

**South College Asheville Physician Assistant Program  
Programs Goals and Data Sources for Determining Success in Meeting the Goals**

The South College Asheville Physician Assistant (PA) program has six primary goals that are designed to support the program in achieving its mission of educating competent, compassionate, and comprehensive PAs. Determination of success in achieving each of these goals will be based on factually accurate evidence as identified below.

**1. Select highly qualified applicants for admission into the program.**

Admission of highly qualified applicants into the South College Nashville Physician Assistant Program, Classes of 2024-2027 (TBD = To be determined)					
Student Preparedness	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	National averages*
Undergraduate GPA	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	3.58
Undergraduate Science GPA	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	3.52
Patient Care Experience (hours)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	3,240
PA Program Graduation Rate	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	93.3%

*\*Averages for PA students nationally [Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), *By the Numbers: Program Report 35: Data from the 2019 Program Survey*, Washington, DC: PAEA; 2020. The averages\* will be updated annually, once they are available in subsequent PAEA *By the Numbers* reports.] *The South College Asheville PA Program's benchmarks are targeted to result in aggregated averages (means) that will be no more than 5% below the national average in each of the four categories listed above. (Note: South College Asheville minimum GPA requirements are 2.75 for Overall GPA and 2.75 for Science GPA.)**

**2. Provide students with a rigorous didactic curriculum that promotes lifelong learning skills and prepares them for clinical rotations.**

At the end of the clinical phase of the program, students will retrospectively assess their preparedness for entry into the clinical year by completing a reflective self-assessment. The students' self-assessments will evaluate their personal feelings and understanding of how well they were prepared for entry into the clinical phase of the program. The table below identifies each area that will be evaluated.

Student Self-Assessment of Level of Competence with Skills Taught in the PA Program, South College Asheville Physician Assistant Classes of 2024-2026			
Area Assessed	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Obtain a detailed and accurate medical history	TBD	TBD	TBD
Perform a comprehensive physical examination	TBD	TBD	TBD
Develop a preliminary diagnosis and a secondary problem list	TBD	TBD	TBD

Student Self-Assessment of Level of Competence with Skills Taught in the PA Program, South College Asheville Physician Assistant Classes of 2024-2026			
Identify, order, and interpret diagnostic tests	TBD	TBD	TBD
Accurately record, organize, and utilize the medical record	TBD	TBD	TBD
Access and analyze patient history	TBD	TBD	TBD
Formulate and implement treatment plans	TBD	TBD	TBD
Recognize and manage life-threatening emergencies	TBD	TBD	TBD
Identify and perform procedures common to primary care	TBD	TBD	TBD
Make appropriate referrals to specialists	TBD	TBD	TBD
Consult with a physician in situations beyond the PA's scope of expertise	TBD	TBD	TBD
Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills as a health care professional	TBD	TBD	TBD
Interact with patients respecting cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences	TBD	TBD	TBD
Counsel and educate patient regarding health promotion, disease prevention, and health risk interventions	TBD	TBD	TBD
Counsel, evaluate, and refer for psychosocial problems	TBD	TBD	TBD
Understand and integrate the principals of information technology and evidence-based medicine into clinical practice	TBD	TBD	TBD
Pursue life-long learning with appropriate use of medical literature	TBD	TBD	TBD
Understand the role of the Physician Assistant in the health care team	TBD	TBD	TBD

\*Students will complete comprehensive self-assessment evaluations at the end of the clinical phase of the program. The aggregated average (mean) score for each area assessed will be based on a five-point Likert scale (1=Unsatisfactory, 2=Needs Improvement, 3=Average, 4=Above Average, 5=Excellent). *The South College Asheville PA Program's benchmark is an aggregated average (mean) score equal to or greater than 4.0 in all areas assessed.*

Upon completion of each clinical rotation, each preceptor will rate the student's preparedness to participate in that rotation. Preceptors will choose from a Likert scale menu from the following choices: Minimally Prepared (1 point), Somewhat Prepared (2 points), Moderately Prepared (3 points), Mostly Prepared (4 points), Fully Prepared (5 points). Cumulatively, the program will collect preparedness data on each of the medical specialty areas listed below. Aggregated average (mean) results for each area assessed will be added to the table below.

Preceptor Feedback of Student Preparedness for Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences, South College Asheville Physician Assistant Classes of 2024-2026			
Area Assessed	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Internal Medicine	TBD	TBD	TBD
Surgery	TBD	TBD	TBD
Family Medicine	TBD	TBD	TBD
Emergency Medicine	TBD	TBD	TBD
Women's Health	TBD	TBD	TBD
Pediatrics	TBD	TBD	TBD
Behavioral Health	TBD	TBD	TBD
Elective Discipline	TBD	TBD	TBD

Clinical preceptors will evaluate all students at the end of each clinical rotation. Shown is the aggregated average (mean) score for each area assessed for all rotation courses, collectively, based on a Likert scale. *The South College Asheville PA Program's benchmark is an aggregate average (mean) score equal to or greater than 3.5 (Moderately to Mostly Prepared) in all areas.*

**3. Provide students with a comprehensive clinical curriculum that prepares them to pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam and become competent, compassionate, and comprehensive health care providers.**

The PA program's curriculum is a process for delivering educational excellence and offering students the most current, best-practice, evidence-based medical knowledge. The program has a process of continual assessment of the curriculum to meet this objective, and to implement revisions based on feedback from principal faculty, instructional faculty, students, clinical preceptors, and the medical director.

Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) Pass Rates and Employment Rates for the South College Nashville Physician Assistant Classes of 2024-2028					
Areas Assessed	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
South College first-time takers pass rate	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
National first-time takers pass rate	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
South College all takers pass rate	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
National all takers pass rate	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Number of South College students tested	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Number of national students tested	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Employment rate of South College Asheville graduates*	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

\*Percent of students who pass the PANCE and gain employment as a PA-C. *The South College Asheville benchmarks are to have a first-time takers PANCE pass rate (Data Source: NCCPA PANCE Reports) that is equal to or greater than the national average pass rate, and for 100% of graduates who pass the PANCE to be employed as a PA-C.*

**4. Prepare students to make significant contributions in the communities that they serve, foster their ability to improve patient care practices, and promote the PA profession.**

Community service allows South College Asheville Physician Assistant students to improve patient care practices and promote the PA profession. Community service focuses on personal and civic responsibility. The South College Asheville Physician Assistant program embraces community service in medically underserved and economically disadvantaged populations. Community service programs involve PA students in activities that address local needs while promoting their lifelong learning skills and professional development.

<b>Student Community Service Hours for the South College Physician Assistant Program</b>			
<b>Community Service Hours</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>
Average	TBD	TBD	TBD
Minimum	TBD	TBD	TBD
Maximum	TBD	TBD	TBD

*\*50 hours of approved community service is required of all PA Program students. As such, the **benchmark** for Community Service hours for each cohort is an aggregated average (mean) of 50 hours or more, with a "Minimum" threshold of at least 50 hours, or greater.*

Membership in the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Physician Assistants permits South College Asheville PA students to participate in student-specific programming at local and national conferences, to network with other PA students and practicing PAs, and to receive career counseling and advice from practicing PAs.

<b>Student Membership in Professional Organizations for the South College Asheville Physician Assistant Classes of 2024-2027</b>				
<b>Professional Organization</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

*\*As all PA program students are required to have membership in AAPA and NCAPA, the **benchmark** is for 100% of PA students to be members of NCAPA and AAPA.*

**5. Recruit and select highly qualified faculty to provide innovative education and training of students, and ongoing assessment and improvement of the program.**

The program's requirements for selecting and hiring highly qualified faculty members include a minimum of three (3) years of clinical experience for PAs or physicians (internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health, surgery, or primary care medicine are preferred). All PA faculty members must have and maintain NCCPA certification and be eligible for licensure in the state of North Carolina. Physician faculty members must be eligible for licensure in the state of North Carolina. Additional consideration is given to faculty applicants who have prior experience in formal teaching and/or clinical precepting capacities.

As of October 2020, the South College Asheville PA Program has one Program Director (1.0FTE PA), one Medical Director (0.5 FTE MD), and four principal faculty members (4.0 FTE PAs). The faculty and medical director, collectively, possess a breadth of experience in clinical practice ranging from 7 to 34 years. Areas of clinical practice experiences across the faculty, program director, and medical director include primary care, critical care, geriatrics, emergency medicine, urgent care, and behavioral health. The Medical Director is an MD who is board certified in family medicine with 17 years of clinical practice and teaching experience. The Medical Director will actively participate in the didactic phase of the program.

As indicated, the South College Asheville PA program currently has 4.0 FTE principal faculty. The Class of 2024 will begin in January 2022 with 85 students. At that point the program will have hired three additional faculty. With 7.0 FTE principal faculty and 85 students, a student to faculty (SFR) ratio of  $(85 / 7.0 \text{ FTE}) = 12.1:1$  will be maintained. Additionally, the program is staffed by a Program Director (1.0 FTE) and a Medical Director (0.5 FTE). The average student to faculty ratio (SFR) for all PA programs in the United States is 12.4 (Physician Assistant Education Association, *By the Numbers: Program Report 35: Data from the 2019 Program Survey*, Washington, DC: PAEA; 2020). The South College Asheville PA program works to be comparable.

Additional instructional faculty include physicians, NCCPA-certified PAs, and other licensed health care providers qualified in their area of instruction.

*The program's benchmarks for the faculty and SFR include maintaining at least 4.0 FTE principal faculty at all times, hiring and maintaining a faculty compliment in which each professional faculty member possess at least three (3) years of clinical care experience, hiring PA faculty who are NCCPA-certified and eligible for licensure in North Carolina, hiring MD faculty who are eligible for licensure in North Carolina, and maintenance of a SFR at or below 13:1 regardless of the size of future cohorts. Additionally, faculty must possess a minimum of a master's degree.*

**6. Maintain program accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) through a process of continuous program self-assessment.**

The sixth program goal is to maintain program accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) through a process of continuous program self-assessment. Sources of information to assess this goal include compliance with ARC-PA annual reporting by due dates and avoidance of any ARC-PA levied probationary status.

The South College Asheville Physician Assistant Program expects to be awarded *Accreditation – Provisional* status during the September 2021 ARC-PA Commission Meeting.

*The **benchmark** for performance for this goal includes maintaining ARC-PA Accreditation-Provisional status and maintaining a good standing status at all times.*

The program will determine its success in achieving each of the 6 goals by comparing actual performance, once specific outcome data is available after program initiation, against program determined benchmarks.

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