

**South University-Savannah
Physician Assistant Program
Programs Outcomes Report**

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Author: John Burns, MMSc, PA-C, Program Director

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Program Outcome # 1:

The program will recruit and retain a dynamic faculty with the appropriate training and experience to support the program purpose with a persistent focus on teaching excellence.

The South University Physician Assistant Program personnel are comprised of eight principal faculty members, one part time medical director, and three adjunct faculty members. In addition, the program utilizes numerous guest lecturers and clinical preceptors in the instruction of students. Collectively the full time principal faculty has over 74 years of PA education experience. All principal faculty members have master’s degrees and clinical experience as required by the program for appointment as a faculty member.

Faculty attrition has traditionally been very low for the program. In 2016 there was one principal faculty member left their position with the program to return to clinical practice as a Physician Assistant.

	2014	2015	2016
Faculty Attrition (n)	1	0	1

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Faculty rank well on metrics of teaching and course implementation. The program uses the Individual Development and Educational Assessment (IDEA) course evaluations for each course. The program focuses especially on the metrics that assess the overall quality of the teacher (“Excellent Teacher”) and the course (“Excellent Course”). The program has a goal of 3.0 out of a possible 5.0 rating in each of these areas for each course in the program. The data below are the aggregate data from all course evaluations administered in the program for the past three years.

Average Scores	2014	2015	2016	Mean
Excellent Teacher	4.04	3.97	4.00	4.00
Excellent Course	3.62	3.59	3.53	3.58

PROGRAM OUTCOME #2

The program will recruit a highly qualified diverse student cohort with education and experience that will foster success in the program.

ADMISSIONS AND PERSISTENCE DATA

The program maintains a high persistence rate and very low attrition rate.

Graduation Year	2014	2015	2016	MEAN
Matriculants	67	70	70	69
Attrition (n/%)	2 (3%)	2 (2.8%)	1 (1%)	1.7 (2.3%)
Graduates	65	68	69	67.3
Graduation Rate	97%	97%	99%	97.7%

MATRICULANT DATA

The program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission for the Education of the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) to matriculate 70 students per year into the program.

Matriculation Year	2014 (Class of 2016)		2015 (Class of 2017)		2016(Class of 2018)	
Number of Matriculants	70		70		70	
Female	59 (84%)		54 (77%)		52(74%)	
Male	11 (16%)		16 (23%)		18(26%	
Average Age	25.3 years		Not available		24 years	
Average GPA (includes undergraduate and all post baccalaureate grades)	3.47		3.48		3.54	
Mean Health Care Experience	2106 hours		2763 hours		2267 hours	
Race Ethnicity	White/Caucasian	81%	White/Caucasian	73%	White/Caucasian	79%
	African American	7%	African American	2%	African American	4%
	Asian	10%	Asian	9%	Asian	5%
	Hispanic Latino	0%	Hispanic Latino	10%	Hispanic Latino	9%
			Other (Did not report)	6%	Other (Did not report)	3%
Military Experience	1 (U.S. Marine Corps)		Not available		2(U.S. Army)	
Top States Represented	Georgia	57%	Georgia	33%	Georgia	36%
	Florida	9%	Florida	13%	Florida	16%
	South Carolina	9%	South Carolina	7%	South Carolina	11%

	Virginia	4%	North Carolina	6%	New Jersey New York	4% each
	Alabama Illinois North Carolina Pennsylvania	3% each	Maryland	4%		

PROGRAM OUTCOME # 3

The program will adequately prepare students for successful completion of Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE) and for placement in the healthcare workforce as competent physician assistants.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION (PANCE) PERFORMANCE DATA*

	2013		2014		2015		2016	
	South University	National						
First time test taker pass rate	99%	93%	95%	95%	90%	96%	97%	96%
Overall Pass rate	100%	94%	99%	96%	100%	96%	99%	99%
Performance on content areas								
Cardiology	76	75	77	76	73	77	77	77
Dermatologic	81	76	78	78	78	79	78	79
EENT	74	72	79	75	74	76	83	76
Endocrine	74	75	74	76	71	75	79	75
Gastrointestinal/Nutrition	74	73	76	76	71	76	80	76
Genitourinary	76	74	77	75	71	73	72	73
Hematologic	71	72	75	73	69	72	76	72
Infectious Disease	75	75	74	77	70	76	80	76
Musculoskeletal	76	74	76	76	76	77	82	77
Neurological	70	73	73	72	68	75	73	75
Psychiatric Behavioral	77	74	75	76	70	77	79	77
Pulmonology	76	74	77	75	74	76	78	76
Reproductive	74	71	78	75	71	73	74	73
Performance on skills and task areas								
Applying Scientific Concepts	74	72	74	74	70	75	79	75
Clinical intervention	75	71	75	74	70	74	76	74
Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis	75	75	78	77	77	78	79	78
Health Maintenance	76	72	73	72	67	73	77	73

History taking and physical exams	79	76	80	78	76	79	79	79
Pharmaceutical Therapeutics	71	73	75	75	70	74	78	74
Using Lab and Diagnostic Studies	74	74	77	76	74	75	78	75

*The NCCPA first time test taker pass rate report can be found at the following link.

<https://content.edmc.edu/assets/documents/su/physician-assistant-program/pance-test-results-savannah.pdf>

Preparation for entry into profession

Question from program completion survey	2015	2016
	Scale: 1=Strongly Disagree 2=Disagree 3=Agree 4= Strongly Agree	
The South University Physician Assistant Program prepared me well for clinical rotations.	3.38	3.49
The South University PA Program has prepared me well for the PANCE.	3.37	3.38
The South University PA program curriculum has prepared me well for entry into clinical practice as a competent physician assistant.	3.32	3.38