

**Vision, Mission, Goals, and Outcomes**  
**Nova Southeastern University**  
**Physician Assistant Program- Fort Lauderdale**

**VISION STATEMENT**

To become a distinguished physician assistant program nationally recognized for excellence by fostering an innovative culture that supports collaboration, critical thinking, service, and leadership.

**MISSION**

To provide a dynamic physician assistant training program dedicated to excellence in academic and clinical medicine with an emphasis on primary care, yet also in a variety of clinical environments; to foster lifelong learning in an environment that cultivates innovation and interprofessional collaboration; to produce exceptional and compassionate clinicians committed to providing quality health care in all communities; to prepare graduates to advocate for the physician assistant profession through service and leadership with integrity.

**MISSION-RELATED GOALS (established October 2022):**

1. Recruit and matriculate a class of highly qualified students
2. Educate future PAs to demonstrate competent clinical knowledge and to practice evidence-based medicine
3. Provide an inclusive environment for all students, faculty, and staff to achieve their full potential
4. Demonstrate and encourage professional involvement, leadership, and service

<b>Mission-Supported Goal</b>	<b>Measures of Success and Benchmarks</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Recruit and matriculate a class of highly qualified students</b>	Demographic profile	Click <a href="#">here</a> for Class 2027 infographic
	Benchmark:  75% of matriculants will have a GPA of $\geq 3.4$ on 4.0 scale for both science and cumulative GPAs	Class 2027: GPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>96% of students have a cumulative GPA above 3.4 (average cumulative GPA: 3.73)</li> <li>84% of students have a science GPA above 3.4 (average science GPA: 3.67)</li> </ul> Class 2026: GPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91% of students have a cumulative GPA above 3.4 (average cumulative GPA: 3.69)</li> <li>81% of students have a science GPA above 3.4 (average science GPA: 3.62)</li> </ul> Class 2025: GPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93% of students have a cumulative GPA above 3.4 (average cumulative GPA: 3.69)</li> <li>88% of students have a science GPA above 3.4 (average science GPA: 3.63)</li> </ul>
	Attrition benchmark: Total attrition < 10% Academic attrition will not exceed 4%	Attrition rates: Class 2025: 9.21% attrition, 0% academic attrition Class 2024: 3.95% attrition, 0% academic attrition Class 2023: 6.58% attrition, 2.67% academic attrition
<b>Educate future PAs to demonstrate competent clinical knowledge and to practice evidence-based medicine</b>	PANCE Performance Benchmark: PANCE pass rate at or above the national average	Class 2025: 97% (National average 91%) Class 2024: 94% (National average 92%) Class 2023: 91% (National average 92%) Class 2022: 89% (National average 92%)
	Graduate survey data	Class 2024: 3.43 Class 2023: 3.49

	Benchmark: 3.0 (r=1-4)- Program adequately prepared me for practice as a PA	Class 2022: 3.66
Provide an inclusive environment for all students, faculty, and staff to achieve their full potential	Exit survey data Benchmark: 3.0 (r=1-4)- I had a strong sense of belonging at NSU	Class 2024: 3.12 Class 2023: 3.07 Class 2022: 2.96
	Student/faculty advisor program Benchmark: 3.0- Faculty was available and responsive for questions and advisement	Class 2024: 3.54 Class 2023: 3.41 Class 2022: 3.60
Demonstrate and encourage professional involvement, leadership, and service	Involvement of faculty in PA associations Benchmark: 100% membership in PA Educators Association (PAEA)	2025: 100% of faculty are members of the PAEA 2024: 100% of faculty are members of the PAEA 2023: 100% of faculty are members of the PAEA
	Involvement of students in PA associations Benchmark: 3-year average of 75% of enrolled students will be members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants	2025: 75% of enrolled students are members of the AAPA 2024: 75% of enrolled students are members of the AAPA 2023: 75% of enrolled students are members of the AAPA
	Involvement of faculty in national or state conferences Benchmark: greater than or equal to 1 presentation annually at a national or state conference	2025: 7 presentations 2 presentations at the American Congress of Rehabilitative Medicine Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cherkiss, D.</b>, Vatwani, A., ACRM 2025 Annual Fall Conference: Progress in Rehabilitation Research, "Future-Proofing Health Care: DEI-Driven Recruitment and Retention Strategies in Healthcare Education," American Congress of Rehabilitative Medicine, Chicago, IL. (October 30, 2025).</li> <li>• Vatwani A., <b>Cherkiss, D.</b>, ACRM 2025 Annual Fall Conference: Progress in Rehabilitation Research, "The Journey to Effective Academic Leadership: Insights, Growth, and Achieving Work-Life Harmony," American Congress of Rehabilitative Medicine, Chicago, IL. (October 30, 2025).</li> </ul> 2 presentations at the PAEA Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ermol, A. <b>Cherkiss, D.</b>, Timbrook-Dillow, K., PAEA 2025 Education Forum, "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Effective Reflection for Struggling Learners," Physician Assistant Education Association, San Diego, CA. (October 11, 2025).</li> <li>• Ermol, A., Timbrook-Dillow, K., <b>Cherkiss, D.</b>, Nichol, E., PAEA 2025 Education Forum, "Everybody Fails: Physician Associate Version," Physician Assistant Education Association, San Diego, CA. (October 9, 2025).</li> </ul> 3 presentations at the Florida Academy of PAs Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cherkiss, D.</b> FAPA Annual Symposium, "Determining the Determinants: The Influence of Social Factors on Health Outcomes," Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, Tampa, Florida. (July 27, 2025).</li> <li>• <b>Covitz, N.</b>, Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, "Barriers to Health Maintenance in the LTC Patient," Tampa, FL. (July 26, 2025).</li> <li>• <b>Ford-Trotter, A.</b>, Florida Academy of PAs (FAPA) 2025 Annual Symposium, "Advanced Lipid Profile Tests..What</li> </ul>

		<p>Does it all Mean?," Florida Academy of PAs (FAPA), University of Tampa campus. (July 26, 2025).</p> <p>2024: 2 presentations 1 presentation at the PAEA conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cherkiss, D.</b>, PAEA 2024 Education Forum, "From PA-S to Professional: Using Case Studies to Teach Professionalism," Physician Assistant Education Association, Washington, DC. (October 2024).</li> </ul> <p>1 presentation at the FAPA conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Covitz, N.</b>, Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, "PA's In Geriatric and Hospice Care: Approach to the Families." (July 20, 2024).</li> </ul> <p>2023: 1 presentation 1 presentation at the PAEA Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cherkiss, D.</b> (Author &amp; Presenter), <b>MacDonald, H.</b> (Author &amp; Presenter), 2023 PAEA Education Forum, "PA Prep Academy: Pre-matriculation preparation for student success," Physician Assistant (PA) Education Association, New Orleans, LA. (October 14, 2023).</li> </ul>
	<p>Faculty and student community service involvement Benchmark: greater than or equal to 1 service activity annually</p>	<p>2025: REACH Fair, Clewiston, FL (faculty and students) HOSA presentation South Plantation HS (faculty and students) T. Leroy Jefferson Healthcare symposium (faculty and students)</p> <p>2024: REACH Fair, Clewiston, FL (faculty and students) T. Leroy Jefferson Healthcare symposium (faculty and students) Medical outreach trip- Dominican Republic (students)</p> <p>2023: Project Access outreach, Nashville, TN (faculty) REACH Fair, Clewiston, FL (faculty and students) Special Olympics (faculty and students) HOSA presentation South Plantation HS (faculty and students) St. Brendan High School presentation (faculty and students)</p> <p>2022: Project Access outreach, Las Vegas, NV (faculty) Project Access outreach, San Diego, CA (faculty)</p>
	<p>Student leadership Benchmark: At least 25% of students will hold program leadership roles</p>	<p>Class of 2025: 29% of students held program leadership roles Class of 2024: 26% of students held program leadership roles Class of 2023: 21% of students held program leadership roles Class of 2022: 23% of students held program leadership roles</p>
	<p>Faculty leadership Benchmark: At least 1 faculty member will hold a leadership role in local or national organizations</p>	<p>2025: 1 faculty Secretary/Treasurer of Alpha Eta Nu Sigma Upsilon Chapter 2024: 1 faculty Secretary/Treasurer of Alpha Eta Nu Sigma Upsilon Chapter 2023: 1 faculty committee member on the Education Programming Steering Committee for PAEA 2022: 1 committee member on the Education Programming Steering Committee for PAEA</p>