

UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2020

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 affiliated with the military who are enrolled in the PA program are asked to contact the UND Office of Veteran and Military Services to capitalize on benefits and student support available to them. At times, this may involve a three-way conversation between the Veteran and Military Services staff, the program and the student to ensure all are aware of the individual student needs. The program has provided a flexible schedule in terms of clinical experiences in order to meet the needs of active duty and reserve personnel.

In addition, the DPAS has offered advanced trauma training to selected members of the ND National Guard and plans to continue this service as requested (most recent training cancelled due to COVID). This sharing of expertise was facilitated by an alum of the program who was currently working with the ND National Guard. This training related to field trauma best practices has been well received in the past and we hope to continue to offer this type of training moving forward.

2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

While there has been no formal assessment process implemented, students share comments of appreciation regarding the connections provided with others on campus, the support of their work in the military and the flexibility of clinical scheduling when needed.

In addition, a senior officer from the ND National Guard presented the department with a plaque expressing thanks for our work in training members of their trauma team.

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

The DPAS addresses needs of active duty and reserve personnel on an individual basis. Often, there is an intentional pairing of a student in the military with a faculty mentor/advisor with military veteran background to provide additional understanding and support. The DPAS is overall satisfied with efforts related to students in the military and will continue to provide individualized support for students.

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

As stated, the DPAS will continue to support students engaged in military service and provide additional trauma training to selected members of the ND National Guard when requested. PA faculty find this collaboration very meaningful and important to the work of the SMHS.

Additional discussion of a more intentional approach to recruiting students with military background has surfaced within admission and marketing discussions. The thought of reaching out to reserve members, sending a PA faculty representative to speak at drill events and connecting with those currently enrolled in military programs are conversation points that have not come to action as of this time.

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):

Within the DPAS, there is one full-time faculty and one part-time faculty with veteran status. The remaining faculty and staff do not have a working knowledge of military language, requirements or student needs. If the SMHS felt this to be something of interest, additional training to foster a greater understanding of military services would be helpful and ultimately, may provide better service for our students.