WLU PA Program

Evidence/Assessment of Goals

Goal 1: Prepare PA candidates with the medical knowledge, professional skills, and clinical reasoning abilities necessary to provide competent and evidence-based care.

Objectives and Benchmarks

- *Medical knowledge*
  - *WLU PA Program students achieve a first-time pass rate on the PANCE above the national first-time pass rate.*
    - *National PANCE first-time pass rate 2023 = 92%*
  - *WLU PA Program students achieve an overall pass rate on the PANCE above the national pass rate.*
    - *National PANCE overall pass rate 2023 = 89%*

Evidence:

The West Liberty PA Program has a five-year first-time PANCE pass rate of 96.1%. This exceeds the benchmark of 92%. The five-year PANCE all-takers rate is also above the national average benchmark. The WLU all-taker pass rate is 95.4%.

Class	Class Graduation Year	Group	Number of Candidates Who Took PANCE	Number of Exam Attempts	Number of Exams Passed	Program Exam Pass Rate	National Exam Pass Rate for the Class Graduation Year	% of Candidates Who Ultimately Passed PANCE
PA 2021	2021	All Takers	17	17	17	100%	91%	100%
		First Time Takers	17	17	17	100%	93%	100%
PA 2022	2022	All Takers	18	18	18	100%	89%	100%
		First Time Takers	18	18	18	100%	92%	100%
PA 2023	2023	All Takers	17	17	17	100%	89%	100%
		First Time Takers	17	17	17	100%	92%	100%
PA Black 2024	2024	All Takers	14	15	14	93%	89%	100%
		First Time Takers	14	14	13	93%	92%	100%
PA Gold 2024	2024	All Takers	21	22	20	91%	89%	95%
		First Time Takers	21	21	20	95%	92%	95%
PA 2025	2025	All Takers	17	19	17	89%	88%	100%
		First Time Takers	17	17	15	88%	91%	100%

Objectives and Benchmarks

- *Professional skills*
    - *Attain a graduation rate above the national average/Attain an attrition rate less than the national average.*
        - *The national graduation rate for all PA schools is ~94% with an attrition rate of ~6% (PAEA Research, Program Report 36).*
    - *Attain an attrition rate for non-academic reasons less than the national average.*
        - *The national attrition rate for non-academic reasons is ~2% (PAEA Research, Program Report 36).*
    - *All WLU PA Program students achieve Level 3 (competent) on program milestones for professionalism at the time of graduation.*
    - *Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations within the professional skills domains of reliability and dependability and professionalism/medical ethics meet or exceed program benchmarks of 3.5 on a 5 point scale.*

Evidence:

The West Liberty PA Program has a three-year graduation rate of 89.74% and an associated attrition rate of 10.25%. These are both within the program benchmarks. The program has had no cases of attrition related to professionalism issues in the past three years.

ARC-PA Student Attrition TEMPLATE

	Graduated Classes		
	Class of 2025	**Class of 2024**	**Class of 2023**
Maximum entering class size (as approved by ARC-PA)	**18**	**18**	**18**
Entering class size	19	19	18
Graduates	17	35	17
*** Attrition rate**	**10.5%**	**12.5%**	**5.6%**
****Graduation rate**	**89.5%**	**87.5%**	**94.4%**

Comments: The WLU PA Program received approval for a one-time temporary increase in class size for the Class of 2024 from the ARC-PA on 8/22/2023. This temporary increase was to allow the teach out of the rising clinical phase PA students displaced by the closure of Alderson Broaddus University. These students are not reflected in Entering Class Size since they transferred into the WLUPA program for the clinical phase of the program.

Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations have significantly exceeded the program benchmark of 3.5 out of 5 over the past three years for assessment of students' reliability and dependability and professionalism and medical ethics. The program developed new program competencies and sub-competencies during the 2023-2024 academic year. Data on achievement level on professionalism milestones will be shared as the new cohorts progress within these competencies.

Preceptor Evaluation: Cohort Averages for Students on 5 Point Scale: Professional Skills			
	Class of 2025	**Class of 2024**	**Class of 2023**
Reliability and Dependability	4.87	4.95	4.97
Professionalism and Medical Ethics	4.92	4.97	4.97

Objectives and Benchmarks

- *Clinical Reasoning Abilities*
    - *All WLU PA Program students achieve Level 3 (competent) on program milestones within this domain at the time of graduation.*
    - *Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations within the areas of clinical reasoning abilities meet or exceed program benchmarks of 3.5 on a 5 point scale.*
    - *All WLU PA Program students demonstrate clinical reasoning abilities by passing the summative problem-focused OSCE.*

Evidence:

Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations have exceeded the program benchmark of 3.5 out of 5 over the past three years for assessment of students' clinical reasoning skills as noted in the table below. The program developed new program competencies and sub-competencies during the 2023-2024 academic year. Data on achievement level on clinical reasoning milestones will be shared as the new cohorts progress within these competencies. All WLU PA students have passed a final OSCE prior to graduation as part of the summative assessment.

Preceptor Evaluation: Cohort Averages for Students on 5 Point Scale: Clinical Reasoning			
	Class of 2025	**Class of 2024**	**Class of 2023**
Problem Solving/Critical Thinking	4.74	4.75	4.78
Assessment/Differential Diagnosis	4.51	4.57	4.74
Formulate Management Plans	4.45	4.63	4.66

Objectives and Benchmarks

- *Evidence-Based Medicine*
    - *Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations for evidence-based medicine meet or exceed program benchmarks of 3.5 on a 5 point scale.*
    - *As reflected on the graduate exit student survey, cohort averages for students' self-assessment of preparation for practicing evidence-based medicine meet or exceed WLU PA Program benchmarks.*

Evidence:

Students' application of evidence-based medicine has been assessed on preceptor evaluations since Summer 2023. Annual graduate exit student surveys assess student preparedness for practicing evidence-based medicine. Cohort averages have exceeded WLU PA Program benchmarks of 3.5 out of 5.

Graduate Exit Survey: Cohort Averages for Students on 5 Point Scale: Self-Assessment of Preparation for Practicing Evidence-Based Medicine			
How well did the WLU PA Program prepare you as an entry level PA for clinical practice in the following area:	**Class of 2025**	**Class of 2024***	**Class of 2023**
Practicing Evidence-Based Medicine	4.18	Black – 4.07 Gold – 4.65	4.59

* Black Cohort – Students who began their education at WLU; Gold Cohort – Students who joined the class on 8/22/2023 due to the closure of Alderson Broaddus University

Preceptor Evaluation: Cohort Averages for Students on 5 Point Scale: Practicing Evidence Based Medicine			
	Class of 2025	**Class of 2024**	**Class of 2023**
Problem Solving/Critical Thinking	4.74	4.75	4.78
Assessment/Differential Diagnosis	4.51	4.57	4.74
Formulate Management Plans	4.45	4.63	4.66

Goal 2: Promote professional behavior, teamwork, collaboration, and effective communication.

Objectives and Benchmarks

- *Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations within the relating to colleagues and professional behavior meet or exceed program benchmarks of 3.5 on a 5 point scale.*
- *All students achieve Level 3 (competent) on WLU PA Program competency domains of professionalism and interpersonal communication at the time of graduation.*
- *As reflected on the graduate exit student survey, cohort averages for students' self-assessment of preparation in communication skills, interprofessional relationships, and interactions with members of the healthcare team at the time of graduation will meet or exceed the WLU benchmark system.*
- *All students will successfully complete a final professionalism OSCE assessing professional behavior and communication prior to graduation as part of the summative assessment.*

Evidence:

Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations have exceeded the program benchmark of 3.5 out of 5 for assessment of relating to colleagues and professional behavior domains over the last three years as reported below. The program developed new program competencies and sub-competencies during the 2023-2024 academic year. This data will be shared as the new cohort's progress within these competencies. Annual graduate exit student surveys capture student self-assessment of preparedness for practice in domains of professional behaviors, interprofessional relationships, teamwork, and professionalism. Cohort averages have exceeded WLU PA Program benchmarks of 3.5 out of 5. All students in the last three years have passed a final professionalism OSCE as part of the summative assessment prior to graduation.

Preceptor Evaluation: Cohort Averages for Students on 5 Point Scale: Relating to Colleagues and Professional Behaviors

	Class of 2025	Class of 2024	Class of 2023
Relating to Colleagues	4.89	4.95	4.97
Reliability and Dependability	4.87	4.95	4.97
Professionalism and Medical Ethics	4.92	4.97	4.97

Graduate Exit Survey: Cohort Averages for Students on 5 Point Scale: Self-Assessment of Preparation for Professional Behaviors, Teamwork, Collaboration, and Effective Communication			
How well did the WLU PA Program prepare you as an entry level PA for clinical practice in the following areas:	**Class of 2025**	**Class of 2024***	**Class of 2023**
Communication Skills	3.94	Black – 4.14 Gold – 4.75	4.76
Interprofessional Relationships	3.82	Black – 4.29 Gold – 4.53	4.47
Interactions with a Collaborating Physician	3.82	Black – 4.07 Gold – 4.57	4.65
Interactions with Other Healthcare Professionals	3.95	Black – 4.29 Gold – 4.52	4.71
Behaviors Expected of a PA	3.76	Black – 4.43 Gold – 4.76	4.76

* Black Cohort – Students who began their education at WLU; Gold Cohort – Students who joined the class on 8/22/2023 due to the closure of Alderson Broaddus University

Goal 3: Foster engagement within the WLU PA Program and local communities with a focus on West Virginia.

Objectives and Benchmarks

- *All WLU PA Program students will be members of the WLU PA Student Society and the West Virginia Association of Physician Assistants (WVAPA).*
- *PA students will engage with at least one local charity or outreach group through their student society during the didactic year.*
- *50% of graduating students will be employed in WV and local communities.*
- *50% of alumni will contribute to the education of WLU PA students through classroom teaching and/or precepting.*

Evidence:
All WLU students join the WLU PA Student Society and the WVAPA after enrollment in the program. Those memberships last through graduation. In 2023 the WLU PA Program established a partnership with local service group Project Hope in Wheeling, WV for both community outreach and clinical exposure opportunities. The WLU PA Program strives to fill a need for qualified healthcare providers in the local/regional area and within our home state of West Virginia. The West Liberty University PA Program is located in the northern panhandle of West Virginia in a tri-state area with Pennsylvania and Ohio. The program identifies a 50-mile radius surrounding campus as the local/regional area for

purposes of alumni tracking. Additionally, West Liberty University is a public institution in West Virginia, which is a predominantly rural state and is largely identified as a health provider shortage area. US News and World Reports ranks WV as 49th in healthcare in the nation (https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/west-virginia). The WLU PA Program has graduated 221 students. The program also seeks to involve program alumni in education of future PAs through classroom teaching and clinical precepting. Currently 67 (30.3%) of our alumni serve in this capacity, which is below our identified goal of 50%. The program is exploring opportunities to increase our alumni involvement.

Goal 4: Support the development of empathy, cultural sensitivity, and patient-centered care.

Objectives and Benchmarks

- *Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations of relating to patients and for patient-centered behavior meet or exceed program benchmarks of 3.5 on a 5 point scale.*
- *All students will successfully complete a final professionalism OSCE and pass all components of the Patient-Centered Communication Tools (PaCT) assessment form prior to graduation as part of the summative assessment.*
- *All students achieve Level 3 (competent) on WLU PA Program on all sub-competencies within the domain of interpersonal communication at the time of graduation.*
- *All students will complete the following required coursework that directly supports the development of empathy, cultural sensitivity, and patient-centered care.*
    - *PA 520 Principles of Physical Diagnosis I*
    - *PA 521 Principles of Physical Diagnosis II*
    - *PA 522 Principles of Physical Diagnosis III*
    - *PA 519 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*
    - *PA 518 Behavioral Medicine*
    - *PA 503 Clinical Ethics*
    - *PA 570 Family Medicine Clerkship*
    - *PA 571 Internal Medicine Clerkship*
    - *PA 572 Emergency Medicine Clerkship*
    - *PA 573 Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine Clerkship*
    - *PA 574 Women's Health Clerkship*
    - *PA 575 General Surgery Clerkship*
    - *PA 576 Behavioral Medicine/Psychiatry Clerkship*
    - *PA 577 Elective Clerkship I*
    - *PA 578 Elective Clerkship II*

Evidence:
Cohort averages on preceptor evaluations have exceeded the program benchmark of 3.5 out of 5 for assessment of relating to patients over the last three years as reported below. Specific evaluation of patient-centered behavior was added to preceptor evaluations in Summer 2023. Interim data as of 3/8/2024 shows an average of 4.98 out of 5 for both cohorts in the Class of 2024 for preceptor assessment of patient-centered behavior. A professionalism OSCE is included in the summative assessment of students prior to graduation. All students are scored using the Patient-Centered Communication Tools (PaCT) assessment form. Over the last three years, all students have passed this assessment with a level 3 or better in all categories. Specific coursework listed above has been completed by all students in the WLU PA Program.

Preceptor Evaluation: Cohort Averages for Students on 5 Point Scale: Relating to Patients			
	Class of 2025	**Class of 2024**	**Class of 2023**
Relating to Patients	4.93	4.94	4.94

Updated: August 7, 2026