

Policy - SCPE Benchmarks and Clinical Practice Passport

Origin Date: November 8, 2013

Last Evaluated: March 2026

Responsible Party: Program Director

Minimum Review Frequency: Annually

Approving Body: Principal Faculty

MPAS Associated Forms:

Clinical Practice Passport
Passport Check Off
Patient Exposure Clinical Procedures Benchmark
Benchmarks Check Off
Benchmark Advising Form R1-3
Benchmark Advising Form R4-6
Benchmark Notes Form R7-9
Preceptor Profile
Practice Profile
Site-Preceptor Follow-up Evaluation Form
Mid-Rotation Evaluation Form
Mid-Rotation Student Evaluation of Site-Preceptor Form
EOR Site-Preceptor Evaluation Form
BM Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
EM Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
Elective Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
FM Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
Inpatient Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
International Elective Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
Peds Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
Surgery Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
WH Clinical Performance Evaluation Form
Site-Student Visit Form

ARC-PA Associated Standards:

- **B3.01** - The program ensures clinical students may achieve all SCPE learning outcomes by:
 - a) Securing a sufficient number of qualified preceptors and clinical sites
- **B3.03** - Supervised clinical practice experiences must enable all students to meet the program's learning outcomes:

- a) preventive patient encounters,
 - b) acute patient encounters
 - c) chronic patient encounters
- **B3.04** - Supervised clinical practice experiences occur in the following settings:
 - a) emergency department,
 - b) inpatient,
 - c) outpatient
 - d) operating room.
- **B3.06** – Preceptors for supervised clinical practice experiences enable students to meet program-defined learning outcomes for:
 - a) Family medicine
 - b) Emergency medicine, including providing emergent care
 - c) Internal medicine, including elderly patients
 - d) Surgery, including pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative care
 - e) Pediatrics, including infants, children, and adolescents
 - f) Women’s health, including prenatal and gynecologic care
 - g) Behavioral and mental health care

Background and Purpose

Physician assistant students are trained in a general medical model, preparing graduates to care for patients across the lifespan 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 SCPE is a unique learning experience with rotation-specific course learning outcomes and instructional objectives designed to complement and further expound upon the program learning outcomes. Each SCPE has an individualized syllabus that defines the rotation-specific learning outcomes and instructional 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 regarding rotation-specific course learning outcomes and, ultimately, the end-of-program learning outcomes. The SCPE syllabi are collectively housed within the web-based student tracking system made accessible to students before the beginning of the clinical phase and in each individual course on Blackboard to which students have access while on that rotation.
2. The HPU PA program has set minimum benchmark requirements for patient encounters, skills, and procedures to ensure sufficient patient exposure within required supervised clinical practice experiences including:
 - a. Encounter Type: Preventive Care, Emergent Care, Acute and Chronic Care.
 - b. Life Span Care: Infants (Newborn-1 y/o); Children (1-10 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.

See the associated *Patient Exposure Clinical Procedure Benchmark document* and *Benchmarks Check Off*.

3. The use of a web-based student tracking system will ensure students are meeting program expectations and are 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 early exposure to key patient encounters and settings for the rotations. If significant site-related deficiencies are identified, this will ensure adequate time for participating in available experiences or reassignment. 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 to meet 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. See the associated *Benchmark Advising Form R1-3*, *Benchmark Advising Form R4-6*, and *Benchmark Notes Form R7-9*.
4. 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 to include infants, children, adolescents, adults, and elderly
 - i. Pediatric Clinical and Technical Skills
 - ii. Inpatient Clinical and Technical Skills
 - iii. Family Medicine Clinical and Technical Skills
 - iv. Emergency Medicine Clinical and Technical Skills
 - v. Other Technical Skills performed in the Primary Care setting
 - Women's Health to include prenatal and gynecologic care
 - i. Women's Health Clinical and Technical Skills
 - Care for Conditions Requiring Surgical Management to include pre-, intra-, and post-operative care
 - Care for Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions
 - Preventive, Emergent, Acute, and Chronic Care
 - Communication/Professionalism/Advocacy/Evidence-Based MedicineSee *Clinical Practice Passport* and *Passport Check Off*.
5. 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 including:
 - a. Initial and ongoing site and preceptor evaluation. See *Practice Profile*, *Preceptor Profile*, and *Site-Preceptor Follow-up Evaluation Form*.

- b. Submission of mid-rotation evaluations, clinical site/preceptor evaluations, and Clinical Performance Evaluation for each SCPE. See *Mid-Rotation Evaluation Form, Mid-Rotation Student Evaluation of Site-Preceptor Form, EOR Site-Preceptor Evaluation Form, BM Clinical Performance Evaluation Form, EM Clinical Performance Evaluation Form, Elective Clinical Performance Evaluation Form, FM Clinical Performance Evaluation Form, Inpatient Clinical Performance Evaluation Form, International Elective Clinical Performance Evaluation Form, Peds Clinical Performance Evaluation Form, Surgery Clinical Performance Evaluation Form, and WH Clinical Performance Evaluation Form*
- c. Submission of patient encounter logs (recorded in EXXAT).
- d. Submission of student timesheets (recorded in EXXAT).
- e. Site visits to students during SCPEs may occur as deemed necessary by the program. See *Site-Student Visit Form*
- f. Rotation Specific Assignments due during each SCPE. (Assignment guidelines and rubrics are available to students in the syllabi, EXXAT, and Blackboard courses.)
- g. PAEA End-of-Rotation Specialty Subject Exam administered on return to campus visits at the completion of each Core SCPE.
- h. Elective End-of-Rotation Specialty Subject Exams administered on return to campus visits at the completion of each Elective SCPE.

Approved by: Principal Faculty

Modified: February 5, 2015; September 13, 2016, April 18, 2017, May 2018, April 2019, April 2020, April 2022, April 2024, March 2026 (updated HPU logo, Associated forms added/updated, associated ARC-PA standards updated, #2 and original #4 combined, updated Passport categories, and added Elective EOR exam to #5.)

Next Review: Spring 2027

Reviews of minimum student exposure to patients occur 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.