

# 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 Competence —Enhancing sensitivity and developing the ability to function effectively to meet the needs of a diverse patient population.

#### **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.

#### **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.

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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 admitted students for the class years of 2016 through 2018 (based on Application data and CASPA reports)
  - i. Geographic draw: about 60% of students are from Northeast and 40% are from various states across the nation.
  - ii. the average age has been 26-years,
  - iii. there are approximately 40% males and 60% females
  - iv. approximately 13-39% self-identify as a minority ethnicity
  - v. health care experience has varied, the top ones are: emergency medical technician, licensed practical nurse or certified nursing assistant, clinical research technician, patient care technician or surgical technician, athletic trainer and radiology technician

**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 2018 all members participated in the required 50 hours, with a class average of 72.14 hours (range 51 to 138.83 hours). The Class of 2018, as a whole, served the community for a total of 3895.64 hours.
- The top community service activities for the class of 2018 were:
  - i. Loaves and Fishes
  - ii. Cow Chip/Fun Run
  - iii. Homeless Shelter Foot Clinic
  - iv. ACES Health Fair
  - v. NKF Fundraising Activities

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**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.

- 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.
- For the years 2014- 2016 and 2018 the QU PA program has maintained a 100% first time PANCE pass rate for its classes. Our 2017 first time PANCE pass rate was 98%; however, overall PANCE pass rate was 100%. The five-year first time pass rate for the program is 99.6%.

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

- The 2018 graduate survey report indicates that we have graduates working in almost every field and specialty of medicine, with about 27.66% in primary care specialties (including primary care/family medicine, OB/GYN, general pediatrics and general internal medicine).

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

- Faculty hold leadership roles on State association with a past –president, treasurer, secretary, and regional representatives. In addition, many faculty members serve as committee chairs or directors. The dean and professor of PA studies is a past president of several national physician assistant professional organizations.
- Students hold various leadership roles, some of which include ConnAPA representatives, ConnPAF representatives, House of 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 has asked about leadership and about 24.27% of our alumni, who completed the survey, have responded yes to being in leadership roles, ranging from ConnAPA board members, leadership roles within place of employment, military roles, JAAPA editor, and community leadership roles.

*Contact us for additional information or questions not answered*

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