

Towson University Physician Assistant Program
Program Goal Two & Benchmarks

Goal 2 — The program will achieve certification outcomes at or above national benchmarks

Mission Alignment: *Evidence-based medicine and readiness for practice.*

ARC-PA 6th Standards: B1.01; B4.01–B4.03

BENCHMARKS

- First-time PANCE pass rate $\geq$ national average for each graduating class.
- Cohort-level PANCE performance on organ systems and task areas meets or exceeds the national mean.

PANCE First-Time Pass Rate Performance

Year	# of Students	# First-Time Pass	TU First-Time Pass Rate	National First-Time Pass Rate
2023	30	28	93%	92%
2024	30	27	90%	92%
2025	20	19	95%	91%

The program met the benchmark for Class of 2023 and 2025, but not the Class of 2024, that each cohort will achieve a First-time PANCE pass rate greater than or equal to the national average for each graduating class. The program plans to continuing monitoring this since no trend has been observed.

Organ System Performance

Class of 2023

Organ System	TU Mean % Correct	National Mean % Correct
Cardiology	83	80
Dermatology	79	80
Endocrine	80	79
EENT	77	76
Gastrointestinal	81	80
Genitourinary	77	79
Hematology	83	79
Infectious Disease	75	74
Musculoskeletal	80	80
Neurology	77	76
Psychiatry	81	83
Pulmonary	83	78
Renal	79	81
Reproductive	72	71

Bolded # = met benchmark

The program met the benchmark in 10/14 (71%) organ systems for the Class of 2023. Three systems were within two percentage points (Renal, Genitourinary, and Psychiatry), and the other was within one percentage point (Dermatology) of the national mean. While this did not meet the program benchmark that each cohort will achieve a Cohort-level PANCE performance on organ systems that meets or exceeds the national mean, the overall performance for the Class of 2023 was strong enough to result in an above average first time PANCE pass rate.

Class 2024

Organ System	TU Mean % Correct	National Mean % Correct
Cardiology	77	77
Dermatology	79	81
Endocrine	80	80
EENT	77	80
Gastrointestinal	81	79
Genitourinary	73	76
Hematology	76	80
Infectious Disease	74	77
Musculoskeletal	72	75
Neurology	71	75
Psychiatry	79	79
Pulmonary	76	76
Renal	81	78
Reproductive	79	81

Bolded # = met benchmark

The program met the benchmark in 6/14 (43%) organ systems for the Class of 2024. Two systems were within four percentage points (Hematology and Neurology), four systems were within three percentage points (EENT, Genitourinary, Infectious Disease, and Musculoskeletal), and the last two systems were within two percentage points (Dermatology and Reproductive) of the national mean. While this did not meet the program benchmark that each cohort will achieve a Cohort-level PANCE performance on organ systems that meets or exceeds the national mean, the overall performance for the Class of 2024 was strong enough to result in a reasonable first time PANCE pass rate within two percent of the national average. It is notable that Dermatology and Genitourinary systems performed below benchmark for two years running and may be a concerning trend. The program will continue to monitor.

Class of 2025

Organ System	TU Mean % Correct	National Mean % Correct
Cardiology	77	78
Dermatology	79	77
Endocrine	81	80
EENT	77	77
Gastrointestinal	78	80
Genitourinary	84	79
Hematology	79	76
Infectious Disease	77	77
Musculoskeletal	74	73
Neurology	75	76
Psychiatry	81	82
Pulmonary	73	74
Renal	81	82
Reproductive	77	73

Bolded # = met benchmark

The program met the benchmark in 8/14 (57%) organ systems for the Class of 2025. One system was within two percentage points (Gastrointestinal) and five systems were with one percentage point (Cardiology, Neurology, Psychiatry, Pulmonary, and Renal) of the national mean. While this did not meet the program benchmark that each cohort will achieve a Cohort-level PANCE performance on organ systems that meets or exceeds the national mean, the overall performance for the Class of 2025 was strong enough to result in a first time PANCE pass rate above the national average and the best program performance in the past three years. There are no organ systems that consistently perform below benchmark, and the program will continue to monitor this metric.

Task Area Performance Benchmarking

Class of 2023

Task Area	TU Mean % Correct	National Mean % Correct
Applying Scientific Concepts	82	79
Clinical Intervention	78	76
Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis	81	79
Health Maintenance & Prevention	78	78
History & Physical Exam	80	78
Professional Practice	74	75
Pharmaceutical Therapeutics	77	77
Diagnostic & Lab Studies	81	81

Bolded # = met benchmark

The program met the benchmark in 7/8 (88%) task areas for the Class of 2023. One task was within one percentage point (Professional Practice) of the national mean. While this did not meet the program benchmark that each cohort will achieve a Cohort-level PANCE performance on task areas that meets or exceeds the national mean, the overall performance for the Class of 2023 was strong enough to result in an above average first time PANCE pass rate. The program plans to monitor.

Class of 2024

Task Area	TU Mean % Correct	National Mean % Correct
Applying Scientific Concepts	75	75
Clinical Intervention	76	77
Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis	77	79
Health Maintenance & Prevention	79	78
History & Physical Exam	78	80
Professional Practice	81	78
Pharmaceutical Therapeutics	75	77
Diagnostic & Lab Studies	78	78

Bolded # = met benchmark

The program met the benchmark in 4/8 (50%) task areas for the Class of 2024. Three tasks were within two percentage points (Most Likely Diagnosis, History & Physical, and Pharm), and one task was within one percentage point (Clinical Intervention) of the national mean. While this did not meet the program benchmark that each cohort will achieve a Cohort-level PANCE performance on task areas that meets or exceeds the national mean, the overall performance for the Class of 2024 was strong enough to result in a reasonable first time PANCE pass rate within two percent of the national average. The program plans to monitor since there were no consistent tasks below the benchmark.

Class of 2025

Task Area	TU Mean % Correct	National Mean % Correct
Applying Scientific Concepts	77	79
Clinical Intervention	78	76
Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis	78	79
Health Maintenance & Prevention	81	79
History & Physical Exam	79	79
Professional Practice	78	78
Pharmaceutical Therapeutics	73	73
Diagnostic & Lab Studies	76	78

Bolded # = met benchmark

The program met the benchmark in 5/8 (63%) task areas for the Class of 2024. One task area was within one percentage point (Scientific Concepts) and two task areas were within one percentage point (Most Likely Diagnosis and Diagnostic & Lab Studies) of the national mean. While this did not meet the program benchmark that each cohort will achieve a Cohort-level PANCE performance on task areas that meets or exceeds the national mean, the overall performance for the Class of 2025 was strong enough to result in a in a first time PANCE pass rate above the national average and the best program performance in the past three years. There are no task areas that consistently performed below benchmark, and the program will continue to monitor this metric.