



## South University, Richmond Physician Assistant Program Goals 2025

### 1. The program will promote advocacy and leadership within the PA profession.

Method of Assessment:

- Faculty, student, and staff membership in professional organizations
- Student participation in leadership roles
- Participation in professional organization events or PA advocacy efforts

Benchmark:

- At least 90% of PA students, faculty, and staff maintain active membership in at least one state or national professional organization each year
- At least 75% of program faculty and staff attend at least one professional organization event (local, state, or national) or participate in a PA advocacy activity each year
- At least 15% of PA students hold a formal leadership role (e.g., student government, student ambassador, or professional organization)
- At least 15% of PA students attend at least one professional organization event (local, state, or national) or participate in a PA advocacy activity

#### 2025 Success in Achieving Goal:

Metric	Percentage Achieved	Benchmark Percentage
Students, Faculty, Staff Professional Organization Membership	96%	90%
Program Faculty and Staff Attendance at Professional Organization or Advocacy Event	100%	75%
PA Students Formal Leadership Role	27%	15%
PA Students Attendance Professional Organization or Advocacy Event	100%	15%

The South University, Richmond PA Program successfully met—and in several areas exceeded—Goal #1, which is to promote advocacy and leadership within the PA profession. All metrics aligned with or surpassed established benchmarks, demonstrating strong engagement from students, faculty, and staff in professional membership, leadership development, and advocacy activities.

Professional organization membership remains a significant strength for the program. In 2025, 96% of students, faculty, and staff maintained active membership in at least one state or national professional organization, exceeding the benchmark of 90%. Notably, 100% of PA students are active student members of both the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) and the Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants (VAPA), underscoring the program's commitment to fostering early professional involvement.



The program also achieved full participation from faculty and staff in professional development and advocacy activities. All program faculty and staff (100%) attended at least one professional organization event or participated in an advocacy effort—well above the 75% benchmark. Program students remain highly engaged in state-level advocacy as well, with all students attending the Medical Society of Virginia Lobby Day held each January, resulting in 100% student participation in professional events or advocacy, far surpassing the 15% benchmark.

Leadership development within the student body continues to be an area of notable success. Of the 72 enrolled students (36 didactic and 36 clinical), 20 currently hold formal leadership positions, representing 27% of the student cohort. This performance exceeds the benchmark of 15% and reflects the program’s ongoing emphasis on cultivating leadership skills and opportunities for student involvement across organizations, student government, and ambassador roles.

Overall, the South University, Richmond PA Program demonstrates clear and consistent success in promoting advocacy and leadership within the PA profession, as reflected by strong participation in professional membership, advocacy initiatives, and student leadership roles during the 2025 reporting year.

**2. The program will prepare graduates to achieve a first-time pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE) that equals or exceeds the national average.**

Method of Assessment:

- Cohort first-time pass rate compared to the NCCPA published national pass rate
- Evaluation of Curricular Content Survey (faculty perception of effective preparedness for PANCE)
- Graduate Exit Survey (student perception of effective preparedness for PANCE)

Benchmark:

- Pass rate equal to or greater than the national average as published by NCCPA
- 3.5/5.0 or greater on a 5-point Likert scale

**2025 Success in Achieving Goal:**

**PANCE First-Time Pass Rate**

Cohort	Cohort First-Time Pass Rate	National First-Time Pass Rate
Class of 2025	94%	92%

**PANCE Preparedness**

	Instrument	Score (Overall Mean + RR)	Benchmark
Faculty Perception	Evaluation of Curricular Content	4.80 (RR = 75%)	3.5/5.0



Student Perception	Graduate Exit Survey (CO 2025)	4.39 (RR = 83.33%)	3.5/5.0
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The program successfully achieved Goal #2 for 2025. The Class of 2025 demonstrated strong performance on the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE), earning a 94% first-time pass rate, which exceeded the NCCPA national first-time pass rate of 92% and met the program’s benchmark of performing at or above the national average.

Perceptions of preparedness were also highly favorable. Faculty responses on the Evaluation of Curricular Content Survey reflected a strong belief in the program’s effectiveness in preparing students for the PANCE, with an overall mean score of 4.80 on a 5-point Likert scale (response rate: 75%). Student feedback from the Graduate Exit Survey similarly indicated high levels of perceived readiness, with an overall mean score of 4.39 (response rate: 83.33%), surpassing the program benchmark of 3.5/5.0.

Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate that the program is effectively preparing graduates for success on the PANCE and continues to meet its established performance standards.

**3. The program will offer community service and outreach opportunities that promote a commitment to improving access to quality healthcare.**

Method of Assessment:

- Graduate Exit Survey (community service-related questions)
- The program will provide a minimum of two community service/outreach opportunities for faculty, staff, and students annually.

Benchmark:

- 3.5/5.0 or greater on a 5-point Likert scale
- Two or more community service/outreach events as detailed by the program.

**2025 Success in Achieving Goal:**

**Opportunities for Community Service and Outreach**

	Instrument	Score (Overall Mean + RR)
Student Perception	Graduate Exit Survey (CO 2025)	4.36 (RR = 83.33%)

	Number of Opportunities	Benchmark
Number of Community Service/Outreach Opportunities	6	2

In 2025, the South University, Richmond Physician Assistant Program successfully met its goal of offering robust community service and outreach opportunities that promote a commitment to



improving access to quality healthcare. The program exceeded both established benchmarks, providing six service/outreach events (benchmark:  $\geq 2$  events) and earning a mean score of 4.36 on the Graduate Exit Survey community service items (benchmark:  $\geq 3.5$ ), with a strong response rate of 83%.

Throughout the year, students, faculty, and staff participated in diverse initiatives that emphasized health equity, community engagement, and professional advocacy:

1. **Reach Out and Read Volunteer Training**

Students completed training through the Reach Out and Read program, a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting early literacy during pediatric visits. This service-learning experience allowed students to apply communication and counseling techniques during clinical rotations while deepening their understanding of how social environments and health disparities influence child development and health outcomes.

2. **SOAR365 Adult Day and Summer Camp Programs**

Students supported SOAR365, a Richmond-based organization serving adults with disabilities. Through engagement in adult day programs and summer camps, students contributed to inclusive community activities while gaining exposure to the unique needs of individuals with disabilities and the role of supportive services in community health.

3. **VCU P.R.I.M.E. Partnership Activities**

As partners in the VCU P.R.I.M.E. initiative—designed to empower underrecognized undergraduate students pursuing healthcare careers—program representatives participated in events such as the annual healthcare mixer. These activities helped promote the PA profession while supporting pathways for diverse students interested in entering the field.

4. **Faculty Engagement with HOSA Virginia Leadership Competitions**

Faculty members participated in the Virginia HOSA State Leadership Conference, an event focused on developing future health professionals. Engagement in this conference provided opportunities to educate high school students about the PA profession, foster early professional interest, and support statewide health career development initiatives.

5. **Didactic Student Community Service Projects (PAS 5297)**

As part of Applied Learning Experiences III, didactic students researched local community service needs and implemented team-based service projects benefiting the Richmond area. Students then presented their findings and experiences, helping expand awareness of community resources and reinforcing the value of civic responsibility within the cohort.

6. **Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) and Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants (VAPA) Advocacy Activities (PAS 5298)**

Students engaged in legislative advocacy alongside clinicians and professional organizations, including MSV and VAPA. Through Applied Learning Experiences IV, students participated in lobbying efforts that support the PA profession and promote policies aimed at improving access to quality healthcare across the Commonwealth.



Collectively, these activities demonstrate the program's sustained commitment to community engagement, health advocacy, and preparing graduates who recognize the importance of service in advancing equitable healthcare access. The program will continue to expand and refine these opportunities to ensure meaningful impact within the Richmond community and beyond.