



# MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

## Department of Physician Assistant Studies

### Success in meeting program goals

The Misericordia University PA Program was granted *Accreditation-Continued status* by ARC-PA in October 2022. Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2032.

#### PA Program Mission Statement:

"The Misericordia University Physician Assistant Program strives to attract intellectually talented and caring students who will be educationally transformed and mentored to become competent and compassionate Physician Assistants."

Driven by our Mission, the following Goals were created as the end toward which our Programs effort is directed.

#### Goal I

Recruit qualified applicants who have experience with diversity and inclusion.

Measure:

- Diversity Interview Question Score for Enrolled PA Student

Target:

- Average score of 6 or higher out of a possible score of 9

Scoring for 3 = Excellent Response; 2 = Acceptable Response; 1 = Poor Response; 0 = Inappropriate Response

| Data: Diversity Interview Question Score         | Cohort 2022 Cycle 2019-2020 | Cohort 2023 Cycle 2020-2021 | Cohort 2024 Cycle 2021-2022 | Cohort 2025 Cycle 2022-2023 | Cohort 2026 Cycle 2023-2024 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Overall Final Diversity Interview Question Score | Average Score 8.1           | Average Score 8.2           | Average Score 8.2           | Average Score 8.2           | Average Score 8             |

Program Effectiveness:

- Cohort 2022 exceeded the target.
- Cohort 2023 exceeded the target.
- Cohort 2024 exceeded the target.
- Cohort 2025 exceeded the target.
- Cohort 2026 exceeded the target.
- Overall the MUPA Program is meeting the goal of recruiting qualified applicants who have experience with diversity and inclusion.

#### Goal II

Develop and advance a curriculum that ensures each graduate possesses the knowledge and skills necessary for entry into clinical practice.

Measure 1:

- Preceptor Survey of Student Preparedness

Target:

- 80% or more of items on the survey will score 3 or higher on a 4-point Likert scale: 4 exceeds expectations, 3 meets expectations, 2 needs improvement, 1 unsatisfactory

| Data: Areas of PA-S Rotation preparedness Assessed by Preceptor | Cohort 2021 | Cohort 2022 | Cohort 2023 | Cohort 2024 | Cohort 2025 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Medical Interview                                               | 3.95        | 3.56        | 3.36        | 3.69        | 3.53        |
| Physical Examination                                            | 3.95        | 3.50        | 3.42        | 3.57        | 3.47        |
| Oral Case Presentation                                          | 3.95        | 3.38        | 3.36        | 3.88        | 3.47        |
| Written Patient Record                                          | 3.94        | 3.67        | 3.33        | 3.79        | 3.71        |
| Knowledge of Diagnostic Studies                                 | 3.74        | 3.33        | 3.36        | 3.47        | 3.19        |
| Ability to Perform Clinical Procedures                          | 3.81        | 3.36        | 3.50        | 3.57        | 3.15        |
| Problem-solving/Critical Thinking                               | 3.89        | 3.50        | 3.50        | 3.75        | 3.59        |
| Factual Knowledge and Concepts                                  | 3.89        | 3.50        | 3.33        | 3.81        | 3.65        |
| Assessment/Differential Diagnosis                               | 3.79        | 3.44        | 3.25        | 3.63        | 3.35        |
| Ability to Form Management Plan                                 | 3.84        | 3.31        | 3.27        | 3.56        | 3.29        |
| Ability to Implement Management Plan                            | 3.72        | 3.40        | 3.20        | 3.60        | 3.44        |
| Relating to Colleagues                                          | 3.95        | 3.81        | 3.67        | 3.94        | 3.94        |
| Relating to Patients                                            | 3.95        | 3.81        | 3.67        | 3.94        | 3.94        |
| Understanding Role of PA                                        | 3.94        | 3.75        | 3.50        | 4.00        | 3.94        |
| Self-Confidence                                                 | 3.74        | 3.63        | 3.50        | 3.75        | 3.65        |
| Reliability and Dependability                                   | 3.95        | 3.88        | 3.58        | 4.00        | 3.94        |
| Professionalism                                                 | 3.95        | 3.88        | 3.83        | 4.00        | 3.94        |
| Overall First Rotation                                          | 3.88        | 3.57        | 3.46        | 3.76        | 3.61        |

Program Effectiveness:

- Cohort 2021 exceeded the target
- Cohort 2022 exceeded the target
- Cohort 2023 exceeded the target
- Cohort 2024 exceeded the target
- Cohort 2025 exceeded the target
- Overall this measure meets the target for showing the didactic curriculum is preparing students for clinical rotations

Measure 2:

- Summative Assessment

Target:

- 85% or higher first attempt pass rate on each summative assessment evaluation and overall summative assessment evaluations

| Data: Summative Assessment Evaluation Tools    | Cohort 2021 | Cohort 2022 | Cohort 2023 | Cohort 2024 | Cohort 2025 |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Summative OSCE                                 | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        |
| Summative Examination                          | 95%         | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        |
| Summative H&P (conducted virtually 2020)       | 89.5%       | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        |
| Masters Project                                | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        |
| Summative Procedures and Test Interpretation   |             |             | 100%        | 94%         | 100%        |
| Overall Final Summative Assessment Evaluations | 96%         | 100%        | 100%        | 98.8%       | 100%        |

#### Program Effectiveness:

- Cohort 2021 met the overall pass rate and the pass rate for 4 out of 4 individual summative assessment evaluations.
- Cohort 2022 met the overall pass rate and the pass rate for 4 out of 4 individual summative assessment evaluations.
- Cohort 2023 met the overall pass rate and the pass rate for 4 out of 4 individual summative assessment evaluations.
- Cohort 2024 met the overall pass rate and the pass rate for 4 out of 4 individual summative assessment evaluations.
- Cohort 2025 met the overall pass rate and the pass rate for 4 out of 4 individual summative assessment evaluations.
- Overall the program meets the Summative Assessment target.

#### Measure 3:

- Graduate Program Assessment Survey: Curriculum Items

#### Target:

- Score 3 or greater on a 5-point Likert Scale: 5 strongly agree; 4 agree; 3 neutral; 2 disagree; 1 strongly disagree

| Data: Graduate Program Assessment by Section                                                    | Cohort 2021 | Cohort 2022 | Cohort 2023 | Cohort 2024 | Cohort 2025 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Evaluation of Courses & Curriculum                                                              | 4.46        | 4.66        | 4.65        | 4.48        | 4.69        |
| Effectiveness of Didactic Curriculum<br>(self-assessment of student preparedness for Rotations) | 4.48        | 4.64        | 4.67        | 4.49        | 4.70        |
| Evaluation of Clinical Sites                                                                    | 4.51        | 4.68        | 4.68        | 4.67        | 4.79        |
| Graduate Learning Outcomes                                                                      | 4.66        | 4.65        | 4.68        | 4.64        | 4.79        |
| Overall Curriculum Content Graduate Survey                                                      | 4.53        | 4.66        | 4.67        | 4.57        | 4.68        |

#### Program Effectiveness:

- Cohort 2021 exceeded the target across all four curriculum content areas and overall average of curriculum content.
- Cohort 2022 exceeded the target across all four curriculum content areas and overall average of curriculum content.
- Cohort 2023 exceeded the target across all four curriculum content areas and overall average of curriculum content.
- Cohort 2024 exceeded the target across all four curriculum content areas and overall average of curriculum content.
- Cohort 2025 exceeded the target across all four curriculum content areas and overall average of curriculum content.
- Overall the program meets the target for the Graduate Program Assessment Survey: Curriculum Items and shows an increase of scores across cohorts.
- Based on the 3 outcome measures above, the MUPA Program has been effective in developing and advancing a curriculum that ensures each graduate possesses the knowledge and skills necessary for entry into clinical practice.

### Goal III

Retain and graduate at least 88% of all matriculated students (3-year average total retention rates).

#### Measure:

- Retention and graduation rate

#### Target:

- Average 3 Year graduation rate of 88% or greater

| Cohort      | Matriculated Students | Successful Progression from Clinical to Graduation | Total Retention Rate | 3-year average of Total Retention Rates |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Cohort 2021 | 20                    | 19                                                 | 94.4%                |                                         |
| Cohort 2022 | 18                    | 16                                                 | 88.9%                | 92.6%                                   |
| Cohort 2023 | 17                    | 12                                                 | 70.6%                | 84.4%                                   |
| Cohort 2024 | 17                    | 16                                                 | 94.1%                | 84.6%                                   |
| Cohort 2025 | 20                    | 17                                                 | 85%                  | 83.2%                                   |

#### Program Effectiveness:

- The MUPA Program average 3-year graduation rate is 83.2% which falls below the program benchmark of a 88% graduation rate average for three cohorts. The MUPA Program cohort size increased to 25 students in 2025 for cohort 2026. Preliminary data shows the 3-year average greater than 88% in 2026. The MUPA Program meets the ARC-PA guidelines of a graduation rate of 85% or higher for two consecutive cohorts. The program will continue to analyze data for trends and cause and effect relationships.

#### Goal IV

Achieve a first-time-taker PANCE passage rate of 90%, or better.

#### Measure:

- PANCE Pass Rate

#### Target:

- Annual First Time Pass Rate of 90% or greater

| Cohort | Class Graduation Year | Number of First Time Takers | Program First Time Taker Pass Rate | National First Time Taker Pass Rate for the Class Graduation Year |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2021   | 2021                  | 19                          | 79%                                | 93%                                                               |
| 2022   | 2022                  | 16                          | 100%                               | 92%                                                               |
| 2023   | 2023                  | 12                          | 92%                                | 92%                                                               |
| 2024   | 2024                  | 16                          | 94%                                | 92%                                                               |
| 2025   | 2025                  | 17                          | 88%                                | 92%                                                               |

See <https://www.misericordia.edu/physician-assistant/additional-program-info/nccpa-pance-pass-rate>

for most current NCCPA report.

#### Goal IV

#### Program Effectiveness:

- Based on cohort 2021, PANCE first time pass rate, the MUPA Program conducted a critical analysis of the following data: admissions criteria as predictors of success, individual course performance, course and instructor evaluations by students, program instructional objectives, learning outcomes, and breadth and depth of the curriculum, student summative evaluation results, remediation practices and results, attrition criteria and data for cohort 2021, feedback from students who were unsuccessful on the PANCE, preceptor feedback and graduate survey data . Analysis of this data led to monitoring the following implemented changes: Cumulative assessment of student performance in Clinical Medicine courses, specifically the cardiovascular system, the pulmonology system, the neurologic system, and the reproductive system; increased assessment on formulating the most likely diagnosis; additional medical documentation assignments; and increased PANCE style testing.
- Cohorts 2022, 2023 and 2024 exceed the program benchmark indicating the program is effective in preparing the students for the PANCE.
- Cohort 2025 fell below the program benchmark. The first-time taker pass rate of 88% remains above the ARC-PA benchmark of 85%. The program completed a data analysis to evaluate trends and potential contributing factors related to the cohort's performance relative to the program benchmark. Analysis of student feedback and program data did not identify concerns related to academic preparation or curriculum delivery.