

Milligan University Physician Assistant (PA) Program Mission:

To prepare physician assistants as servant leaders who provide clinical expertise while making positive contributions to the profession, the communities they practice in, and society as a whole.

Milligan University PA Program Goals:

The program's benchmark for meeting its goals is a 3.0 out of 5 on the program or course evaluations that are described below.

The Milligan University Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program goals are designed to educate physician assistants who:

Goal #1: Provide competent and compassionate health care to diverse individuals and populations across the lifespan

Data: Clinical year students have scored an average of 4.95 out of 5 on the preceptor evaluation interpersonal communication skills category throughout the entirety of their clinical year (eight total preceptor evaluations per student). The interpersonal communication category assesses the student's sensitivity to cultural, age, and disability issues. Students are also assessed on their ability to conduct respectful interviews, with empathy and sensitivity.

Examples of program-specific ways in which this goal is met:

- Required clinical rotations encompass every age group from pediatrics to geriatrics.
- PAS 512, Interpersonal Communication in Health Care, emphasizes the role of excellent communication skills in providing competent and compassionate health care to diverse individuals across the lifespan.
- Throughout the curriculum, students complete 11 Objective Structured Physical Examinations (OSCEs) in which they are assessed not only on their medical and clinical competence, but also on their compassion in interacting with the patient.
- Students must complete a list of competencies during their clinical year that encompass individuals and populations across the lifespan.

Goal #2: Effectively interact and communicate with all health professionals, patients and patients' families

Data:

1. Clinical year students have scored an average of 4.95 out of 5 on the preceptor evaluation interpersonal communication skills category throughout the entirety of their clinical year (eight total preceptor evaluations per student).

2. Clinical year students have scored an average of 4.97 out of 5 on the preceptor evaluation professionalism skills category throughout the entirety of their clinical year (eight total preceptor evaluations per student). Students are assessed on their demonstration of a respectful attitude and appropriately working with preceptors, staff, and patients at all times.

Examples of program-specific ways in which this goal is met:

- Clinical year students are evaluated on their communication skills and professionalism by their preceptor in all eight clinical rotations.
- PAS 512, Interpersonal Communication in Health Care, teaches students to communicate with health professionals, patients and patients' families.
- Throughout the curriculum, students complete 11 Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) in which they are assessed not only on their medical and clinical competence, but also on their compassion in interacting with the patient.

Goal #3: Engage in life-long learning to maintain professional quality

Data:

1. Students complete a Capstone Project as part of PAS 760, Summative Evaluation, in which they complete a research paper and presentation. An important component of the Capstone Project is that students must display their ability to interpret and apply evidence-based medicine and properly convey their findings to others. 100% of students that have completed this project have received a passing grade.

2. Clinical year students have scored an average of 4.85 out of 5 on their preceptor evaluation practice-based learning category throughout the entirety of their clinical year (eight total preceptor evaluations per student). The practice-based learning category evaluates the student's ability to locate, appraise and integrate evidence from scientific studies related to patients' health problems. Preceptors also score the student's application of knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical studies and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness. Finally, this category assesses the student's demonstration of initiative to critically analyze, self-assess, and to improve patient care through outside readings.

Examples of program-specific ways in which this goal is met:

- Students complete evidence-based research projects in PAS 520, Public Health/Preventative Medicine, and PAS 535, Evidence-Based Medicine/Research Methods.
- Faculty demonstrate this by continuing to be active in state and national PA organizations including, but not limited to Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), and Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants (TAPA).
- Multiple program faculty members have spoken at conferences for TAPA, AAPA, and PAEA.
- Multiple program faculty members have authored and/or edited multiple articles, textbook chapters, and textbooks.

Goal #4: Demonstrate competence in social, legal, and ethical issues related to healthcare practice

Data:

1. Clinical year students have scored an average score of 4.81 out of 5 on their preceptor evaluation medical-legal documentation category throughout the entirety of their clinical year (eight total preceptor evaluations per student).

Examples of program-specific ways in which this goal is met:

- Students learn about diverse social, legal, and ethical issues in PAS 513 Health Care Systems and Ethics during their first semester of the didactic phase of the program.

Goal #5: Apply evidence-based medicine into all areas of practice

Data: Clinical year students have scored an average of 4.85 out of 5 on their preceptor evaluation practice-based learning category throughout the entirety of their clinical year (eight total preceptor evaluations per student).

Examples of program-specific ways in which this goal is met:

- Students complete a Capstone research project and presentation as part of their summative evaluation. There is an emphasis on evidence-based medicine in this assignment.
- All program faculty that are PAs continue to work clinically one day per week and maintain their CME requirements and certification by NCCPA.
- Program faculty are involved in regional and national presentations as well as editing and writing manuscripts in various media formats.

Goal #6: Demonstrate the ability to integrate practice with a Christian worldview

Data: Students complete a Christian Worldview writing assignment as part of PAS 760, Summative Evaluation. 100% of students that have completed this assignment have received a passing score.

Examples of program-specific ways in which this goal is met:

- Students participate in the care of patients at Providence Medical Clinic, a free clinic, with program faculty during their didactic phase.
- Students in all classes have participated in Habitat for Humanity and Kids Against Hunger service projects.
- Students participate in providing sports physicals for Milligan University athletes
- Students take PAS 510, Christ and Calling in Healthcare, during their first semester as a foundation to their education and then write a reflection paper during their clinical year prior to graduation.
- A Christian Medical and Dental Association chapter has been formed at the Milligan University PA Program.

Students have received the following scholarships for their academic and personal achievements:

- Tennessee PA Foundation J.C. Carey Memorial Scholarship (two students)
- Veteran's Caucus Scholarship
- Health Professions Scholarship Program
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program
- Leuva Patidar Samaj (LPS) Scholarship
- Appalachian Health Fellowship