

Policy - SCPE Benchmarks and Clinical Practice Passport

Origin Date: November 8, 2013

Last Evaluated: April 2019

Responsible Party: Program Director

Minimum Review Frequency: Annually

Approving Body: Principal Faculty

DPAS Associated Forms:

Student Clinical Practice Passport

Patient Exposure Clinical Procedures Benchmark

Clinical Year Group Benchmark Advising Form

ARC-PA Associated Standards:

- **B3.02** - Supervised clinical practice experiences must enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice.
ANNOTATION: It is expected that the program expectations of students will address the types of patient encounters essential to preparing them for entry into practice. It is expected that at a minimum these will include preventive, emergent, acute, and chronic patient encounters.
- **B3.03** - Supervised clinical practice experiences must provide sufficient patient exposure to allow each student to meet program-defined requirements with patients seeking: a) medical care across the life span to include, infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly, b) women's health (to include prenatal and gynecologic care), c) care for conditions requiring surgical management, including pre- operative, intraoperative, post-operative care and d) care for behavioral and mental health conditions.
- **B3.04** - Supervised clinical practice experiences must occur in the following settings: a) outpatient, b) emergency department, c) inpatient and d) operating room.
ANNOTATION: While patients often use emergency departments for primary care complaints, students are expected to interact with patients needing emergent care in this setting. Urgent care centers may be used for supervised clinical practice experiences, but do not replace the requirement to have students in emergency departments.

Background and Purpose

Physician assistant students are trained in a general medical model preparing graduates to care for patients across the life span in various medical settings. The purpose of this policy is to document High Point University's Department of Physician Assistant Studies' approach to ensuring sufficient exposure of students to preventive, emergent, acute and chronic patient encounters required within their supervised

clinical practice experiences. This will enable students to meet the program's defined expectations, preparing them for entry into professional practice.

Policy and Practice Statement

1. Each individual SCPE is a unique learning experience with rotation-specific course objectives that are designed to complement and further elucidate the general course objectives. Each SCPE has an individualized syllabus that defines the rotation-specific objectives therein. The individual course goals, outcomes, objectives and associated student assessments guide student learning during the clinical education phase and support the attainment of competency in regard to rotation-specific course outcomes and ultimately the end-of-program learning outcomes. The SCPE syllabi are collectively housed within the Student Clinical Rotation Manual provided to all students prior to the beginning of the clinical phase.
2. The HPU PA program has set minimum benchmark requirements to ensure sufficient patient exposure within required supervised clinical practice experiences to include:
 - a. Encounter Type: Preventive Care, Emergent Care, Acute and Chronic Care.
 - b. Life Span Care: Infants (less than 2 y/o); Children (2-10 y/o); Adolescents (11-17 y/o); Adults (18-64 y/o); Elderly (65 and older).
 - c. Women's Health: Obstetrics and Gynecology.
 - d. Surgical Management: Pre-operative, Intraoperative and Post-operative Care.
 - e. Practice Setting: Outpatient, Inpatient, Emergency Department and Operating Room.
 - f. Other: Behavioral and Mental Health.
3. The use of a web-based student tracking system will ensure students are meeting program expectations and able to acquire the competencies needed for clinical practice. Students' progress will be monitored at the completion of the 2nd week during SCPEs throughout the clinical year to confirm exposure to key patient encounters and settings for the rotations is occurring early. This will ensure adequate time for participating in available experiences or reassignment if significant site-related deficiencies are identified. Formal group advising regarding progress toward meeting program required benchmarks for Patient Exposure and Clinical Skills/Procedures will occur during the Return to Campus days following SCPE 3 and SCPE 6. If students are not taking advantage of available opportunities in meeting the set benchmarks within assigned rotations, a secondary rotation that meets this need may be required in lieu of an elective. The program's set benchmark requirements will be evaluated and modified, if necessary, on an annual basis as part of the program's self-assessment process.
4. The HPU PA program has set minimum benchmark requirements related to procedures and skills within required supervised clinical practice experiences. See associated Patient Exposure Clinical Procedure Benchmark document.
5. The HPU PA program utilizes a Student Clinical Practice Passport to ensure that upon completion of all SCPEs, all students have gained the necessary competencies for entry into clinical practice.

Successful completion of this passport is required for graduation. The Student Clinical Practice Passport covers:

- Medical Care Across the Lifespan
 - Women's Health
 - Care for Conditions Requiring Surgical Management
 - Care for Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions
 - Preventive, Emergent, Acute, and Chronic Care
 - Communication/Professionalism/Advocacy/Evidence Based Medicine
 - Clinical Skills Common to Primary Care
6. The HPU PA program has devised a comprehensive method for evaluating the quality of student experiences on SCPEs as well as monitoring student progress toward achieving program expectations and clinical competency throughout the clinical phase of the program to include:
- a. Initial and ongoing site and preceptor evaluation.
 - b. Submission of mid-rotation evaluations, clinical site/preceptor evaluations and Clinical Performance Evaluation for each SCPE.
 - c. Site visits to students during SCPEs may occur as deemed necessary by the program
 - d. Rotation Specific Assignments due at the completion of each SCPE.
 - e. PAEA End-of-Rotation Specialty Subject Exam administered on return to campus visits at completion of each Core SCPE.
 - f. Clinical Year Formative

Approved by: Principal Faculty

Modified: February 5, 2015; September 13, 2016, April 18, 2017, May 2018, April 2019

Next Review: Spring 2020

Reviews of minimum student exposure to patients occurs annually. This review includes but is not limited to the analysis of patient encounter logging data, graduate PANCE and PAEA End of Rotation Exam performance, and preceptor ratings.