

# Quinnipiac

## School of Health Sciences – Physician Assistant Program

### Mission, Vision, Core Values and Goals

#### **Mission**

The mission of Quinnipiac's physician assistant program is to increase access to quality health care through the education and development of caring, knowledgeable and competent physician assistants who are dedicated to:

Clinical Competence —Developing highly qualified health care providers who demonstrate an investigative and analytic approach to clinical situations and provide care that is effective, safe, high quality and equitable.

Professionalism —Providing care with respect, compassion and integrity with a commitment to excellence and ongoing professional development.

Interprofessionalism – Preparing students for a team-based care system through inter-professional education.

Leadership —Working effectively with health care professionals as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional/community group. Mentoring and developing future leaders within the profession and the community.

Community Outreach —Demonstrating responsibility and accountability to patients, society and the profession through active community involvement and volunteerism.

Cultural Humility — A state of openness toward understanding and respecting important aspects of other people's cultural identities. This requires an awareness of one's personal and professional beliefs, biases, attitudes and actions that affect patient care and a commitment to ongoing professional development. (PAEA Core Competencies for New Physician Assistant Graduates, 2019).

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Demonstrating awareness, acceptance and accountability in creating a diverse, inclusive, equitable and just community, built upon awareness, acceptance, respect and compassion towards others.

#### **Vision**

To create a PA workforce that provides high-quality, affordable health care that is accessible to all people in all settings by fostering teamwork, critical-thinking skills, high ethical standards, and respect for diverse populations.

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## Core Values

Excellence —A commitment to teaching excellence and championing quality, evidence-based health care in an innovative and supportive learning environment that fosters the student's personal effectiveness.

Accountability —Demonstrating responsibility to students, the University, patients, society and the PA profession utilizing a continuous process improvement system.

Integrity —Honesty and adherence to the highest standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct.

Teamwork and Collaboration —Building respectful partnerships within the University and the community to transform the health care system.

Advocacy and Equity —Seeking to eliminate disparities and barriers to effective, quality health care through patient advocacy and advocacy of the PA profession.

Intellectual Curiosity —Exhibiting self-reflection, intellectual curiosity and initiative, critical thinking and the enthusiastic pursuit of lifelong learning within a supportive environment that encourages research and scholarly work.

## Goals

The Goals of the Quinnipiac University Department of Physician Assistant Studies:

**Goal 1: Admissions** - Recruit and retain qualified applicants from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

- We are drawing students from a variety of professional backgrounds, age and ethnic backgrounds as well as geographic locations.
- For the traditionally matriculated students from 2018-2021 (based on application data and CASPA reports)
  - Geographic draw: about 60% of students are from Northeast and 40% are from various states across the nation.
  - The average age has been 26-years,
  - There are approximately 52% females and 48% males
  - Approximately 24% self-identify as a minority ethnicity
  - Health care experience has varied, the top ones are: EMT/paramedic, CAN/LPN/medical assistant, PT/OT aide, pharmacy technician, clinical researcher, radiology technician, dietitian.
  - Approximately 10% self-identify as coming from a medically underserved area.
  - See attrition table.

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**Goal 2: Community Service** - Engage all students in active and on-going community outreach. Experiences are designed to be integrated into the curriculum and enhance knowledge through experiential learning.

- From the Class of 2021 all members participated in the required 50 hours, with a class average of 55.3 hours (range 50 to 111.17 hours). The Class of 2021 served the community for a total of 2765.85 hours.
- The top community service activities for the class of 2021 were:
  - Service activities related to helping with the COVID-19 pandemic, loaves and fishes, COVID-19 vaccination clinics, ACES literacy programs, Urban Service Track services, National Kidney Foundation services, medical missions, foot clinics, Liver Foundation services, Midnight Run services.
- In the last 4 years, QU PA students have served the community for a total of 14,338 hours!

**Goal 3: Accreditation and PANCE Pass Rates** - Maintain an accredited program with a curriculum designed to ensure the requisite knowledge and skills for entry to PA practice with first-time PANCE pass rates consistently equal to or above the national average.

- The program maintains ARC-PA accreditation continued status. Our next ARC-PA site visit will be in 2023.
- Accreditation standards are maintained due to the rigorous work of our faculty in continuously ensuring the program's curriculum is at the most up to date standards of care and providing an education that is consistent with professional PA practice.
- The five-year first-time pass rate for the program is 96.8 %, nationally it is 95%. Please review the PANCE scores listed on the website.

**Goal 4: Post Graduate Practice** - Graduate physician assistants who practice in a variety of healthcare settings to meet workforce needs.

- The 2021 graduate survey report indicates that we have graduates working in almost every field and specialty of medicine, with about 15.66% in primary care specialties (including primary care/family medicine, OB/GYN and general pediatrics). In addition, we have graduates working in a variety of settings including working for the military, state or federal government, private practices and hospital systems.

**Goal 5: Leadership** - Support a culture of leadership in the profession and the community, including becoming PA educators.

- All PA Program faculty hold various leadership roles within the PA Program, School of Health Sciences and/or the University, and even local and state organizations, including ConnAPA. In addition, the former dean of School of Health Sciences and current professor emeritus of PA studies won the 2020 PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award which recognizes service in leadership in institutional, local, state and national areas, among other things.
- Students hold various leadership roles, some of which include Student Fellow for the PAEA Leadership Track, ConnAPA representatives, ConnPAF representatives, House of

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Delegates representatives, graduate student council representatives, and Urban Service Track leadership opportunities. In addition, all community service activities and several other committees are led by students.

- The annual graduate survey asks about leadership and about 24% of our alumni, who completed the survey, hold leadership roles, ranging from leadership roles within place of employment, leadership roles in local and national chapters and societies (ex: ConnAAPA, CT-PAF, AAPA, JAAPA), leadership roles in local community activities and military leadership roles.
- The annual graduate survey reveals that 21% of our alumni, who completed the survey, are clinical preceptors and 9% serve as adjunct faculty.

*Contact us for additional information or questions not answered*

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