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# UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2021

## GOAL 6 for **Physician Assistant Studies**

### LEARNING

**One UND Strategic Plan Goal 6: Meet educational needs of active duty and reserve personnel, veterans, and their families. Goal by 2022, A 25% increase in credit hours earned by active duty military personnel, veterans, and their families.**

**UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 6: The SMHS will determine how we may better meet the educational needs of active duty and reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.**

#### 1. Describe if/how your unit has addressed this goal.

Students enrolled in the PA Program are strongly encouraged to contact the UND Office of Veteran and Military Services to learn of benefits and student support service available to them. The program also pairs students with faculty advisors with military backgrounds for additional reference and support. Further, students with military backgrounds may also have additional requests for scholarship or loan repayment applications or enrollment verifications which are processed expediently through the PA program office (as are all requests, but there are often more detailed reports and documentation requests from military programs such as the Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP)).

#### 2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

Students share comments of appreciation regarding the connections of others on campus, the processing of required forms, and the support of flexibility in clinical experience scheduling as needed.

#### 3. Describe how your unit analyzed these data and what assessments were determined.

As of interest, when analyzing most recent admission data, there were 12% (67/579 applicants) of the applicants indicating military status. Of those, 14% (5/35) were selected as matriculants. With respect to admissions, while there is no formal priority for military status, the program has adjusted the requirement for length of time since health care experience to be more flexible due to military assignments. Through all measures mentioned in this report, the PA Program is continually mindful of honoring the origin of the PA profession when considering admission.

#### 4. Describe how your unit will implement any further changes and what barriers may exist.

It is important to the PA profession to stay respectful of the roots of this career field. Military students are applying to areas within the mission of the UND PA Program and at times, the military even pays for their mileage to and from their clinical sites. The Program is very supportive of requests necessary for documentation to receive such benefits, pairs students with faculty advisors familiar with the military, and connects students to UND resources for students with military affiliation.

It would be interesting to have a school-wide, or at least health sciences approach to recruitment and normalization of data related to recruitment and admissions for students with military affiliation in the future.

**PROVIDE A RATING OF YOUR PROGRESS ON THIS GOAL: ● On Track**

*(additional space for text is provided on page 3 if needed)*

**Additional Information on Goal 6 (optional):**

Insert any additional information here.