

# MIAMI DADE COLLEGE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Goals Report 2020 - 2021

Program Director: Arcenio Cruz PA-C, MPAS

## **MDC PA Program Goals Report**

In 2020, The Program Director and assigned program faculty initiated a review of the Program goals to ensure the goals are concordant with the mission of the PA program, as well as that of the School of Health Sciences and Miami Dade College Medical Campus. To complete this task, the program uses a variety of tools to assess and monitor its progress towards meeting the goals that were set. The program goals for the year 2020-2021 have been updated to align with changes in the program and the profession. The updated goals continue to support and align with the mission of the program and the college. The updated goals were presented to the program's advisory board, campus leadership, instructional and principal faculty who unanimously voted in support of the updates. The program mission has not changed and continues to reflect the core values of the program and the College.

## **MDC PA Program Mission**

The Mission of the MDC Physician Assistant Program is to provide high quality education and training opportunities in primary care for students from diverse cultural backgrounds interested in providing health care services to the medically under-served residents in urban and rural communities, especially in Florida. Included in this mission is: promoting and maintaining high academic and professional standards, participating in professional activities and continuing education to promote life-long learning and preparing each graduate with a level of didactic and clinical competence that provides successful entry into the profession.

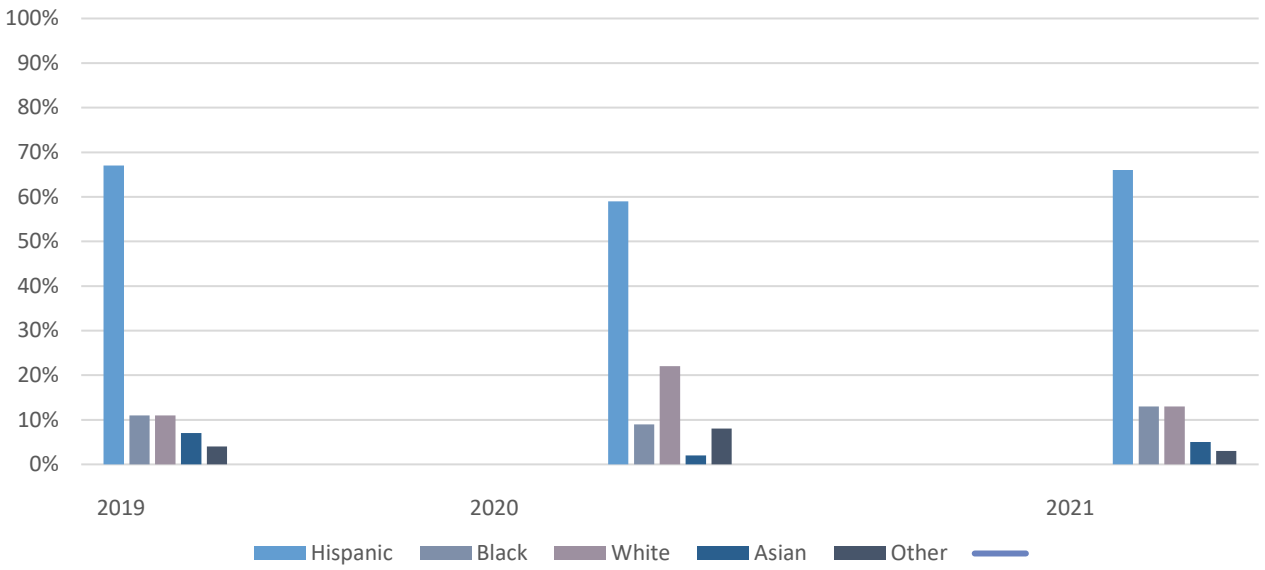
## **Updated MDC PA Program Goals 2020-2021**

1. Matriculate a culturally diverse class of highly qualified physician assistant students.
2. Prepare physician assistant students to practice in interprofessional healthcare teams.
3. Offer a curriculum to prepare physician assistant students with the medical knowledge and skills required to enter clinical practice.
4. Prepare physician assistant students to become leaders in the profession and in the community.

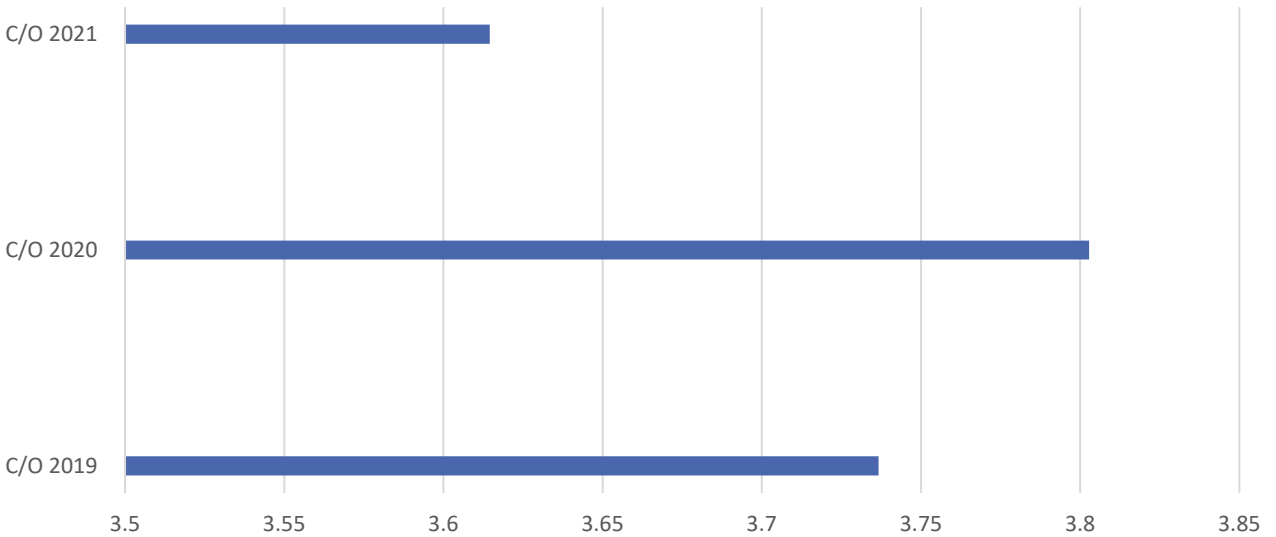
## The 2020-2021 MDC PA Program Goals are as Follows:

1. **Matriculate a culturally diverse class of highly qualified physician assistant students.**
  - **Outcome Measure:** Diversity is measured through cohort demographics data. The program aims to admit at least 50% underrepresented minority students. Natural sciences GPA are utilized to measure “highly qualified” students.
  - **Rationale:** As the United States becomes increasingly diverse, a workforce that reflects this population is necessary to deliver high quality and culturally sensitive health care. Miami Dade College acknowledges this need and is proud to be a leader in admitting individuals from diverse backgrounds, notwithstanding the rigorous admission criteria of the PA program. Selecting and admitting highly qualified students is important for student success and preventing attrition.
  - **Actual Outcome:** Data from the MDC PA Program Class of 2019, 2020, and 2021 consistently demonstrate above average results in enrollment of underrepresented minority students (See chart below). Students admitted to the program have on average a 3.7 Natural Sciences GPA (See chart below).

### Ethnic Background Distribution Class of 2019-2021



### Average Natural Science GPA of Admitted PA Students Class of 2019-2021



## 2. Prepare physician assistant students to practice in interprofessional healthcare teams.

- **Outcome Measure:** Provide interprofessional education to all PA students in both the didactic and clinical components of the program.
- **Rationale:** Interprofessional education is when students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes. This will help students acquire the interpersonal and communication skills they need to improve patient safety, provider efficiency, and improve patient satisfaction.
- **Actual Outcome:** 100% of students are enrolled in an interprofessional course during the didactic year of the PA program. Students also participate in various interprofessional Clinical Experiences throughout the clinical year.

3. Offer a curriculum to prepare physician assistant students with the medical knowledge and skills required to enter clinical practice.

- **Outcome Measure:** The program benchmark for first time pass rates on the PANCE is 86% or better.
- **Rationale:** Preparing each graduate with a level of didactic and clinical competence that provides successful entry into the profession.
- **Actual Outcome:** The programs Five-year First-Time Pass rates are as follows:

Class*	Class Graduation Year	Number of First Time Takers	Program First Time Taker Pass Rate
Class 2015	2015	41	88%
Class 2016	2016	50	92%
Class of 2017	2017	49	86%
Class 2018	2018	54	96%
Class of 2019	2019	48	96%

Five-Year First-Time Taker Average Pass Rate for Program: 92%

See program website for most updated pass rate information at <https://www.mdc.edu/physicianassistant/pdf/nccpa-pass-rates.pdf>

#### 4. Prepare physician assistant students to become leaders in the profession and in the community.

- **Outcome Measure:** Student officers are elected and organized to perform various functions and responsibilities during their tenure in the program. Students and faculty participate in both state and national PA events and conferences. Students and faculty advocate for the PA profession. Students and faculty plan, coordinate, and participate in community service activities to provide health screenings and resources to underserved populations in South Florida.
- **Rationale:** We recognize the need to increase the role of PA's as leaders in healthcare industry as many administrative positions are often filled by other healthcare providers in the field.
- **Actual Outcome:** All MDC PA program enrolled students are provided opportunities to participate in professional activities on a local and national level through the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Physician Assistants to acquire and/or enhance their leadership skills. The Miami Dade College PA program strongly encourages each student to become advocates for the physician assistant profession by representing the Program at both local and national events. Historically, MDC PA Program graduates and students have also attended national conferences, demonstrate leadership in their profession by holding leadership positions within the national PA student society (SAAPA), PA state organization (FAPA), and participate in Capital Days on the Hill (AAPA) serving as advocates for the physician assistant profession. In addition, MDC PA students participate in the AAPA sponsored National Challenge Bowl competition (MDC 2014 National Champions) annually. The MDC PA program faculty encourages students to participate in local events to enhance the health education of local citizens. Through events such as Project S.E.E.D (Serving Everyone Embracing Diversity), students participate and organize a community outreach project which provides disease prevention and health promotion to the migrant worker population in South Florida.