



**SUNY**  
**DOWNSTATE**  
Health Sciences University

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM



GOALS, INDICATORS AND  
OUTCOMES

Updated February 2020



# SUNY DOWNSTATE Health Sciences University

## **MISSION, VISION, GOALS, EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY, PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND BELIEFS**

*State University of New York (SUNY) and Downstate Health Science University*

### **THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

The mission of the State University of New York is, proudly expressed in its motto: —To Learn, To Search, To Serve! The mission of the state university system shall be, to provide to the people of New York, educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population in a complete range of academic, professional and vocational postsecondary programs including such additional activities in pursuit of these objectives as are necessary or customary. These services and activities shall be offered through a geographically distributed comprehensive system of diverse campuses which shall, have differentiated and designated missions designed to provide a comprehensive program of higher education, to meet the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students and to address local, regional and state needs and goals.

### **THE SUNY DOWNSTATE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY**

#### **Mission Statement**

"SUNY Downstate is the sole academic medical center located in the heart of one of our nation's largest, most ethnically diverse, working-class urban communities. With our schools of higher education, our goal is to train the next generation of physicians, nurses, health-care professionals and researchers serving our community and New York State. Through our research facilities, our mission is to advance the medical sciences to the community at large. Through our hospital and education affiliates, our mission is to serve the health-care needs of the 2.6 million residents of Brooklyn and Staten Island. Through graduate and continuing medical education, our mission is to provide lifelong learning opportunities for our physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals.

### **SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the School of Health Professions is to educate health care professionals in the delivery of excellent health care service by developing their scientific competence and fostering their humane spirit. The School seeks to accomplish this by providing a challenging and supportive atmosphere for learning that offers opportunities for structured experiences as well as independent inquiry. The faculty contributes to knowledge in allied health through advancements in clinical practice, scholarly activities, basic and applied research. Collaboration is emphasized among students, faculty, clinicians and professionals in health care and related disciplines. Students are prepared for professional leadership roles through course work, professional and campus activities. The School fosters ongoing professional growth by sponsoring continuing education opportunities in all disciplines. The School strives to serve the urban community in which it is located by providing health services and education to the population.

## **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the SUNY Downstate Medical Center Physician Assistant Program is to educate and graduate highly qualified, professionally competent and culturally sensitive Physician Assistants who can provide quality patient care and readily respond to the evolving healthcare needs of patients in America's urban population.

### **PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The goals and objectives of the SUNY Downstate Medical Center Physician Assistant Program is tailored to ensure that our graduates attain all the competencies required of Physician Assistant graduates, for entry to professional practice. Below are the areas of expected competencies for the Physician Assistant graduate:

#### **MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE**

- Appropriately use history and physical findings and diagnostic studies to formulate a differential diagnosis
- Identify signs and symptoms of medical conditions and be able to select, perform and interpret therapeutic, diagnostic and lab studies.
- Perform physical examinations appropriate to the clinical situation and patient population
- Provide appropriate care for patients with chronic conditions
- Identify medical, surgical, psychosocial and emergent problems, demonstrating an understanding of etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathology process and epidemiology.
- manage general medical and surgical conditions to include understanding the indications, contraindications, side effects, interactions and adverse reactions of pharmacologic agents and other relevant treatment modalities, prescribing Pharmacotherapeutics within the scope of local prescriptive authority.

#### **INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

- Create and sustain a therapeutically and ethically sound relationship with patients.
- Use effective listening, nonverbal, explanatory, questioning and writing skills.
- Record and present data in appropriate, accurate and adequate oral and written formats, which satisfy medical, legal, quality and financial requirements.
- Demonstrate and apply an understanding of human behavior
- Work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group

#### **PATIENT CARE**

- Demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families.
- Accurately and effectively obtain historical information, and provide information to patients in sensitive and appropriate ways.
- Counsel and educate patients and their families, choosing the appropriate level of comprehension and sensitivity.
- Develop and implement patient management plans, and monitor and evaluate patient progress accordingly
- Make informed clinical judgments about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, considering limitations of common procedures, up-to-date scientific evidence, patient preferences and information.
- Competently perform medical, surgical and emergency procedures, including the performance of life-saving interventions in emergent situations.
- Work effectively with physicians and other health professionals to provide patient-centered, continuous care.
- Provide health education and health care services aimed at preventing health problems, enabling normal growth and development and maintaining health, considering challenges of daily living.

#### **PROFESSIONALISM**

- Demonstrate an understanding of legal and regulatory requirements
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to issues of patients' age, gender, disabilities and culture.
- Maintain current knowledge of community health provision to enable accurate and appropriate referral.
- Show a commitment to accountability – to patients, society and the profession.
- Maintain professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers, recognizing their contributions in the overall delivery of health care.
- Be committed to excellence and ongoing professional development, using critical engagement with medical literature and self-reflection as a component of lifelong learning.
- Remain abreast of current issues affecting PA Practice
- Demonstrate a commitment to the highest ethical and professional principles, including but not limited to issues of provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices.

## PRACTICE BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

- Locate, appraise and integrate evidence from the medical literature related to their patient's health and medical problems
- Understand the relationship between a population of patients and the larger population from which they are drawn.
- Recognize and appropriately address gender, cultural, cognitive, emotional, social and fiscal conditions as they impact the patients care, recovery and health maintenance.
- Recognize one's gaps and limitations in medical knowledge and social understanding relative to direct patient care.

## SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE

- Be able to integration information technology into clinical decision making to support patient care decisions and patient education.
- Understand how to interact effectively with members of the health care team, in a variety of settings and disciplines, capitalizing on the contributions of each member team in the provision of quality patient care
- Understand the health care delivery and finance systems, including funding and payment systems that provide coverage for patient care and the importance of appropriate coding of patient encounters
- Be able to promote a safe environment for patient care through understanding the systems-based factors that negatively impact patient care reduction of medical errors.

### Program Goals and Outcomes

- Regain and maintain full ARC-PA accreditation
- Strengthen diversity of student body by recruiting and admitting a very qualified and diverse cohort of students
- The goals of the program are to provide the academic and clinical foundations for primary care Physician Assistants;
- Educate and graduate highly qualified, professionally competent and culturally sensitive Physician Assistants
- Improve students overall academic experience
- Increase access to quality patient care beginning with New Yorkers living in one of Americas largest urban centers and beyond.

### PROGRAM GOAL:

Regain and maintain full accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA).

At its **September 2019** meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) placed the **State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center on **Accreditation-Probation** status until its next review in **September 2021**.

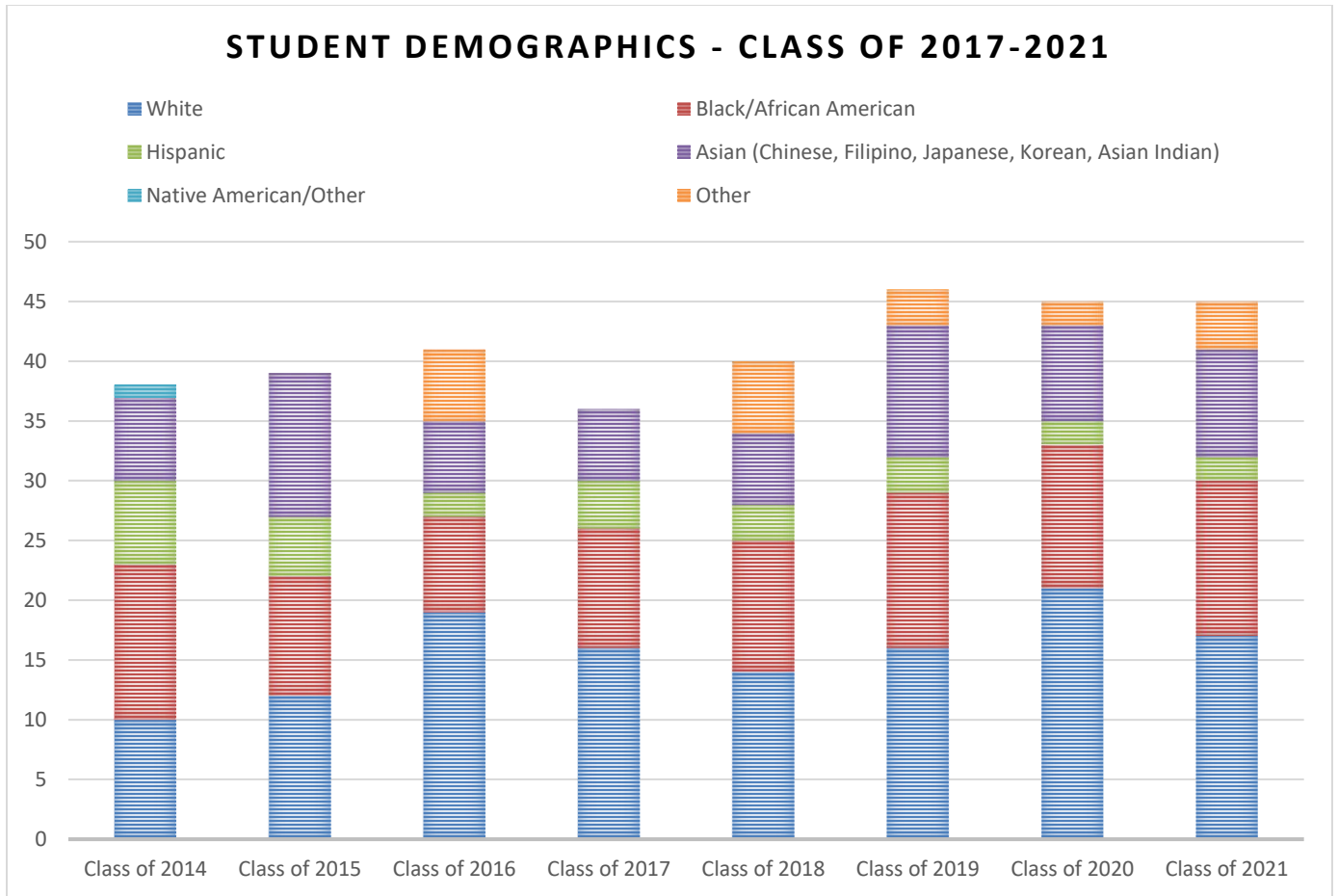
Probation is a temporary status of accreditation conferred when a program does not meet the Standards and when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened. Once placed on probation, programs that still fail to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and/or risk having their accreditation withdrawn.

The SUNY Downstate program is currently engaged in vigorous efforts in addressing the findings of the Commission and providing proof of compliance with all the required standards of accreditation. The program is also using this process to update and strengthen all aspects of its administrative and academic processes.

**PROGRAM GOAL:**

Strengthen the diversity of our student body by recruiting and admitting very qualified and diverse cohorts of students.

**OUTCOMES:** Our student body reflects the rich diversity of New York City, as evidenced by the graph below.



SUNY Downstate Physician Assistant Program Admission Data			
Cohort	Number Enrolled	Average Science GPA	Average Overall GPA
2014 - 2016	41	3.4	3.44
2015 - 2017	36	3.51	3.47
2016 - 2018	35	3.51	3.45
2017 - 2019	45	3.53	3.5
2018 - 2020	45	3.59	3.48
2019 - 2021	45	3.68	3.67

**OUTCOMES:** The average science and overall GPAs for the last five cohorts, are a combined reflection of our admissions standards and the strength of our applicant pool.

**PROGRAM GOAL:**

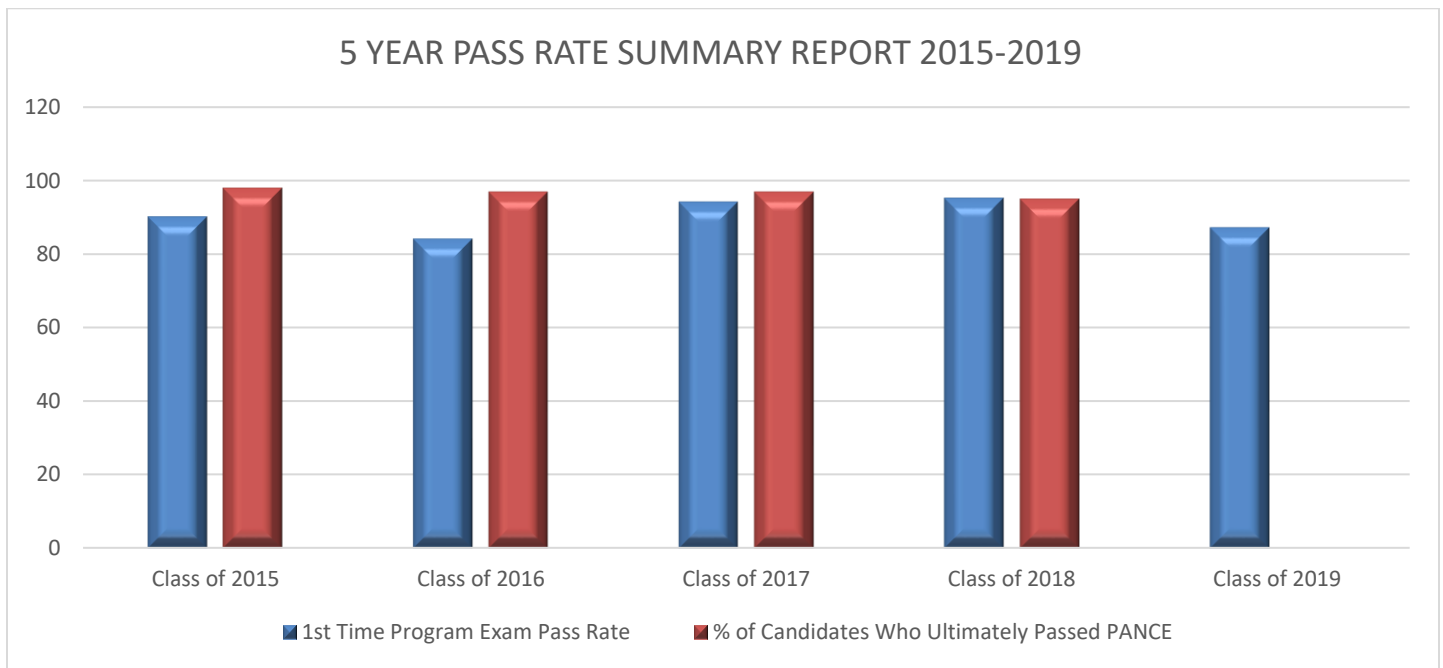
The goal of the SUNY Downstate PA program is to have an absolute attrition rate that is no higher than 5% of any incoming cohort.

**OUTCOMES:**

For the last five recent graduating classes 2015 – 2019, the average attrition rate is 3.08%. The program uses both intra-course and post course remediation to ensure that decelerated students gain the requisite knowledge and skills required for a successful program completion.

**PROGRAM GOAL:**

The goals of the program are to provide the academic and clinical foundations that will lead to success in the Physician Assistant National Certification Exam (PANCE).



**PROGRAM GOAL:**

Our program’s primary goal in the PANCE, is for performance outcomes that mirror or exceed the national average for First Time Test Takers.

**OUTCOMES:**

The program annual board passing rate for first time test takers are close to the national average. The program is diligently making the needed improvement to achieve or exceed its stated goal above.

Our secondary goal is a 100% PANCE board outcome for the entire cohort of students/graduates. The chart above reflects the program success in pushing towards this goal.

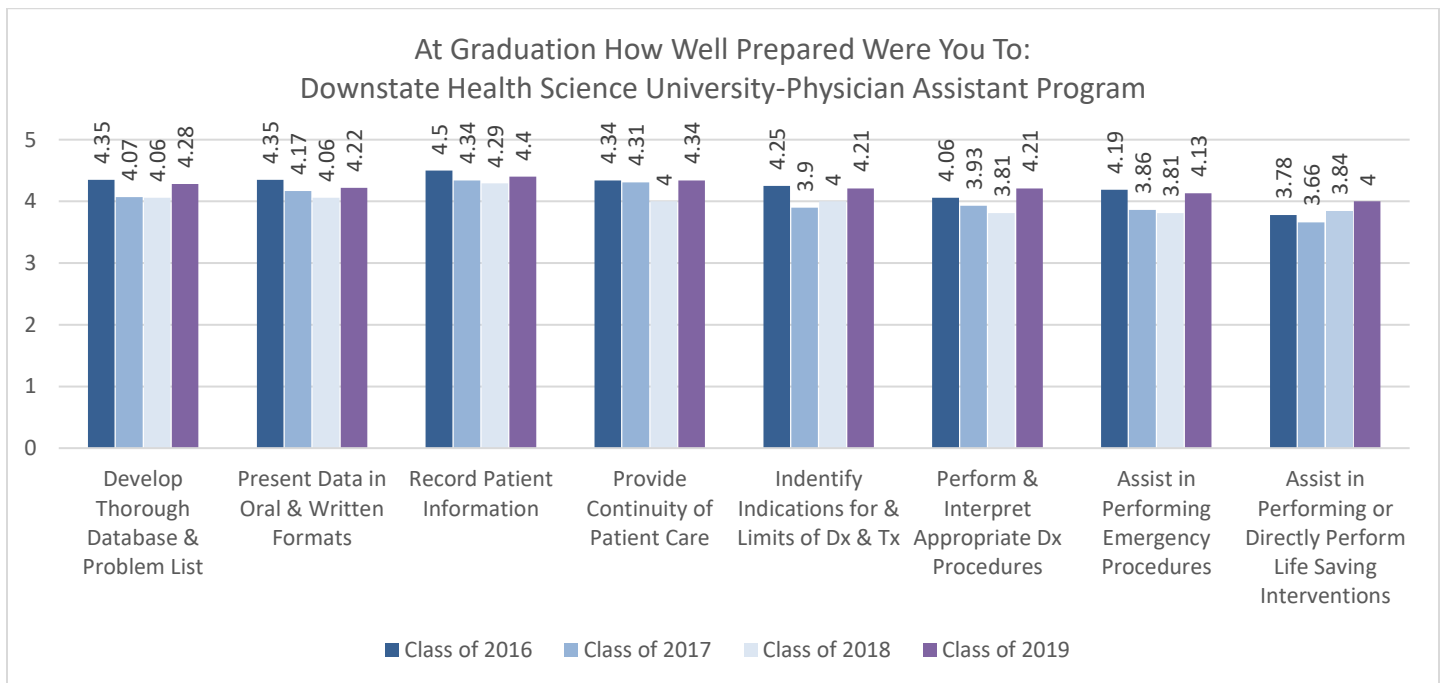
**PROGRAM GOAL:**

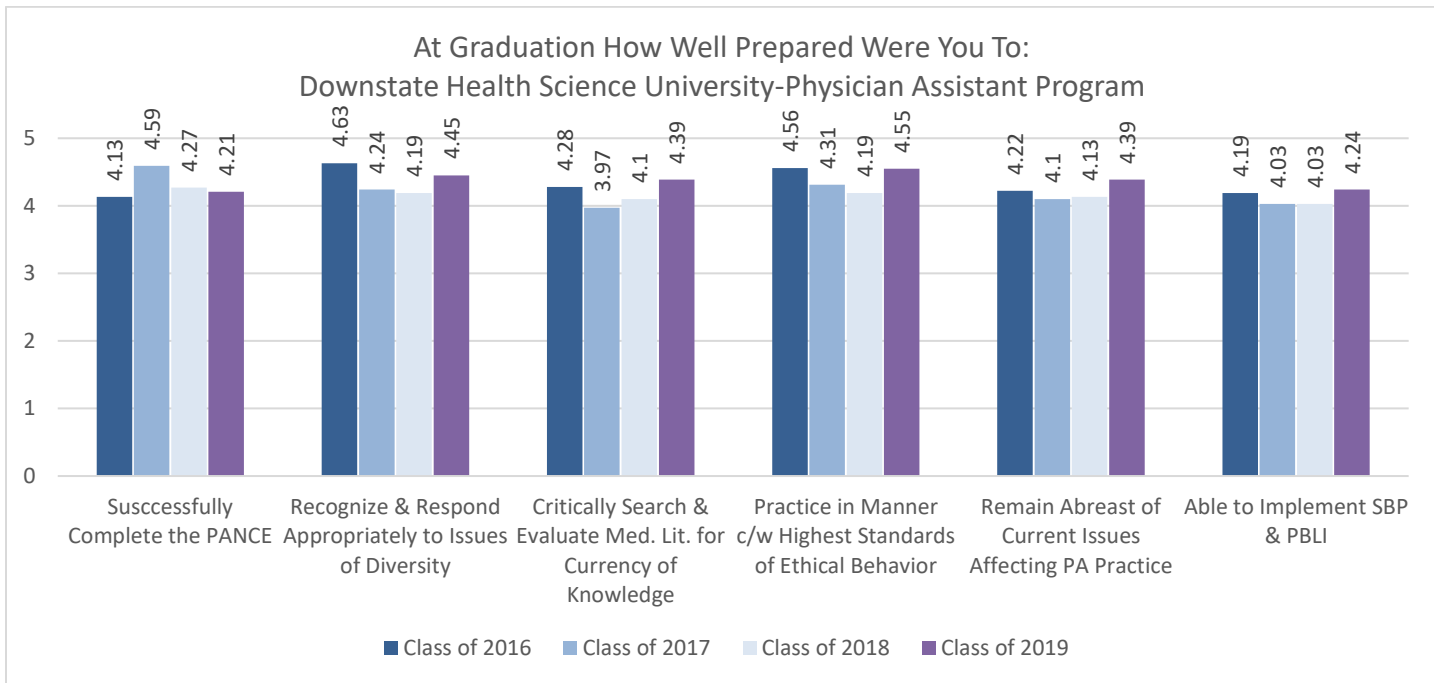
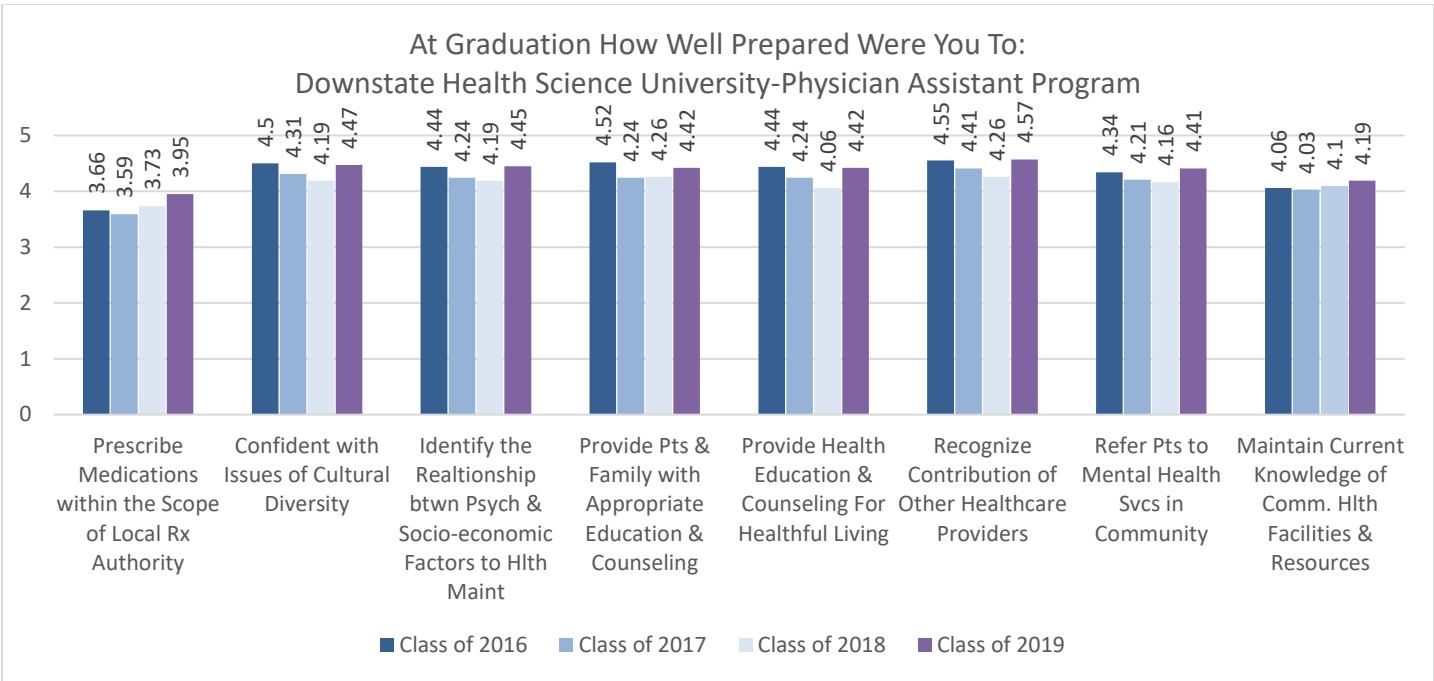
Educate and graduate highly qualified, professionally competent and culturally sensitive Physician Assistants

**OUTCOMES:**

In a survey of three cohorts – Classes of 2014 – 2016, at program completion, the response of the graduates demonstrated their confidence in the attainment of the set competencies required for entry to professional practice.

On a Likert scale of 1-5 with 1=poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Very Good and 5=Excellent ratings. The program's acceptable rating in all the indices below is equal to or greater than 3.0 (Good) on a 5.0 (Excellent) scale. The average ratings for each of the response areas were higher than 3.0 (Good) on a 5.0 (Excellent) in the exit surveys below. They also demonstrate graduate satisfaction with the educational experience at SUNY Downstate PA Program.





**PROGRAM GOAL:**

Increase access to quality patient care beginning with New Yorkers living in one of Americas largest urban centers and beyond.

**OUTCOMES:**

About 80-90% of our graduates begin and continue their professional practice experience in the New York City metro area thereby, immensely contributing to the care of citizens of the State of New York.