USC PA Program Goals

Goal 1: Enroll diverse and highly qualified students who reflect the population of South Carolina and the nation.

Outcome Measure A
- Enroll diverse students into the program

Benchmarks

The program has defined diversity as coming from a disadvantaged background based on HRSA indicators, active or veteran military status (including reserves), or age 26 or older at the time of application. The program has set the following benchmarks for each diverse population:
1. The program strives to enroll 50% or more students from a disadvantaged background, as determined by having one or more HRSA indicators identified on the CASPA application.
2. The program strives to enroll 10% or more students who have active or veteran military status.
3. The program strives to enroll 20% or more students who are age 26 or older at the time of application.

Data

	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Disadvantaged Background	37%	50%	44%	67%
Military Status	7%	0%	3%	10%
Age 26 or older	7%	3%	10%	20%

Summary

The program met the benchmark for enrolling students from a disadvantaged background for the Class of 2025 and Class of 2027. The program did not meet the benchmark for Classes of 2024 and 2026. The program did not meet the benchmark for military status or age 26 or older for Classes 2024-2026. The program met the benchmark for military status and age 26 or older at the time of application for the Class of 2027. At this time, the program will continue to monitor these benchmarks as we matriculate future cohorts.

Outcome Measure B

- Enroll highly qualified students

Benchmarks
1. Cumulative GPA
   a. The program reviewed national data from the PAEA Program Report and the 2019 Program Survey to determine the benchmark for cumulative GPA. The program strives to maintain an average cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher for matriculated students.
2. Science GPA
   a. The program reviewed national data from the PAEA Program Report and the 2019 Program Survey to determine the benchmark for science GPA. The program strives to maintain an average science GPA of 3.53 or higher for matriculated students.
3. Healthcare Hours
   a. The program strives to enroll 50% or more students with 3000 or more healthcare experience hours at the time of application.

Data

	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Cumulative GPA	3.70	3.72	3.67	3.73
Science GPA	3.66	3.64	3.57	3.66
3000 or more Healthcare Hours	30%	47%	33%	37%

Summary
The program met the benchmark for cumulative and science GPAs. The program is below the benchmark for enrolling 50% or more students with 3000 or more healthcare experience hours at the time of application. The program will continue to monitor this benchmark as we matriculate future cohorts.

Goal 2: Encourage professional involvement and interprofessional collaboration.

Outcome Measure A
- Encourage professional involvement

Benchmarks

1. The program evaluates professional involvement by determining the percentage of students participating in the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), as determined by membership status. The benchmark is greater than 80% AAPA membership by student cohort.
2. The program evaluates professional involvement by determining the percentage of students participating in the South Carolina Academy of PAs (SCAPA), as determined by membership status. The benchmark is greater than 80% SCAPA membership by student cohort.
3. The program evaluates professional involvement by determining the percentage of students who hold serve in a leadership role or on a committee at the University or in a state or national PA organization. The benchmark is at least 20% of students per student cohort will hold a leadership role.
4. The program evaluates professional involvement by determining the percentage of faculty participating in the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), as determined by membership status. The benchmark is greater than 80% AAPA membership annually.
5. The program evaluates professional involvement by determining the percentage of faculty participating in the South Carolina Academy of PAs (SCAPA), as determined by membership status. The benchmark is greater than 80% SCAPA membership annually.
6. The program evaluates professional involvement by determining the percentage of faculty who serve in a leadership role or on a committee at the University or in a state or national PA organization. The benchmark is at least 20% of faculty will hold a leadership role.

Student Data

	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
AAPA Membership	100%	100%	100%
SCAPA Membership	100%	100%	100%
Leadership Activity	20%	13.3%	23%

Faculty Data

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
AAPA Membership	100%	100%	100%
SCAPA Membership	100%	100%	100%
Leadership Activity	100%	100%	100%

Summary

The program met AAPA and SCAPA membership benchmarks for both students and faculty. The program met the benchmark for student leadership roles for Cohort 2024 and Cohort 2026. The program fell below the benchmark for student leadership involvement for Cohort 2025. The program met the benchmark for leadership involvement for faculty across all years listed.

Outcome Measure B
- Encourage interprofessional collaboration

Benchmarks
1. The program assesses interprofessional collaboration via the student exit survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.
2. The program assesses interprofessional collaboration via the student end-of-didactic survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.
3. The program assesses interprofessional collaboration via the faculty survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.

Data

	2022	2023	2024
Student Exit Survey	4.6	4.69	4.68
Student End of Didactic Survey	4.82	4.56	4.79
Faculty Survey	5	5	4.75

Summary
The program is currently meeting and exceeding the benchmark for all metrics.

Goal 3: Maintain first-time PANCE pass rates that meet or exceed the national average.
Outcome Measure
- Program first-time PANCE Pass Rates

Benchmark

1. The benchmark is whether first-time PANCE pass rates meet or exceed the national average. The rational for this is that the students are compared to other students on a national level.

Data

	Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
USC first-time PANCE Pass Rate	90%	100%	100%
National first-time PANCE Pass Rate	92%	92%	92%

Summary

In 2022, the national first-time PANCE pass rate was 92%, and the program fell below the benchmark with a 90% first-time PANCE pass rate. The following two cohorts had a 100% first-time PANCE pass rate, which exceeded the national average each year.

Goal 4: Train graduates to practice evidence-based medicine and patient-centered care.

Outcome Measure A
- Train graduates to practice evidence-based medicine

Benchmarks
1. The program assesses whether program graduates are trained to practice evidence-based medicine via the student exit survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.
2. The program assesses whether students are trained to practice evidence-based medicine via the student end-of-didactic survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.
3. The program assesses curriculum addressing student training in the practice of evidence-based medicine via the faculty survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.

Data

	2022	2023	2024
Student Exit Survey	4.2	4.81	4.68

Student End of Didactic Survey	4.89	4.59	4.83
Faculty Survey	4.75	4.8	4.75

Summary

The program is currently meeting and exceeding the benchmark for all metrics.

Outcome Measure B
- Train graduates to practice patient-centered care

Benchmarks
1. The program assesses whether graduates are trained to practice patient-centered care via the student exit survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.
2. The program assesses whether students are trained in patient-centered care via the student end-of-didactic survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.
3. The program assesses curriculum addressing student training in patient-centered care via the faculty survey. Responses are collected on a Likert scale, with a Benchmark of 3.5 out of 5.0, which is based on the rationale that a Likert scale of 3.5=70%, which is considered passing in the program.

Data

	2022	2023	2024
Student Exit Survey	4.6	4.88	4.64
Student End of Didactic Survey	4.89	4.67	4.88
Faculty Survey	5	5	5

Summary

The program is currently meeting and exceeding the benchmark for all metrics.

Updated 01/14/2025