

TTUHSC PA Program Mission, Vision and Goals Report, March 2021

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 and excellent first time pass rate on NCCPA PANCE.**

Benchmark: National Average on the Five Year First Time Pass Rate represented on the Test Taker Report for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, TTUHSC PA Program (93% for 2021)

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 and every year since, 100% of students have completed a minimum of three of the four required rotations in primary care disciplines in the 108 counties in the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center service area, incorporating large underserved and rural patient populations. Of the 108 counties, 98 are classified as rural and 54 are sparsely populated with fewer than seven person per square mile. For additional information, see www.ttuhscc.edu/rural-health/

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 5500 applications for admission, averaging more than 32 applicants per seat the last 2 admissions cycles. All successful applicants have community service experience and background experiences consistent with the program mission. The majority have some health care 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 is greater than 65% each year. 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, 2019-2022 Matriculating Students

TTUHSC Physician Assistant Program Admissions Outcomes			
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2021-2022
	TTUHSC	TTUHSC	TTUHSC
Applications Received	1722	1832	2049
Matriculants	60	57	60
Number of Applicants per seat	28.7	32.1	32.5
Mean age at matriculation	26.1	26.6	25.9
CASPA Overall GPA	3.56	3.58	3.59
CASPA Science GPA	3.46	3.49	3.51
GRE Quantitative Percentile *	37	42.1	43
GRE Quantitative Score	149	151	151
GRE Verbal Percentile *	52.6	52.6	56
GRE Verbal Score	151	151	152
GRE Analytical Percentile *	52.2	51.4	56
GRE Analytical Score	3.8	3.8	3.97
Underrepresented Minority in Medicine (URM)	5	4	3
URM Disadvantaged	19	20	18
Disadvantaged (other minority and white)	18	15	20
Total Diversity (URM and disadvantaged status)	42	39	41
Veteran, Currently Serving Military, Military Dependent	4	2	1

Goal 3: Maintain and excellent first time pass rate on the NCCPA PANCE exam.

Benchmark: National Average on the Five Year First Time Pass Rate represented on the Test Taker Report for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, TTUHSC PA Program (93% for 2021)

The TTUHSC Physician Assistant Program has consistently maintained and excellent five-year, first time NCCPA PANCE pass rates. The overall five year pass rate for the TTUHSC PA Program is 93% compared to the national average of 93%.