

 Miami Dade  
College  
Medical Campus

# Miami Dade College

## Medical Campus

### Physician Assistant Program

Program Goals Report  
2017

## ***PROGRAM GOALS:***

1. Admit physician assistant students from diverse cultural backgrounds.
2. Prepare physician assistant students to practice in the local South Florida community or local underserved areas.
3. Offer a curriculum to prepare physician assistant students to enter clinical practice
4. Prepare physician assistant students to become leaders in the profession and in the community.

**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.**

**In 2017, The Program Director initiated a review of the Program goals. The purpose of this review was to ensure the goals are concordant with the mission of the PA program, as well as that of Miami Dade College Medical Campus, and School of Health Sciences. To meet this mission, the program uses a variety of educational methods and assessments to monitor its progress in meeting the goals that were set.**

# The Program goals are as follows:

## **1. Admit physician assistant students from diverse cultural backgrounds.**

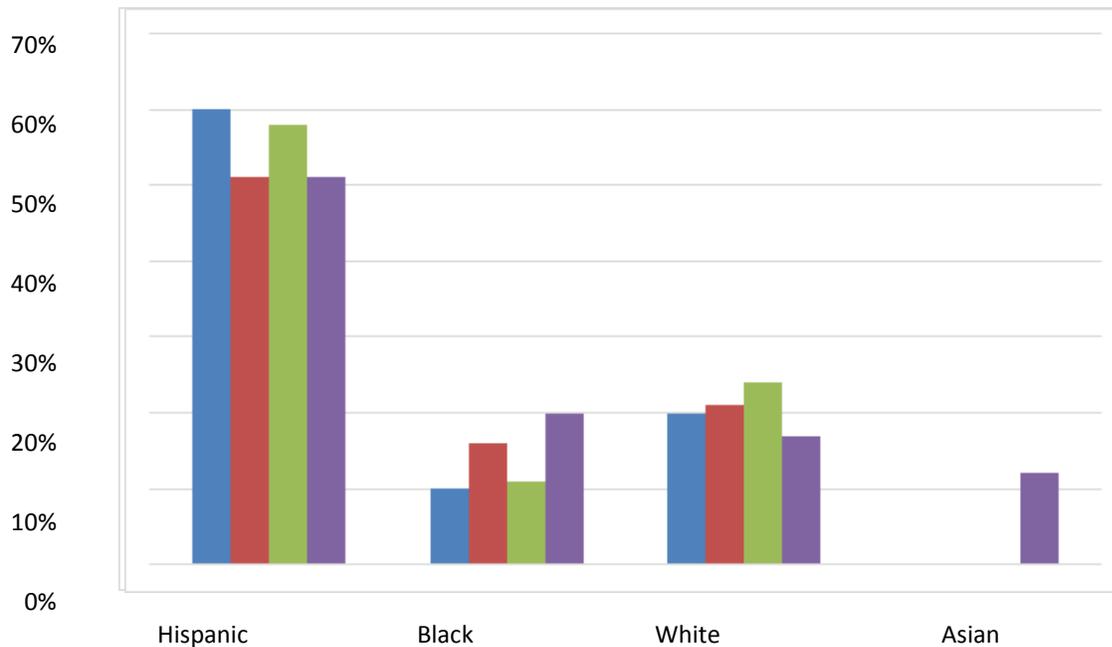
As the United States becomes increasingly diverse, a workforce that reflects this is necessary to deliver high quality culturally sensitive health care. Miami Dade College acknowledges this need and is proud to be a leader in admitting individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Students from diverse backgrounds must still meet the College's rigorous admission criteria and are not given any priority in admission (admissions decisions are made without regard to race, color, religion, creed, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, veteran's status, age or gender). Nevertheless, the college has been successful in admitting diverse students for 18 years.

Each year, the admission committee selects a cohort of students that is culturally diverse and represents the demographic of the community it services. This goal is achieved by promoting the profession to local undergraduate students from disadvantaged and culturally diverse backgrounds. The Program is consistently above national average in its enrollment of under-represented minority students. As demonstrated in recent data from the Class of 2017, the Program has a 83% enrollment of under-represented minority students (51% Hispanic, 20% Black, and 12% Asian).

In addition, the Program provides opportunities to practice cultural competency via an international cultural immersion experience. It is a volunteer humanitarian program made available to the students as an enhancement of their academic experience exposing them to healthcare practices, inter-professional relationships and service learning activities in international settings. This helps enhance the cultural competence, civic engagement, and global education experiences of the students.

## Ethic Background Distribution Class of 2014-2017

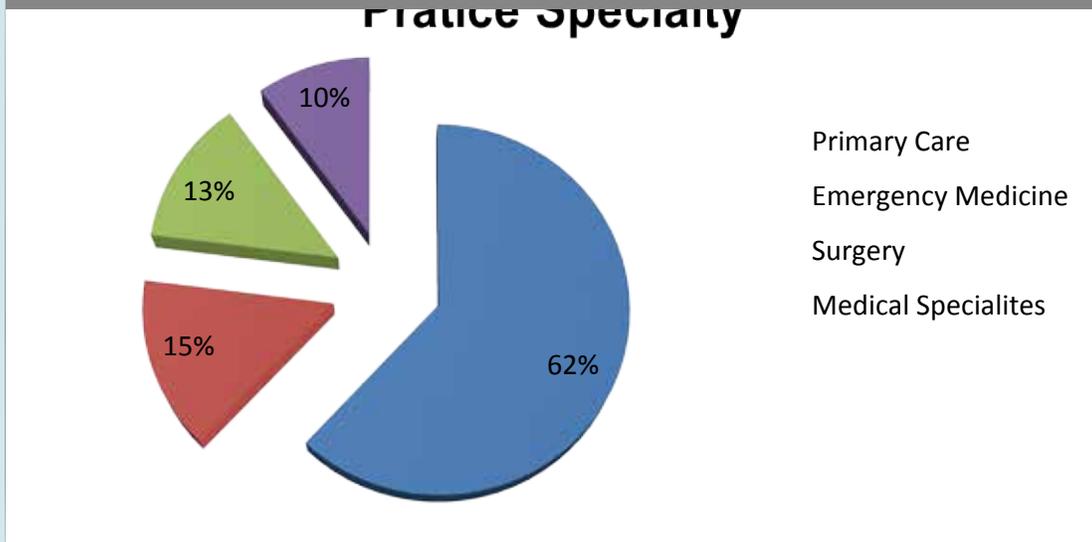


## **2. Prepare physician assistant students to practice in the local South Florida community or local underserved areas.**

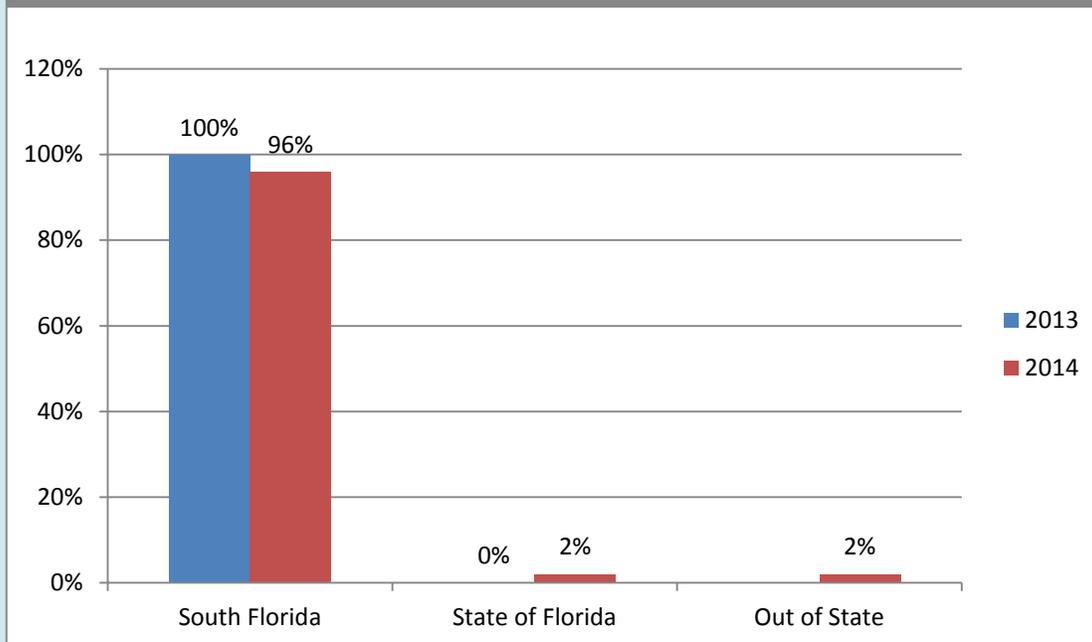
The MDC PA Program strives to educate students who are vested and highly represent the underserved community of South Florida. As reflected in our mission, we are proud of our success in admitting physician assistant students from the diverse cultural, educational, and disadvantaged backgrounds represented in South Florida who then graduate and stay in their local community to practice primary care. The MDC PA program receives funding from HRSA specifically to assist under-represented minority students with disadvantaged backgrounds in pursuing a career as a physician assistant. Within the classes of 2013-2016, twenty-five students per cohort have received HRSA grant assistance.

From the Class of 2013, 2014 and 2015, over 60% of the MDC PA program graduates practice primary care and 96% are employed in the South Florida area.

## Class of 2013 - 2014 Graduates Distribution of Practice Specialty



## Class 2013 - 2014 Geographic Location of Employment



### **3. Offer a curriculum to prepare physician assistant students to enter clinical practice.**

The MDC PA program uses a wide variety of methods to assess student progress and the performance in the curriculum. This ensures student acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary to practice. These include:

- Formative Examinations (multiple-choice examinations, written essays, and collaborative group projects)
- Skill Based Examinations (performing utilizing Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE)
- Clinical simulation laboratory exercises (Standardized patient encounters) and Summative Evaluation (Comprehensive multiple-choice examination and OSCE at the completion of clinical phase)

Students must score 75% or higher on all components of the didactic phase in order to enter into the clinical phase. Upon completion of the clinical phase, the students take a comprehensive written examination as well as skill based evaluation using standardized patient scenarios to determine their readiness to enter clinical practice. Those students who do not achieve a 75% or higher are required to enter an individualized remediation plan. Upon successful completion of the didactic and clinical phase of the program, the students are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).

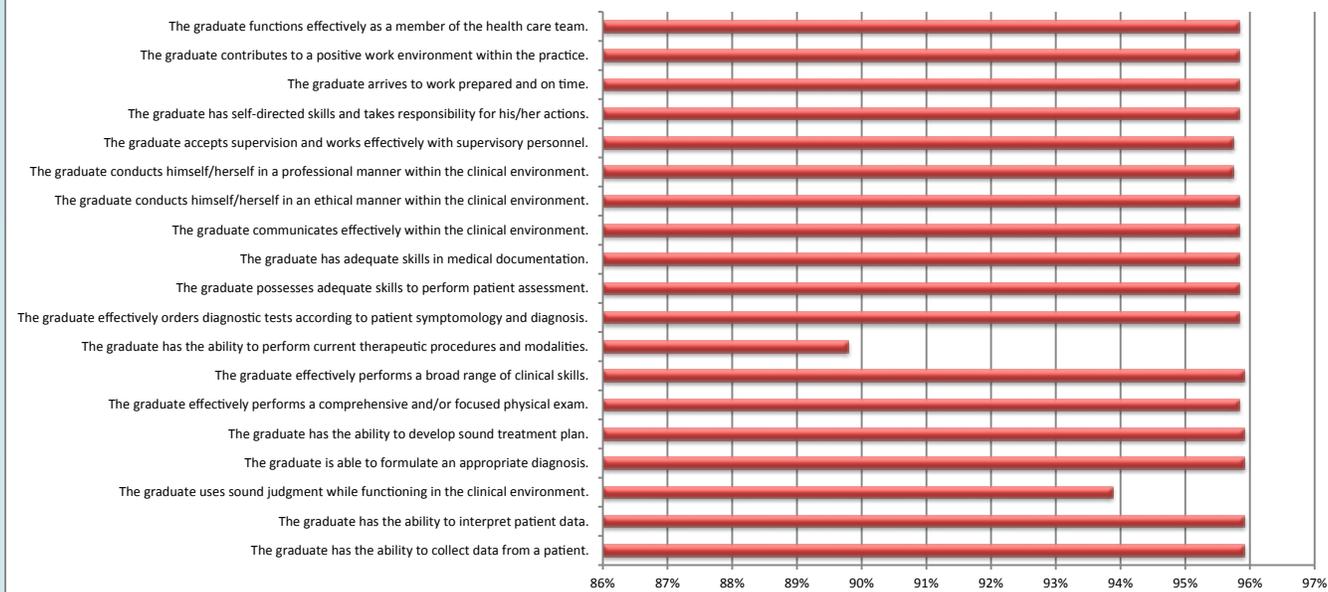
At this time, the Program has an 93% first time PANCE pass rate. Although the first time PANCE pass rate is slightly below national average, the Program has a 97% pass rate of graduates overall (includes repeat takers) and graduates are successful in clinical practice.

In an effort to meet and exceed the national average of first time PANCE pass rate, the Program embarked on a paradigm shift. A thorough review and analyses of its PANCE score data revealed identifiable areas in the program's curriculum format and course sequencing that could be enhanced. This review allowed the program to adjust the curriculum format and implement course sequencing strategies that are essential for students' success on the PANCE. As a result, PANCE pass rates have risen from 88% in 2015 to 94% in 2016. Additional outcomes will be reported in the 2018 Program's Goals Report.

MDC PA program students excel in the clinical setting. The 2013-2015, MDC PA program employer survey (utilizing a Likert scale) revealed the following:

- ▶ 100% positive responses ("Agree" or Strongly Agree) to the quality of graduates entering clinical practice.
- ▶ 95% positive responses ("Agree" or Strongly Agree) to performing competent history and physical examinations, collecting data from patients, establishing differential diagnosis, ability to formulate final diagnosis, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and provide sound therapeutic interventions.
- ▶ 90% positive responses ("Agree" or Strongly Agree ) relate our graduates are well-prepared to treat patients in the clinical environment, establish good relationships with other members of the health care team, and use sound

## 2013 - 2015 Employer Survey Results



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

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. PA students attend Florida Board of Medicine and PA Council meetings on a regular basis and participate in grassroots lobbying in local districts promoting the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants legislative agenda. In addition, students participate in “Legislative Days on the Hill” annually.

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), the students participate and organize a community outreach project which provides disease prevention and health promotion to the migrant worker population. This assists to develop leadership skills and promotes integration into the physician assistant profession.