

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

Mission-Supported Goal	Measures of Success and Benchmarks	Outcomes
Recruit and matriculate a class of highly qualified students	Demographic profile Benchmark: 75% of matriculants will have a GPA of ≥ 3.4 on 4.0 scale for both science and cumulative GPAs	Click here for Class 2027 infographic Class 2027: GPA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 96% of students have a cumulative GPA above 3.4 (average cumulative GPA: 3.73)• 84% of students have a science GPA above 3.4 (average science GPA: 3.67) Class 2026: GPA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 91% of students have a cumulative GPA above 3.4 (average cumulative GPA: 3.69)• 81% of students have a science GPA above 3.4 (average science GPA: 3.62) Class 2025: GPA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 93% of students have a cumulative GPA above 3.4 (average cumulative GPA: 3.69)• 88% of students have a science GPA above 3.4 (average science GPA: 3.63)
Educate future PAs to demonstrate competent clinical knowledge and to practice evidence-based medicine	Attrition benchmark: Total attrition $< 10\%$ Academic attrition will not exceed 4% PANCE Performance Benchmark: PANCE pass rate at or above the national average	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 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"> • Cherkiss, D., 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). • Vatwani A., Cherkiss, D., 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). 2 presentations at the PAEA Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ermol, A. Cherkiss, D., Timbrook-Dillor, 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). • Ermol, A., Timbrook-Dillor, K., Cherkiss, D., Nichol, E., PAEA 2025 Education Forum, "Everybody Fails: Physician Associate Version," Physician Assistant Education Association, San Diego, CA. (October 9, 2025). 3 presentations at the Florida Academy of PAs Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherkiss, D. FAPA Annual Symposium, "Determining the Determinants: The Influence of Social Factors on Health Outcomes," Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, Tampa, Florida. (July 27, 2025). • Covitz, N., Florida Academy of Physician Assistants, "Barriers to Health Maintenance in the LTC Patient," Tampa, FL. (July 26, 2025). • Ford-Trotter, A., Florida Academy of PAs (FAPA) 2025 Annual Symposium, "Advanced Lipid Profile Tests..What

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