

MISSION, VALUES, AND PROGRAM GOALS

Marshall B. Ketchum University The School of Physician Assistant Studies Mission

Our mission is to educate individuals to become compassionate PAs who deliver the highest quality healthcare in a collaborative environment, serve diverse communities, work to eliminate health disparities, and improve overall health outcomes while advancing the PA profession.

Our Values

Compassion

We value the dignity of all people, including patients and their families, and recognize that compassion must be a cornerstone in professional interactions.

Humility

We value the intrinsic worth of all human beings; we acknowledge our own limitations and strive to learn from those we interact with both interpersonally and professionally.

Integrity

We value integrity and professionalism by modeling honesty, thoughtfulness, and consistency in our words and actions.

Lifelong Learning

We value lifelong learning as essential to the practice of evidence-based medical care.

Excellence

We value the pursuit of excellence as an essential component of professional practice.

Respect

We place a high value on respecting others by acknowledging diversity and advocating for inclusion in communities where we serve, work, and teach.

Service

We are committed to the welfare of others, improving healthcare access, and promoting positive health outcomes through service.

Our Goals

Based on our mission, the goals of the School of Physician Assistant Studies are to:

1. Graduate PAs who become certified by the NCCPA.

We use unique and innovative teaching modalities to ensure students receive the highest quality education to meet their board requirements and become exceptional PAs.

Measurement: Exceed the national average five-year first-time PANCE pass rate.

Program Outcome: As of Spring 2025, our five-year average PANCE pass rate for first-time takers is 95%, exceeding the five-year average national pass rate for first-time takers of 93%. Currently, 99% of graduates have ultimately passed the PANCE and are NCCPA certified.

2. Engage all students in active and ongoing community service.

The program recognizes the importance of giving back. Participation in community outreach events is a required element of the program. By collaborating with several local organizations, we are able to serve multiple underserved communities through activities such as health screenings, food banks, and vaccination clinics. During the Master's Capstone Project, students identify a population healthcare need within our community and develop and implement a project to help mitigate that need. Some projects in the past have included developing an animal-therapy program for individuals living in a family shelter, writing and illustrating a children's book about asthma triggers, and providing nutrition education to grade-school students.

Measurement: All students have participated in at least three community service events during the program.

Program Outcome: All graduates participated in at least three community-service events during the time they were enrolled as a student, often more.

3. Provide all students with experience in caring for and interacting with underserved communities to inspire graduates to provide care for underserved communities.

A priority for our clinical team is locating quality training sites and preceptors who are actively engaged in providing care for underserved populations. Additionally, students participate in activities and events that provide recurrent exposure to underserved or disadvantaged populations in order to enhance their understanding of the healthcare disparities facing these populations. These activities may include population health lectures, a poverty simulation, guest speakers, group discussions, and community service events for the underserved.

Measurement: Upon graduation, all students will have completed at least one rotation in a health-provider-shortage or underserved area and will have completed all required program activities and events developed to specifically enhance student understanding of and compassion for underserved communities.

Program Outcome: All graduates completed at least one rotation in a provider-shortage or underserved area and completed all required program activities and events developed to specifically enhance student understanding of and compassion for underserved communities at the time of graduation. A significant number of students completed multiple rotations in a provider shortage or medically underserved area.