



USJ Physician Assistant Studies Program Success at Achieving Goals (A3.12b)

Goal #1: Graduate highly competent PAs prepared to enter clinical practice upon graduation

Benchmarks:

- 1) First time PANCE pass rate at or above the national average- **Goal Met**

USJ PA Studies Cohort	USJ PA First-Time Taker Pass Rate	National First-Time Taker Pass Rate
USJ Class of 2019	100%	93%
USJ Class of 2020	100%	Available in 2021

- 2) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale¹ on Employer Survey² questions regarding knowledge and readiness for entry to practice – **Results for the Class of 2019 Employer Survey pending**

- 3) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Exit³ and Graduate⁴ Survey questions regarding knowledge and readiness for entry to practice- **Goal Met**

- Exit Survey questions pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 3: To what extent do you feel qualified to practice as a new graduate PA?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= I do not feel prepared in any way to start practice as an entry-level PA
 - 5= I feel very prepared to start practice as an entry-level PA

¹ A score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert scale is congruent with the program benchmark of 80% expected of student, faculty and program performance throughout the self-assessment process.

² The employer survey is sent to the employers of USJ PA graduates approximately one year after their graduation date to solicit their opinions about the graduates’ preparedness to enter practice as related to the program’s graduate competencies.

³ The exit survey solicits the opinion of students as they graduate from the program as an assessment metric covering many aspects of the students experience while in the program and their perceived preparedness to enter practice

⁴ The graduate survey is administered to program graduates approximately one year after entry to practice to allow them to reflect on how well the program has met its goals and prepared them for entry to practice



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.42
2020	4.35

- Question 9: Did the program provide you with an adequate knowledge base to build upon during rotations and in preparation for the PANCE, typical for a new graduate PA?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= My knowledge base was completely inadequate for clinical rotations and/or I feel completely unprepared to take the PANCE
 - 5= I developed a broad knowledge base that prepared me very well for clinical rotations and I feel very prepared to take the PANCE

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.71
2020	4.65

- Question 10: Were the methods of curricular delivery effective in helping you to achieve the learning outcomes and graduate competencies?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= The modular curriculum design was entirely ineffective and inhibited me in achieving the program learning outcomes and competencies
 - 5= The modular curriculum design was very effective in helping me to achieve the program learning outcomes and competencies

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.68
2020	4.74

- Graduate Survey questions pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 2: The knowledge and skills I acquired in the USJ PA Program prepared me for safe entry-level practice as a new graduate PA
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.42



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

- Question 7: The USJ PA Program provided me with adequate knowledge to build upon during clinical practice and to successfully pass the PANCE
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	5.00

Goal #2: Cultivate a spiritually enriched learning environment

Benchmark:

1) Overall average of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert scale on Exit Survey question related to spirituality- **Goal Met**

- Exit Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 5: How effective was the program at making you appreciate the individual spirituality of patients?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= There was never any discussion of the varying spirituality needs of patients, the program was entirely not effective in this area
 - 5= The program was very effective in helping me to incorporate an appreciation for my patient’s spirituality into patient care

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.23
2020	4.13

Goal #3: Provide a learning atmosphere imbued with intellectual rigor

Benchmarks:

1) First-time taker PANCE pass rate at or above the national average- **Goal Met**

USJ PA Studies Cohort	USJ PA First-Time Taker Pass Rate	National First-Time Taker Pass Rate
USJ Class of 2019	100%	93%
USJ Class of 2020	100%	Available in 2021



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

2) PANCE scores at or above the national first-time taker mean in each organ system and task area- **Goal Not Met**

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Organ Systems above national mean	Task Areas above national mean
Class of 2019	14/14	8/8
Class of 2020	12/14	7/8

- **Action plan:** Scores for the USJ PA Studies Class of 2020 were below the national mean for the Musculoskeletal system (USJ 78 vs. National 80), Hematology system (USJ 80 vs. National 81) and Applying Basic Scientific Concepts (USJ 79 vs. National 80). This information will be reviewed in more detail by the curriculum committee. Curricular mapping for these areas will be reviewed to ensure adequate breadth and depth of all blueprint items relating to the musculoskeletal organ system and basic scientific concepts. Additionally, scoring trends for these areas on module examinations and benchmarking examinations (i.e. PACKRAT, PAEA EORE, and in-house summative evaluations) will be monitored closely. Amendments to this plan will be posted once completed by the curriculum committee.

3) Overall average of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert scale on the Preceptor⁵ Survey questions regarding student factual knowledge- **Goal Met**

- Preceptor Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 8: Factual Knowledge and Concepts
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Poor
 - 5= Excellent

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.14
2020	4.28

⁵ The Preceptor Survey of student preparedness is administered at the conclusion of the clinical phase for each cohort, soliciting the opinion of the programs clinical preceptors regarding the students' preparedness for clinical training, as an evaluation of the didactic curriculum



4) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Exit and Graduate Survey questions regarding knowledge and readiness for entry to practice- **Goal Met**

- Exit Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 4: Do you feel the program was intellectually rigorous?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= The program rigor was much below what I expected and I never felt challenged
 - 5= The program was very rigorous and challenged me to be the best graduate student I could be

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.94
2020	4.84

- Graduate Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 3: The USJ PA Program was intellectually rigorous
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.85

Goal #4: Emulate the values that result in the formation of ethical physician assistant graduates

Benchmarks:

1) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Exit and Graduate Survey questions regarding ethics- **Goal Met**

- Exit Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 6: Did the faculty encourage ethical behavior and personal integrity?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Never; there were no lectures, no group discussions and no modeling of the behavior by the faculty
 - 5= Always; there was a thread of ethical behavior and personal integrity in most components of the curriculum; the faculty always modeled this behavior



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.68
2020	4.42

- Graduate Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 4: The USJ PA Program was effective in developing PAs who demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.77

Goal #5: Prepare graduates who are collaborative members of the healthcare team, and provide patient centered care in inter-professional context

Benchmarks:

1) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Exit and Graduate Survey questions regarding IPE instruction and preparation for interprofessional practice- **Goal Met**

- Exit Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 6: How effective was the program in introducing you to the role of other healthcare providers and encouraging team participation?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Not effective; there was no discussion of other healthcare providers; there was no discussion of teamwork
 - 5= Very effective; I have a good understanding of the roles of many other healthcare providers and feel very confident of being a team member

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.71
2020	4.65

- Graduate Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 5: The USJ PA Program effectively introduced the role of healthcare providers, encouraged team participation, and prepared me for being an effective healthcare team member



- 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.77

2) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Preceptor Survey question regarding student ability to relate to peers- **Goal Met**

- Preceptor Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 12: Relating to Colleagues
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Poor
 - 5= Excellent

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.70
2020	4.72

Goal #6: Develop an atmosphere that exemplifies the highest level of professional integrity

Benchmark:

1) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Exit and Graduate Survey questions regarding integrity- **Goal Met**

- Exit Survey questions pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 6: Did the faculty encourage ethical behavior and personal integrity?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Never; there were no lectures, no group discussions and no modeling of the behavior by the faculty
 - 5= Always; there was a thread of ethical behavior and personal integrity in most components of the curriculum; the faculty always modeled this behavior



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.68
2020	4.42

- Question 26: The majority of the faculty appeared professional and portrayed a positive image about health professions?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.35
2020	4.10

- Question 56: In general, preceptors were professional role models.
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.61
2020	4.42

- Graduate Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 4: The USJ PA Program was effective in developing PAs who demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.77



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

Goal #7: Foster the development of the skills required for life-long learning, scholarly inquiry and professional development

Benchmarks:

1) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Exit and Graduate Survey questions regarding life-long learning- **Goal Met**

- Exit Survey questions pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 2: To what degree did the faculty encourage your engagement as a learner and to develop life-long learning skills?
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= There was never any encouragement for me to take responsibility for my learning
 - 5= There was always a lot of encouragement by the faculty for my engagement and taking responsibility for my learning

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.58
2020	4.45

- Graduate Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 1: The USJ PA Program prepared me with the tools to be a life-long learner
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.62

- Question 8: The USJ PA Program prepared me to obtain and maintain certification and licensure
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.62



Goal #8: Promote an appreciation for social responsibility that is inherent to PA practice

Benchmarks:

1) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Exit and Graduate Survey questions regarding social responsibility- **Goal Met**

- Exit Survey questions pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 8: How effective was the program in encouraging graduate responsibility to society and to the profession
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Not effective; there were no service activities; there was no discussion or modeling of the service to society or the profession
 - 5= Very effective; there were many service activities; the faculty actively encouraged service to society and to the profession; the faculty modeled service too

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.58
2020	4.52

- Graduate Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 6: The USJ PA Program was effective in encouraging responsibility to society and the profession
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.69

Goal #9: Model and encourage the importance and the value of service to the profession and society

Benchmarks:

1) Overall average score of ≥ 4 on a 5-point Likert Scale on Exit and Graduate Survey questions regarding service to the profession and society- **Goal Met**



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

- Exit Survey questions pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 8: How effective was the program in encouraging graduate responsibility to society and to the profession
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Not effective; there were no service activities; there was no discussion or modeling of the service to society or the profession
 - 5= Very effective; there were many service activities; the faculty actively encouraged service to society and to the profession; the faculty modeled service too

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.58
2020	4.52

- Graduate Survey question pertaining to this goal:
 - Question 6: The USJ PA Program was effective in encouraging responsibility to society and the profession
 - 5-point Likert Scale:
 - 1= Strongly Disagree
 - 5= Strongly Agree

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Average question survey response
2019	4.69

2) Greater than 80% of cohort participate in 2 program-sponsored service projects annually- Goal Met

USJ PA Studies Cohort	Percentage of students involved in 2 projects annually
2019	100%
2020	100%

3) Greater than 80% of faculty are members of AAPA-Goal Met

Percentage of faculty holding AAPA membership
88.8%