knowledge and skills for the evaluation, monitoring, diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of patients across their lifespan
   - Foster the development of compassionate, ethical, culturally aware healthcare providers
   - Prepare students to practice as part of an efficient and effective health care team
   - Emphasize the needs of underserved populations and prepare and encourage graduates to serve those populations, particularly in the Pee Dee
   - Fully comply with the standards established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

3) Demonstrate competence in performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, gathering information, and formulating appropriate treatment plans for patients of all acuity levels.

SUPPORTS the following PLOs:

- Promote an educational atmosphere that empowers students to become self-directed, life-long learners
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- Fully comply with the standards established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

4) Develop and consistently demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of the role of a Physician Assistant.

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- Promote an educational atmosphere that empowers students to become self-directed, life-long learners
- Provide Physician Assistant students with superior knowledge and skills for the evaluation, monitoring, diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of patients across their lifespan
- Foster the development of compassionate, ethical, culturally aware healthcare providers
- Prepare students to practice as part of an efficient and effective health care team
- Emphasize the needs of underserved populations and prepare and encourage graduates to serve those populations, particularly in the Pee Dee
- Fully comply with the standards established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

5) Demonstrate the ability to improve upon their practice as a Physician Assistant by critical self-assessment and evaluation of their knowledge, skills, and practice and critical analysis of evidence-based medicine and medical literature as resources.

SUPPORTS the following PLOs:

- Promote an educational atmosphere that empowers students to become self-directed, life-long learners
- Provide Physician Assistant students with superior knowledge and skills for the evaluation, monitoring, diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of patients across their lifespan
- Foster the development of compassionate, ethical, culturally aware healthcare providers
- Prepare students to practice as part of an efficient and effective health care team
- Emphasize the needs of underserved populations and prepare and encourage graduates to serve those populations, particularly in the Pee Dee
- Fully comply with the standards established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

6) Demonstrate critical thinking skills for sound medical decision-making in all aspects of healthcare delivery to include influences of society, economics, and the organization in which the Physician Assistant practices.

SUPPORTS the following PLOs:

- Matriculate a diverse student body who reflect the richness of South Carolina's population
- Promote an educational atmosphere that empowers students to become self-directed, life-long learners
- Provide Physician Assistant students with superior knowledge and skills for the evaluation, monitoring, diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of patients across their lifespan
- Foster the development of compassionate, ethical, culturally aware healthcare providers
- Prepare students to practice as part of an efficient and effective health care team
- Emphasize the needs of underserved populations and prepare and encourage graduates to serve those populations, particularly in the Pee Dee
- Fully comply with the standards established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

Assessment Methods

1) Demonstrate the knowledge to diagnose, treat, and educate patients from diverse populations presenting with diseases across all organ systems, acuity levels and across the life span.

   METHOD of EVALUATION:

   - Written Examinations (DIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$77%
   - Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
   - Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 3
   - Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$77%
   - Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target = PASS

2) Demonstrate the skills necessary to effectively collaborate interprofessionally with all members of the healthcare team as well as communicate with patients and their families to provide optimal care.

   - Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
   - Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 3
   - Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
   - Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target = PASS

3) Demonstrate competence in performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, gathering information, and formulating appropriate treatment plans for patients of all acuity levels across the lifespan.

   - Written Examinations (DIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
   - Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
   - Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 3
   - Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
   - Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
     - Benchmark/Target = PASS

4) Develop and consistently demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of the role of a Physician Assistant.

- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 3
- Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%

5) Demonstrate the ability to improve upon their practice as a Physician Assistant by critical self-assessment and evaluation of their knowledge, skills, and practice and critical analysis of evidence-based medicine and medical literature as resources.

- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 3
- Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target = PASS
- Literature Review (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%

6) Demonstrate critical thinking skills for sound medical decision-making in all aspects of healthcare delivery to include influences of society, economics, and the organization in which the Physician Assistant practices.

- Written Examinations (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 3
- Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
- Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target = PASS

Assessment Results

1) Demonstrate the knowledge to diagnose, treat, and educate patients from diverse populations presenting with diseases across all organ systems and across the life span.

- Written Examinations (DIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target >77%
- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target > 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target > 3
- Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target >77%
- Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target = PASS

  ➢ The benchmarks for Preceptor Evaluation of the Student, Practical Examinations, and Case Presentations all were met. The benchmark for written examinations was not met due to a total of 28 failures with scores below 77%. The benchmark for OSCEs was not met due to a total of 4 failures with scores below 77%.

2) Demonstrate the skills necessary to effectively collaborate interprofessionally with all members of the healthcare team as well as communicate with patients and their families to provide optimal care.

- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target > 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target > 3
- Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target > 77%
- Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target = PASS

  ➢ The benchmarks for Preceptor Evaluation of the Student, Practical Examinations, and Case Presentations all were met. The benchmark for OSCEs was not met due to a total of 4 failures with scores below 77%.

3) Demonstrate competence in performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, gathering information, and formulating appropriate treatment plans for patients of all acuity levels.

- Written Examinations (DIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target > 77%
- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
    o Benchmark/Target > 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)

- o Benchmark/Target > 3
- Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target > 77%
- Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target = PASS

➢ The benchmarks for Preceptor Evaluation of the Student, Practical Examinations, and Case Presentations all were met. The benchmark for written examinations was not met due to a total of 28 failures with scores below 77%. The benchmark for OSCEs was not met due to a total of 4 failures with scores below 77%.

4) Develop and consistently demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of the role of a Physician Assistant.

- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target > 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target > 3
- Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target > 77%

➢ The benchmarks for Preceptor Evaluation of the Student and Practical Examinations were met. The benchmark for OSCEs was not met due to a total of 4 failures with scores below 77%.

5) Demonstrate the ability to improve upon their practice as a Physician Assistant by critical self-assessment and evaluation of their knowledge, skills, and practice and critical analysis of evidence-based medicine and medical literature as resources.

- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target > 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target > 3
- Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target = PASS
- Literature Review (DIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target > 77%

➢ The benchmarks for Preceptor Evaluation of the Student and Case Presentations were met. The benchmark for OSCEs was not met due to a total of 4 failures with scores below 77%.

6) Demonstrate critical thinking skills for sound medical decision-making in all aspects of healthcare delivery to include influences of society, economics, and the organization in which the Physician Assistant practices.

- Written Examinations (DIRECT)
  - o Benchmark/Target > 77%

- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
- Preceptor Evaluation of the Student (INDIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 3
- Practical Examinations (DIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target $\geq$ 77%
- Case Presentations (INDIRECT)
  - Benchmark/Target = PASS

> The benchmarks for Preceptor Evaluation of the Student, Practical Examinations, and Case Presentations were met. The benchmark for written examinations was not met due to a total of 28 failures with scores below 77%. The benchmark for OSCEs was not met due to a total of 4 failures with scores below 77%.

Action Items
- As a result of the written examination and OSCE failures, benchmarking with similar graduate programs resulted in a change of the PA program grading scale to a 10-point scale. The grading scale change lowered the benchmark to $\geq$70% for passing. This will continue to show competency in the student learning outcomes by using a system comparable to other PA programs in the nation that continually produce 100% PANCE pass rates.
- In order to ensure OSCE grades demonstrate competency, the faculty will incorporate the performance and grading of these activities earlier in the curriculum.
- Data collected from written examination item analysis will be used to determine if there are general areas of deficiency as it relates to all examination failures to ensure more adequate coverage of these areas in the curriculum.
- To ensure competence of the current cohort, if there are consistent areas of deficiency noted, material will be reviewed as a group during on-campus week of clerkship year.

Appendix
  A. **Exam Failures for Benchmark Calculations**
  B. **Current Grading Scale**
  C. **PA Competencies**
  D. **FMU Mission Statement Catalog pg 7**