
UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2022

GOAL 2 for **Physician Assistant Studies**

LEARNING

One UND Strategic Plan Goal 2: Increase undergraduate, graduate, and professional graduation rates.

UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 2: SMHS Units will expand their current systems of student support to ensure continued high graduation rates and improve student satisfaction with the overall quality of their education.

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

Faculty advisors monitor students closely throughout their 24-month enrollment. Advisors are assigned at the beginning of the program and student progress is monitored weekly by the Faculty Committee. Involvement in student progress and intervention as needed occurs early in the program, utilizing institutional resources for support whenever possible.

The admissions team continues to collect data related to key predictors of academic success. There continues to be a substantial increase in applications for admission (~80%). This trend may be due to the strong online curricular delivery of the UND program, the revised admission criteria, the growing popularity of the profession, or other factors. Data will continue to be analyzed as we strive to accept the most qualified applicants with the strongest indicators of success to become future health care providers.

The final program assessment and the graduate survey data related to students/graduates prepared for the workforce is consistent with 89% agree or strongly agree and 11% neither agree or strongly agree. Additionally, 89% (16/18) of students report they are glad they attended the UND program and 11% (2/18), indicate that retrospectively, they should have remained in their former profession or sought out a different degree program.

The program continues the "Study Skills" course for students needing deceleration and return into the next cohort. Early assessment data is favorable, with the first two students having completed the program, passed their boards, and are successfully practicing medicine in ND and western MN.

Additionally, a faculty member continues service as the advisor for the UND Pre-PA Club. In this role, he has presented to undergraduates interested in the profession as well as coordinated a session related specific to admission to PA education.

2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

Assessment of student support occurs during weekly faculty meetings and regular faculty conferencing when discussing student performance and progress. Graduation rates are evaluated annually as part of the program goals required by accreditation and are posted on the DPAS website. Student satisfaction and workforce preparation are reviewed annually with the final program assessment completed by students and longitudinally as required by accreditation timeline intervals. The DPAS assessment team analyzes the data to make determinations and suggest modifications for full faculty consideration.

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

The 5-year graduation rate for the DPAS is 90% which is comparable to medicine (93%) and slightly lower than health sciences overall (PT-96%; OT-94%; Vital Signs 2021). The most recently published national rate (2019 cohort) is 93%. All factors are considered in terms of rationale for deceleration, withdrawal, and dismissals.

Overall, students are graduating at a rate comparable with other disciplines in the SMHS and with other PA programs across the country. Students are satisfied with the program and feel as though the program prepares them for the workforce upon graduation.

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

The program will continue to analyze admission criteria in search of key predictors of academic success.

Faculty advisors, in concert with the Faculty Committee will continue to provide resources for students early in the curriculum, utilizing institutional resources whenever reasonable and available.

Student satisfaction scores will continually be collected to ascertain feedback and any necessary modifications to the program.

A barrier of progress in this area is the continued shortage of clinical site opportunities for student placement of clinical learning. These shortages cause much anxiety and angst in terms of satisfaction and training of our graduate professional students. To date, all have been able to graduate on time; however, the situation continues to be increasingly difficult causing uncertainty for the ability to graduate students on time or even accept a full class in the future.

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

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