

Delaware Valley University's (DeVal) first-time PANCE pass rate for the inaugural cohort did not meet the Physician Assistant Studies (PA) program goal of 90% or better. National trends for first cohorts at provisionally accredited programs have shown that first-cohort pass rates are generally the lowest, followed by improvements in subsequent cohorts.

In response, DeVal's PA program implemented several action items including, but not limited to, the following:

- Conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the program's admission practices and the academic preparation of incoming students
- Reviewing and refining didactic lecture content to ensure alignment with best practices and exam expectations
- Expanding case-based learning, critical thinking exercises, and simulation and incorporating these activities earlier in the didactic phase of the program
- Requiring mandatory remediation for students scoring below program-defined benchmarks based on correlations with PANCE scores, on PACKRAT, End-of-Rotation (EOR), and End-of-Curriculum (EOC) examinations
- Increasing the required passing score on EOR and EOC examinations
- Providing additional faculty training and development on effective student remediation strategies to enhance learning outcomes
- Including additional targeted didactic lectures during clinical phase of the program
- Purchasing board review software provided to all clinical phase students
- Implementing sessions focused on test-taking skills and effective study habits during the mandatory board review course

Many of these changes have resulted in significant improvements in academic performance for currently enrolled students. DeVal maintains its goal of a PANCE pass rate of 90% or better for subsequent cohorts.

DeVal and its PA program are grateful that students in the inaugural cohort (Class of 2024) entrusted DeVal with their PA education and are proud of all they have accomplished. Graduates of the Class of 2024 have been successful in securing employment in multiple specialties and geographic locations, and consistent with the program's mission, are excelling in service to their communities.