

UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2023

GOAL 4 for Physician Assistant Studies

LEARNING

One UND Strategic Plan Goal 4: Enhance discovery at a level consistent with most research-intensive universities (Carnegie R1) Goal by 2022, (\$60) million-internal and external funding sources.

UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 4: The SMHS will enhance basic, clinical, and translational health sciences discoveries while focusing on its stated purpose “of discovery of knowledge that benefits the people of this state and enhances the quality of their lives.” The SMHS will support Goal 4 by increasing its extramural funding by 5% per year based on a three-year rolling average.

1. Describe if/how your unit has addressed this goal.

The Department of PA Studies primarily focuses on teaching within the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree program. The availability of extramural funding at a national level is quite minimal and strongly depends on the current political structure of HRSA.

As far as scholarly activity within the department, faculty are routinely involved in the scholarship of teaching as they assimilate the most updated medical information and clinical practice methods in their lecture material, classroom activities, assignments, case studies, simulation scenarios, and clinical and objective testing.

Faculty continue to work individually with students through their scholarly project as their capstone research component in partial fulfillment of graduation. Each faculty member advises between 5-9 students through this research process. There were three faculty who presented a total of six sessions at the regional NDAPA Primary Care Conference. Another faculty member presented at the SMHS CME Symposium in the fall. One faculty is involved in a Geriatric Grant project and has presented several smaller regional sessions under this topic. A small subset of faculty has an IRB project in process related to PA Student Stress.

In addition, another faculty provided content sessions related to leadership and program directorship for national PA organizations as well as other health related entities; and, served as an invited guest for a leadership book event at the local level. Another faculty member completed her PhD in May 2022 and has presented four national and six regional presentations related to active study strategies and systems modeling. Lastly, another faculty is actively engaged in working towards completion of his doctoral coursework and plans to graduate in May of this year.

2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

Each year faculty submit their scholarly activity in preparation for the annual evaluation. This is completed by updating their CV, digital measures reporting, and an annual evaluation review with the Chair. Further, scholarly activity is openly discussed at faculty and scholarship group meetings.

3. Describe how your unit analyzed these data and what assessments were determined.

Scholarship related to teaching is assessed by student performance on assignments, clinical testing, objective testing and national certification exam performance.

Additional assessment is completed with the annual evaluation process as discussed in #2 above. Further, outside lecture and educational sessions are reviewed by attendee evaluations and have all been quite favorable.

4. Describe how your unit will implement any further changes and what barriers may exist.

The DPAS will continue to engage in meaningful scholarship of teaching and learning in terms of staying up to date with medical literature and best practices evaluated by student performance.

Faculty members will continue to seek out opportunities for national presentation as things slowly open up after the national pandemic as well as through virtual options.

External funding opportunities are not widely available and/or applicable to PA education. This will continue to be monitored for opportunities as they arise.

Barriers to scholarship and creative activity include time and resources, especially when faculty do not have research backgrounds and have a smaller percent effort of scholarship.

All things considered, the department feels they are on track with this goal.

PROVIDE A RATING OF YOUR PROGRESS ON THIS GOAL: ● On Track

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Additional Information on Goal 4 (optional):

Insert any additional information here.