

# MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

Mercyhurst University  
Department of Physician Assistant Studies  
Program Outcomes Report  
December 10, 2024

**Guided by our vision and core goals the Department of Physician Assistant Studies will use the following as outcome measures and indicators of success in achieving the mission:**

1. Provide curriculum to ensure the necessary knowledge and skills for entry into physician assistant practice

- **Measure:** Preceptor Preparedness Survey of students' preparation for rotations

**Target:** Preceptor Preparedness Survey aggregate rating of 3/5 on a Likert scale

**Meeting Goal:** The 2024 cohort received an average aggregate Likert rating above goal at 4.94/5.00

- The overall average for all graduates, for all rotations was 4.87/5.00

- **Measure:** End of Rotation Examination (EORE) scores

**Target:** Average norm-adjusted score on all EOREs per cohort of 80% or above

**Meeting Goal:** The 2024 cohort's combined average of norm-adjusted EORE scores is above goal at 85.22%

- The overall average for all graduates, for all End of Rotation Exams was 86.88%

2. Prepare graduates to enter the physician assistant workforce

- **Measure:** Alumni Survey

**Target:** Alumni Survey of the program and the graduate's preparedness to enter the workforce conducted within 1 year post-graduation with an aggregate rating of 3/5 using a Likert scale

**Meeting Goal:** The 2023 cohort's average of the Overall Rating was 4.53/5.00

- The overall average for all alumni surveys was 4.52/5.00

3. Encourage social awareness and service to the community

- **Measure:** Student and faculty participation in service

**Target:** Graduating Class of 2024: 100% of students volunteer 20 service hours by graduation for a combined total of 600 hours (with a graduating cohort of 30)

**Meeting Goal:** As of May 10, 2024, the class has exceeded a combined total of 664 hours of community service. (cohort of 27) Locations include: Erie Zoo, Erie Humane Society, Second Harvest Food Bank, & MS Society

**Target:** Graduating Class of 2025: 100% of students volunteer 20 service hours by graduation for a combined total of 600 hours (with a graduating cohort of 30)

**Meeting Goal:** As of Fall 2024, the class has exceeded a combined total of 635 hours of community service. (cohort of 27) Locations include: Second Harvest Food Bank, Erie Humane Society, Autism Society of NWPA, Erie Zoo, and American Red Cross

**Target:** Faculty: 100% of faculty participate in service annually

**Meeting Goal:** Each faculty member has participated in service activities.

Locations include: MS Walk, American Academy of Physician Assistants, Physician Assistant Education Association, Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants, United Way of Erie

- The DPAS has always met our service hour goals and continues to meet the goals with each class and all faculty.

4. Inspire leadership in the profession and community

- **Measure:** Tracking of student and faculty leadership and professional development

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**Target:** Students: 100% participate in leadership and/or professional development

**Meeting Goal:** DPAS offers students at least one student leadership opportunity

## Mercyhurst Physician Assistant Student Society (MPASS)

	<b>Graduating Class of 2024:</b>	<b>Graduating Class of 2025:</b>
President:	Lauren Mussig	Marisa Barrett
Vice President:	Hannah Mason	Lexi Tucker
Secretary:	Kayli Rodgers	Hannah Syglowski
Treasurer:	Alexa Arbogast	Alexis Gray
AOR:	Ray Hansen	Jimmy Kantor
State Chapter Student Representative (SCSR):	Kristen Sacchitella	Julia Shearn
Outreach Chair:	Charles Steele	Alexa Tucker
Diversity and Inclusion Officer (DIO):	Natalie Barcinas	Anmol Choudhury
Fundraising Committee:	Chair Emily Gordon	Chair Zoe Kyriakopoulos
Clothing Committee:	Chair Natalia Freitas Cordeiro	Chair Megan Reese

**Meeting Goal:** Graduating Class of 2024: 100% attended a state PA CME conference

**Meeting Goal:** Graduating Class of 2025: 100% attended a state PA CME conference

- The DPAS has always met our student leadership and/or professional development goals and continues to meet the goals with the current class.

**Target:** Faculty: 100% participate in leadership and/or professional development

**Meeting Goal:** Please see below

Robin Newhook, MPAS, PA-C

- Recipient of a Physician Assistant Leadership Initiative in Oral Health grant from the nccPA Health Foundation, 2015-2016, Extension of the Oral Health grant through the Carpe Diem Academy grant award funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education 16-17; 17-18; 18-19; 19-20.
- Participant in the AAPA 2023 Call of Graders and Call for Presentation, 2022, and the AAPA 2024 Call of Graders and Call for Presentation, 2023.
- MPASS faculty advisor 2015-2019, 2023-2024.

Megan Dougan, MPAS, PA-C

- Dougan, M. (2015) *Pituitary Adenomas*. Podium presentation at the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants 40<sup>th</sup> Annual CME Conference: October 24. Erie, PA.
- Dougan, M. (2020) *Shots for Diabetes-Hold the Lime and the Salt* Podium presentation at the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants 45<sup>th</sup> Annual CME Conference: October 22. Erie, PA.
- Member of PAEA Internal Medicine and Family Medicine Exam Development Board, 2018- present.
- Wilke, C., Dowdle, B., and Dougan, M. Leaving Diabetes Behind: Look How Far We Have Come. *Physician Assistant Clinics*. 2020 April; 5(2):273-276.
- Dougan, M. (2024) *PANREview of Thyroid Disease*. Podium presentation at the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants 40<sup>th</sup> Annual CME Conference: October 26. Erie, PA.

Marcie Fitzgerald, MPAS, PA-C

- Recipient of a Physician Assistant Leadership Initiative in Oral Health grant from the nccPA Health Foundation, 2015-2016, Extension of the Oral Health grant through the Carpe Diem Academy grant award funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education AY 16-17; 17-18; 18-19; 19-20.
- Fitzgerald, M. & Turner, S. (2016). Angelman Syndrome in an Infant Boy. *JAAPA*, September.

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- Member of AAPA Distinguished Fellow Applicant Review Committee, 2016-present.
- Board of Trustees, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Keystone Chapter, 2019-present.
- Healthcare Provider Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Keystone Chapter, 2019-present.
- Member of PSPA Speaker Selection Committee and Education Committee, 2019-present.
- Fitzgerald, M. (2020) *Pediatric Orthopedics – From Flat Heads to Funky Feet and Curvy Spines in Between* Podium presentation at the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants 45<sup>th</sup> Annual CME Conference: October 21. Erie, PA.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice mini-grant from the Mercyhurst University's Office of Mission, May 2022.
- Fitzgerald, M. (2023) *Pediatric Orthopedics- From Flat Heads to Funky Feet and Curvy Spines in Between*. Podium presentation at the American Academy of Physician Assistants Annual CME Conference: May 21. Nashville, TN.
- Fitzgerald, M. (2024) *Pediatric Orthopedics- From Flat Heads to Funky Feet and Curvy Spines in Between*. Podium presentation at the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants Annual CME Conference: September 24. Chesapeake Bay, MD.

Katelyn Ponsoll, MHS, PA-C

- JAAPA Peer Reviewer. 2021-Present.
- Participant in the AAPA 2022 Call for Graders and Call for Presentations, 2021-2023.
- Advocate for changes to state legislation for the PA profession with Capitol Hill Days, 2021.
- Member of PSPA Speaker Selection Committee and Education Committee, 2021-present.

Kara Richardson, MPAS, PA-C

- Member of PSPA Speaker Selection Committee, December 2022-present.
- Member of the PSPA Speaker Presentation Naming Committees, January 2023.
- Member of the PSPA Conference Planning Committee, December 2022-present.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice mini grant from the Mercyhurst University's Office of Mission, Fall 2023.
- Writer and Leader of PAEA Surgery End of Rotation Rapid Item Writing Workgroup, September 2023.
- Completed Applying Functional Medicine in Clinical Practice Online course, May-August 2023.
- Inducted into Pi Alpha National Honor Society for Physician Assistants, May 2023.

- The DPAS faculty has always met our leadership and/or professional development goals.

5. Foster an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion to prepare students to become culturally competent providers

**Measure:** Program Outcome Responses to questions regarding diversity and inclusion as included in the Student Exit, Alumni, Preceptor Evaluation of the Program, and Faculty Program Evaluation surveys

**Target:** Program Outcomes Responses aggregate rating of 3/5 on a Likert scale:

**Meeting Goal:** Students, alumni, preceptors, and faculty all rate our ability to foster an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion to prepare students to become culturally competent providers as consistently greater than 3/5 on a Likert scale.

**Student Exit Survey:** Class of 2024 5<sup>th</sup> goal- *Foster an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion to prepare students to become culturally competent providers*

Class of 2024 = 4.64/5.00 and Overall 4.57/5.00

**Alumni Survey:** Class of 2023 5<sup>th</sup> goal- *Foster an Environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion to prepare students to become culturally competent providers* Class of 2023= 4.5/5

**Preceptor Evaluation of the Program:** Class of 2024 5<sup>th</sup> goal- *Foster an Environment of Diversity and Inclusion to prepare students to become culturally competent providers* Class of 2024= 4.67/5 and

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overall is 4.64/5.00

**Faculty Program Evaluation:** A1.11 a-d-*The sponsoring institute is committed to diversity and inclusion through defining its goal and supporting the program by implementing recruiting/retaining strategies for diverse students and faculty as well as by providing resources to support diversity and inclusion.* The aggregate rating for 2024= A1.11a 5/5; A1.11b 4.82/5; A1.11c 4.82/5; and A1.11d 5/5

**Measure:** Student and faculty participation in diversity, equity, and inclusion activities

**Target:** Students: 100% participate in diversity, equity, and inclusion activities

**Meeting Goal:** Each student from the Class of 2024 and the Class of 2025 has participated in diversity, equity, and inclusion activities such as:

Participation in a “*Diversity and Inclusion*” discussion led by Jessica Hubert M. Ed Diversity and Inclusion Multicultural and Inclusion Coordinator of the Campus Involvement Center during the DPAS Summer Orientation Day.

Students participated in diversity, equity, inclusion activities during MPASS meetings facilitated by the MPASS Diversity and Inclusion (DIO) Officers.

During PA 620 Thesis Guidance students participated in “*Transgender Care for the Primary Care Setting*” by Maureen Grady PA-C Metabolic Disease Associates, in “*The Impact of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) on the Physical and Mental Health of Women*” by Patricia J. Stubber, PhD, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System (MHEDS) Course, and in Journal Club discussing Recalibrating the Use of Race in Medical Research by John P. A. Ioannidis, MD, DSc; [Neil R. Powe, MD, MPH, MBA](#); [Clyde Yancy, MD, MSc](#). JAMA January 25, 2021 Volume 325, Number 7 and Race and Genetic Ancestry in Medicine-A Time for Reckoning with Racism. Debra Malina, Ph.D., Editor. New England Journal of Medicine. February 4, 2021 Volume 384.

During PA 550 Special Topics in Medicine course students participate in a discussion regarding the PA AHEC Scholars Program facilitated by Jamie Murphy, Executive Director Northwestern Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (AHEC), to better prepare students to care for rural, underserved and vulnerable populations.

Additionally, students participated in a Cultural Competency in Healthcare activity focusing on food deserts during PA 695 Summative Evaluation Experience course.

**Target:** Faculty: 100% participate in diversity, equity, and inclusion activities

**Meeting Goal:** Each faculty member has participated in diversity, equity, and inclusion activities such as: All faculty members are part of the DPAS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee which regularly reviews our admissions policy and all policies/processes to ensure inclusivity as well as recruitment/retention of diverse candidates. Faculty members Marcie Fitzgerald, Megan Dougan, and Katelyn Ponsoll successfully wrote and received a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice mini-grant from the Mercyhurst University’s Office of Mission. All faculty regularly attend the DPAS Lunch and Learn Series on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

The DPAS students and faculty are meeting our student and faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion goal.