



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

School of Health Professions
Physician Assistant Program

TTUHSC PA Program Mission, Vision and Goals Report, August 2016

The Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Physician Assistant Program reflect the reason for founding the program in West Texas. These are consistent with the Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and the School of Health Professions.

VISION

The vision of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Physician Assistant Program is to be regionally and nationally recognized for graduating excellent healthcare providers.

MISSION

The mission of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Health Professions Physician Assistant Program is to provide comprehensive medical education to physician assistant students. Through an environment of academic excellence and the promotion of life-long learning and professionalism, graduates will be prepared to practice patient-centered primary care, increasing access to healthcare for diverse and underserved communities of West Texas and beyond.

GOALS

- **Provide student clinical opportunities in primary care in rural and underserved populations in West Texas**

Benchmark: 100% of students will be placed in a primary care rotation in West Texas

- **Admit highly qualified individuals with diverse backgrounds and life experiences**

Benchmark: Student body diversity of the TTUHSC PA Program will meet or exceed national averages of diversity (as reported by CASPA) in the areas of racial and ethnic diversity and disadvantaged student status

- **Maintain first time pass rate on NCCPA PANCE at or above the national average**

Benchmark: National average as reported on the Five Year First Time Test Taker Report for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, TTUHSC PA Program

OUTCOMES

Goal 1: Provide student clinical opportunities in primary care in rural and underserved populations in West Texas

Benchmark: 100% of students will be placed in a primary care rotation in West Texas

Beginning in AY 2014-2015, 100% of students have completed Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics Clerkship rotations in West Texas within the five clinical regions. The five clinical regions are centered at TTUHSC campuses with population outreach of each region incorporating large underserved and rural patient populations. In West Texas, 54 counties are designated as primary care health professional shortage areas, and 80 are classified as medically underserved with limited access to public health services. Additional information about access to health care in West Texas may be found at:

<https://www.ttuhsu.edu/ruralhealth/demographics.aspx>.

Goal 2: Admit highly qualified individuals with diverse backgrounds and life experiences

Benchmark: Student body diversity of the TTUHSC PA Program will meet or exceed national averages of diversity (as reported by CASPA) in the areas of racial and ethnic diversity and disadvantaged student status

Over the past 3 years, the PA program has received over 2900 applications for admission. The program averaged over 21.6 applications per seat for classes matriculating in 2016, as compared to 10 applicants per seat for the class entering in 2015, above the national average of 3.2-3.5 applications per available seat. The overall and science CASPA GPAs of those admitted have been above the national average as well. All successful applicants have community service experience. The program continues to attract highly qualified applicants.

The program admits highly diverse classes of students each year. The percentage of matriculating students from disadvantaged and/or underrepresented minority populations in Summer 2014 and 2015 were 63% and 59%, respectively. The percentage of matriculating students from disadvantaged and/or underrepresented minority populations in Summer 2016 is 67%. The national averages have ranged from 25-30% over the last several years according to the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistant (CASPA) matriculant data recorded by the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA). Details regarding matriculant data may be found in Table 1 below.

Table 1: TTUHSC PA Program Admissions Statistics, 2013-2016.

TTUHSC Physician Assistant Program Admissions Outcomes			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
	TTUHSC (Nat'l)	TTUHSC (Nat'l)	TTUHSC
Applications Received	1175	576	1255
Matriculants	58	56	58
Number of Applicants per seat	20.3 (3.6)	10.3	20.91
CASPA Overall GPA	3.56 (3.53)	3.56	3.50
CASPA Science GPA	3.52 (3.48)	3.43	3.46
GRE Quantitative Percentile *	n/a	43	42.5
GRE Verbal Percentile *	n/a	45	150
GRE Analytical Percentile *	n/a	42	46.5
Underrepresented Minority in Medicine (URM)	9	6	4
URM Disadvantaged	8	11	14
Disadvantaged (other minority and white)	20	16	19
Total Diversity	37	33	39

* General GRE became required in the 2014-2015 Admissions Cycle

Goal 3: Maintain first time pass rates on the NCCPA PANCE exam at or above the national average

Benchmark: National average as reported on the Five Year First Time Test Taker Report for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, TTUHSC PA Program

The TTUHSC Physician Assistant Program has consistently maintained five year, first time NCCPA PANCE pass rates at or above the national average. The overall five year pass rate for the TTUHSC PA Program is 97% compared to the national average of 95%. Details for the last five graduating classes may be found in Table 2 below.

Table 2: NCCPA PANCE First Time Test Taker Report, NCCPA

Class	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
August 2012	2012	56	93%	93%
August 2013	2013	58	98%	94%
August 2014	2014	53	98%	95%
August 2015	2015	56	95%	96%
August 2016	2016	51	100%	96%

Five Year First Time Taker Average Pass Rate for Program: 97%

Five Year National First Time Taker Average: 95%