
UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2021

GOAL 4 for **Physician Assistant Studies**

LEARNING

One UND Strategic Plan Goal 4: *Enhance discovery at a level consistent with most research-intensive universities (Carnegie R1) Goal by 2022, (\$60) million-internal and external funding sources.*

UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 4: *The SMHS will enhance basic, clinical, and translational health sciences discoveries while focusing on its stated purpose “of discovery of knowledge that benefits the people of this state and enhances the quality of their lives.” The SMHS will support Goal 4 by increasing its extramural funding by 5% per year based on a three-year rolling average.*

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

The Department of PA Studies primarily focuses on teaching within the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree program. The availability of extramural funding at a national level is quite minimal and strongly depends on the current political structure of HRSA.

As far as scholarly activity within the department, faculty are routinely involved in the scholarship of teaching as they assimilate the most updated medical information and clinical practice methods in their lecture material, classroom activities, assignments, case studies, simulation scenarios, and clinical and objective testing.

Faculty continue to work individually with students through their scholarly project as their capstone research component in partial fulfillment of graduation. There were three faculty who presented a total of five sessions at the regional NDAPA Primary Care Conference in May 2021. Another faculty provided content sessions on four occasions to a national organization (PAEA) through virtual means. Another faculty completed a book review, and two other faculty completed 4-5 projects related to work of the DPAS for their doctoral coursework.

In addition, the faculty have created a scholarship group within the department for idea generation, collaboration, and discussion of research ideas. This group has developed draft guidelines for the structure and function of the group which are pending approval. Through the support and collegiality of this group, a faculty member has engaged in and IRB approved study which began last May.

2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

Each year faculty submit their scholarly activity in preparation for the annual evaluation. This is completed by updating their CV, digital measures reporting, and an annual evaluation review with the Chair. Further, scholarly activity is openly discussed at faculty and scholarship group meetings.

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

Scholarship related to teaching is assessed by student performance on assignments, clinical testing, objective testing and national certification exam performance. Currently all students in the Class of 2021 have graduated and all but one has taken the board exam. The current first time pass rate is 93%.

Additional assessment is completed with the annual evaluation process as discussed in #2 above. Further, outside lecture and educational sessions are reviewed by attendee evaluations and have all been quite favorable.

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

The DPAS will continue to engage in meaningful scholarship of teaching and learning in terms of staying up to date with medical literature and best practices evaluated by student performance.

Faculty members will continue to seek out opportunities for national presentation as things open up after the national pandemic.

External funding opportunities are not widely available and/or applicable to PA education. This will continue to be monitored for opportunities as they arise.

Barriers to scholarship and creative activity include time and resource, especially when faculty do not have research backgrounds and have very little percent effort of scholarship.

All things considered, the department feels they are on track with this goal.

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 4 (optional):

Insert any additional information here.