



## South University, West Palm Beach Physician Assistant Program Goals

1. **The program aims to foster a culture of inclusivity and equity for students, faculty, and staff by means of education and resources.**

Method of Assessment:

- DEIB Survey
- Graduate Exit Survey
- Faculty and Staff Resources Survey

Benchmark:

- 3.5/5.0 or greater on a 5-point Likert scale

2024 Success in Achieving Goal:

The South University West Palm Beach PA Program was successful in meeting goal #1. Student, faculty and staff perception was above benchmark.

### Culture of Inclusivity and Equity by Means of Education and Resources

	Instrument	Score (Overall Mean)
Faculty/Staff Perception	DEIB Survey	4.40/5.00 (RR 100%)
	Faculty and Staff Resource Survey	4.50/5.00 (RR 57.14%)
Student Perception	DEIB Survey	4.56/5.00 (RR 86.60%)
	Graduate Exit Survey (CO 2024)	4.24/5.00 (RR 80.00%)

2. **The program will strive to adequately prepare graduating students to achieve a first-time pass rate that exceeds the national average upon completion of the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).**

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

2024 Success in Achieving Goal:

The program was not successful in meeting goal #2.



**PANCE First-Time Pass Rate**

Cohort	Cohort First-Time Pass Rate	National First-Time Pass Rate (2023)
Class of 2024	86%	93%

**PANCE Preparedness**

	Instrument	Score (Overall Mean)
Faculty Perception	Evaluation of Curricular Content	4.57/5.00 (RR 87.50%)
Student Perception	Graduate Exit Survey (CO 2024)	4.39/5.00 (RR 80.00%)

**3. The program will provide opportunities for local community service and outreach that foster a commitment to reducing health disparities.**

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 to be detailed by the program

2024 Success in Achieving Goal:

The program was successful in meeting goal #3.

**Opportunities for Community Service and Outreach**

	Instrument	Score (Overall Mean)
Student Perception	Graduate Exit Survey (CO 2024)	4.39/5.00 (RR 80.00%)

In 2024, the South University West Palm Beach Physician Assistant Program engaged in community service and outreach demonstrating a commitment to reducing health disparities by participating in the following events:

- Student Government Association (SGA) Service Chair and the SGA faculty liaison(s) lead initiatives
- Capstone projects with local community partnerships based on Healthy People 2030 initiatives
- Outreach to Palm Beach County Medical Academies schools
- Back to School Palm Beach County event

**Student Government Association**

- The Student Government Association (SGA) events chair, wellness chair, and SGA faculty liaison collaborate to identify opportunities for community outreach. For the past 2 years, the wellness chair has helped to organize a PA faculty, staff, and student team for



the American Heart Association Heart Walk, to raise funds for research and medical breakthroughs to prevent and treat heart disease and stroke.

- The SGA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) subcommittee has also created events to support the reduction of healthcare disparities, including development of a “Spanish Social” club to address language barriers in administering healthcare in our local community.
- The SGA has supported an annual presentation by the Gift of Life Marrow Registry and several students have donated both plasma and bone marrow, with 3 life-saving donations over the past 3 years. Our efforts to recruit donors has expanded to the local campus community.
- The SGA has hosted quarterly “Wellness Wednesday” events, as well as diversity potlucks with support of faculty and staff, in which they have spread awareness across campus, and provided education regarding diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Annually, the SGA has partnered with Adopt-a-Family of the Palm Beaches during the holiday season, purchasing gifts and necessities for families, along with faculty and staff support. The implementation of these outreach activities helps to raise awareness of the local community needs.

#### Capstone: Community Outreach Project

- Community Outreach Project – The South University, West Palm Beach Capstone is a multi-component group project aimed at enhancing public health awareness, developing leadership among physician assistants, and advancing evidence-based medicine through mission-driven collaboration. The project is designed to integrate Healthy People 2030 and is intended for students to address real-world health challenges and drive impactful changes in the community. Throughout this project, students build early leadership skills for developing high-performance teams through research, design, and establishing a performance improvement initiative addressing their chosen topic. Development of the intervention/project requires research on a health promotion or disease prevention topic in alignment with objectives from Healthy People 2030. This project has enabled students to also interact with local community healthcare partners with initiatives for community outreach that align with our program mission and vision. Some of our local community partners for these projects have included: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Planned Parenthood, Compass Community Center, American Heart Association Palm Beach County Office, and Health Education Prevention and Promotion, Inc.

#### Outreach to Palm Beach County Medical Academies schools

- Since 2021, didactic students have participated in educating local middle and high school medical from underserved communities enrolled in the Palm Beach Medical Academics about the physician assistant profession. The medical academies educate and train students from middle school to high school on various aspects of the medical profession and also provides CPR training. Our presentations to students include



demonstrations of clinical skills, basic first aid, and the importance of preventative healthcare.

- One school that we partner with annually is Woodlands Middle School located in Lake Worth, Florida. The didactic PA students presented information about the profession and demonstrated EKG, phlebotomy, ultrasound, otoscope examinations, and cardiac physical examinations. In 2024 SUWPB achieved 98% participation (n=49) from didactic students and 100% (n=10) participation from faculty and staff.

#### Back to School Palm Beach County Event

- Since 2021, faculty, clinical and didactic students have come together to conduct physical examinations on pediatric patients for their school entry form physical exam requirement. In addition to improving students' physical examination skills, this activity also allowed the students to develop effective communication skills when interacting with diverse patients and their parents. Students have had exposure to deaf, blind, and disabled pediatric patients through this event. Didactic students gained first-hand experience working as integral members of a cohesive interprofessional healthcare team with PA clinical and nursing students. Our program serves 2 different locations in Palm Beach County that host over 10,000 attendees. Annually, over 300 physicals have been completed by our combined efforts, positively impacting numerous families in Palm Beach County. In 2024, SUWPB achieved 100% participation (n=49) from didactic students, 98% (n=46) from clinical students, and 70% (n=8) from faculty and staff (including the program director and medical director).
- Our Program Director and Assistant Program Director have both received recognition in being awarded the Outstanding Community Impact and Partner Award “in recognition for their exceptional dedication and impactful partnership, providing hundreds of essential health checks to the most vulnerable students at the annual Back to School PBC! Event and making a profound impact on the well-being of Palm Beach County residents.”