

August 1st, 2019

The PA program and University administration are committed to resolving the probationary status. We are confident in our ability to execute a plan that will exceed the accreditation standards and look forward to growing and improving the quality of our program.

Launched in 1995, the Physician Assistant program at Augsburg University was the first accredited PA program in Minnesota. The program has a proven tradition of excellence, which has earned it a prestigious reputation in the healthcare community. Over the past 24 years, we have graduated over 580 alumni. Augsburg PA provides a broad, case-based, primary care curriculum with attention to diverse and underserved populations. We train highly capable PAs who go on to serve the community with uncompromising commitment and compassion. Our dedication to excellence is evident in our alumni as well as our PANCE national board exam pass rates: we are proud of maintaining a PANCE pass rate of 100% for our five most recent cohorts.

In higher education, accreditation assures that core components of quality programs are maintained. Accredited programs are regularly reviewed by external evaluators who assess an array of standards and offer valuable feedback. The accrediting body for PA programs is the Accreditation Review Commission on Education of Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). This organization establishes and maintains standards of quality for accredited PA educational programs; it regularly monitors and provides written feedback for program improvement. During the spring of 2019, Augsburg PA program participated in a routine accreditation site visit to ensure that standards are being met and to receive guidance on opportunities for improvement.

In June, the ARC-PA placed Augsburg PA Program on accreditation-probation status until June 2021, at which time another site visit will be scheduled. ***During this period, the Augsburg University Physician Assistant Studies program will remain fully accredited.*** The ARC-PA's reasons for placing the Augsburg PA Program on probation primarily focus on how we monitor, measure, and document student learning outcomes, which are components of program curriculum and self-evaluation (B3- and C-standards). **While on "accreditation-probation" status, we remain an accredited PA Program.**

We accept this decision and will use it as an opportunity to improve. By numerous markers - including the PANCE rates and success of our graduates - our program is strong. Indeed, Augsburg has recently made new investments in the program, including a move into a new professional space with instruction capabilities for innovative technology and teaching, including

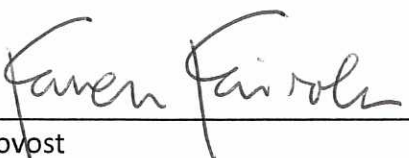
ultrasound. We are prioritizing the return to regular accredited status. At this time, we also want our community, students, and applicants to know:

- There will be no negative impact on the ability of the current students to graduate or become eligible to sit for the PANCE; *the program's probationary status does not limit our students' ability to practice as a PA in the future.*
- Augsburg University PA Program prospective students can continue to apply, matriculate (enroll in the PA program), graduate, take board examinations, obtain state licenses, and practice medicine while the program is on probation.
- Students who matriculated prior to the probationary status, and those who matriculate while the program is on probation, will graduate from an accredited program.
- There will be no negative impact upon our clinical partners and fellow educators.

Our immediate place of action to rectify our probationary status include commitments to:

- Work collaboratively with the ARC-PA to implement measures that meet or exceed accreditation standards;
- Work closely with an accreditation consultant to ensure all learning outcomes in our curriculum are monitored, measured, documented, and reported accurately to the ARC-PA;
- Strengthen assessment capacities in program faculty and staff; and
- Continue to provide a high-quality PA education to our current and future students.

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Provost



Chair and Program Director