

Overview of Evaluation of the Quality of Learning

▫Master of Physician Assistant Studies, M.P.A.S. Program Offered by the College of Health and Public Service

By Karen Mulitalo, Physician Assistant Program Director and Chair

In March 2020, faculty from the physician assistant program held a meeting with our External Advisory Committee to gather their input on the Program Mission and Goals. These essential components serve as the foundation for defining program competencies and course learning outcomes. This ongoing collaborative effort plays a pivotal role in evaluating the quality of learning in the physician assistant graduate program.

Program Mission (2020):

The mission of the Physician Assistant Program at Utah Valley University is to graduate academically and clinically prepared compassionate providers who strengthen our regional healthcare workforce through exceptional patient care.

Program Goals (2020):

- Prepare graduates to practice within the UVU service region (Utah, Wasatch, and Summit counties), as well as central and southern Utah.
- Educate physician assistants to provide exceptional care to all patients.
- Educate physician assistants who are compassionate to all patients.
- Educate physician assistants who demonstrate academic preparedness for physician assistant practice.

For this illustrative example, the meeting agenda and minutes, and PowerPoint presentation document the poll conducted before the meeting and the ensuing discussions. The report encapsulates the recommendations put forth by the External Advisory Committee members regarding strategies to enhance access to quality rotations within UVU's service area. Additionally, the report outlines the committee's feedback and its potential impact on the physician assistant program.

This serves as just one instance of how faculty regularly evaluate Program Mission and Goals for the physician assistant program. Faculty participate in such evaluations routinely during annual retreats and Curriculum Committee meetings, where courses and course content are thoroughly reviewed and discussed.

UVU PA ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Date: March 26, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Facilitator/Chair: Karen Mulitalo

Mission of the UVU PA Program

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Goals of the UVU PA Program

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Time	Item	Owner
7:00	Food Buffett	
7:15	Welcome	Karen Mulitalo
7:25	Introductions	All Attendees
7:55	Mission & Goals	Karen Mulitalo
8:05	Clinical Discussion	Niki Swan
	Current status and overview	
	What can UVU do to navigate the challenges of securing quality rotations?	All Board Members
8:18	Breakout	
	Solutions & Debrief	
8:50	Closing & Adjournment	Karen Mulitalo

Board members

Jeff Abrams, PA-C	Physician Assistant, Alpine Pediatrics
Kim Anderson, MHA	CEO, Timpanogos Hospital
Ken Armstrong, MPH	President, Utah Valley Emergency Physicians
Scott Barlow, MBA	CEO, Revere Healthcare
Steve Berry, MD	Physician, Orem Family Medicine
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Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C	Program Director, UVU
Edwin Nyambi, PA-C	Physician Assistant, University of Utah Psychiatry
Adam Rasmussen, MBA	CEO, Valley Women's Health
JR Rowley, PA-C	Physician Assistant, The Orthopedic Specialty Hospital
Gary Sanderson, DO	Medical Director, UVU
Jim Stewart, DO	Medical Director, UVU
Niki Swan, MBA	Principal Faculty, Director of Clinical Education, UVU

Rotations

UVU PA Advisory Board Survey

March 2020

Please enter your name as you would like it to appear on the board roster (all contact information will be kept private)

Scott Barlow

James Rowley

Tracy A. Hill MD

Scott Bramble PA-C

Kenneth Armstrong

Adam B. Rasmussen

Steven Berry, MD

Jeff H. Abram PA-C

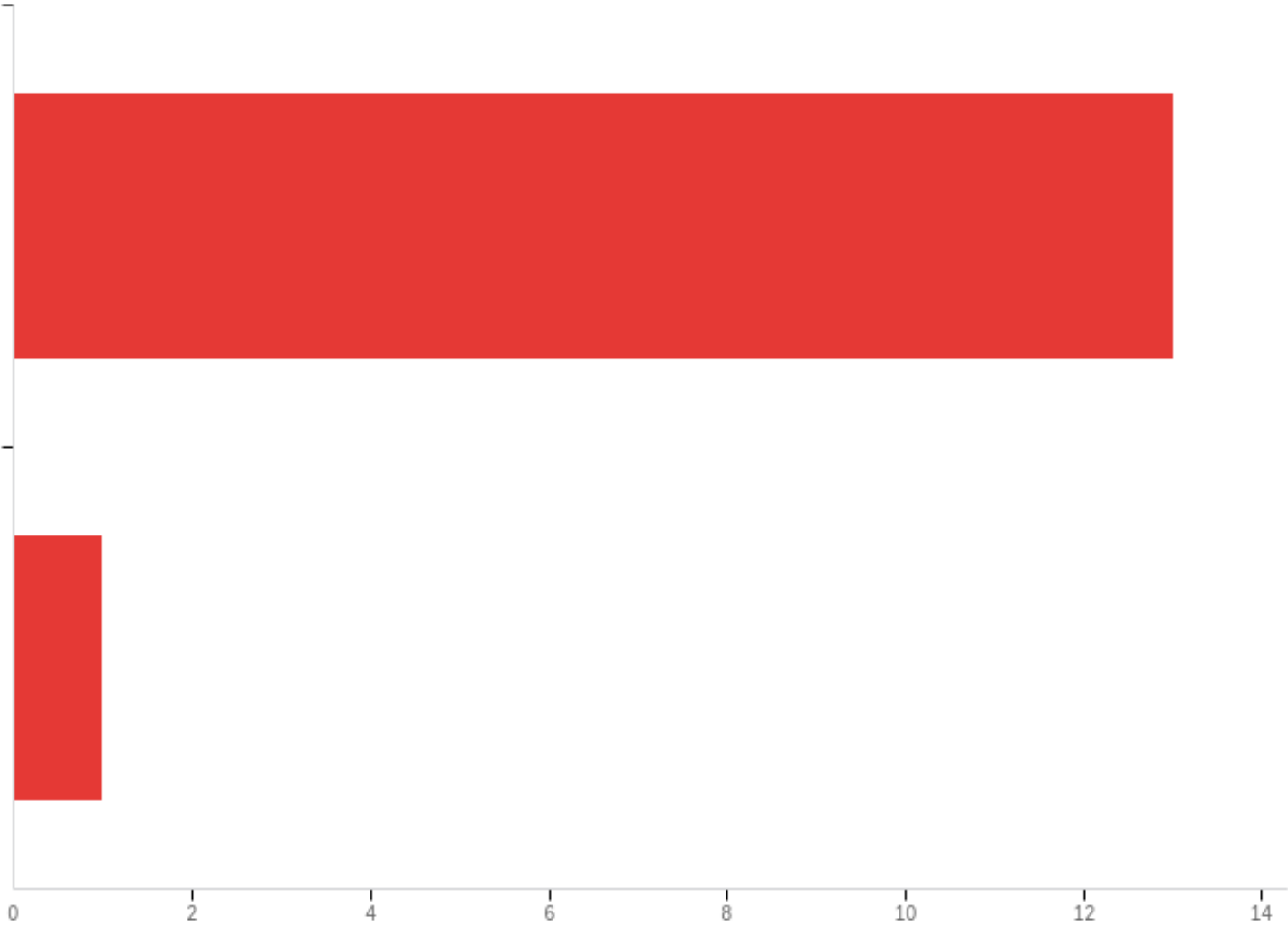
Kimball Anderson

Q7 - PA Program Mission Statement The mission of the Physician Assistant Program at Utah Valley University is to graduate academically and clinically prepared compassionate providers who strengthen our

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approve the UVU PA
Program Mission
Statement as
written.

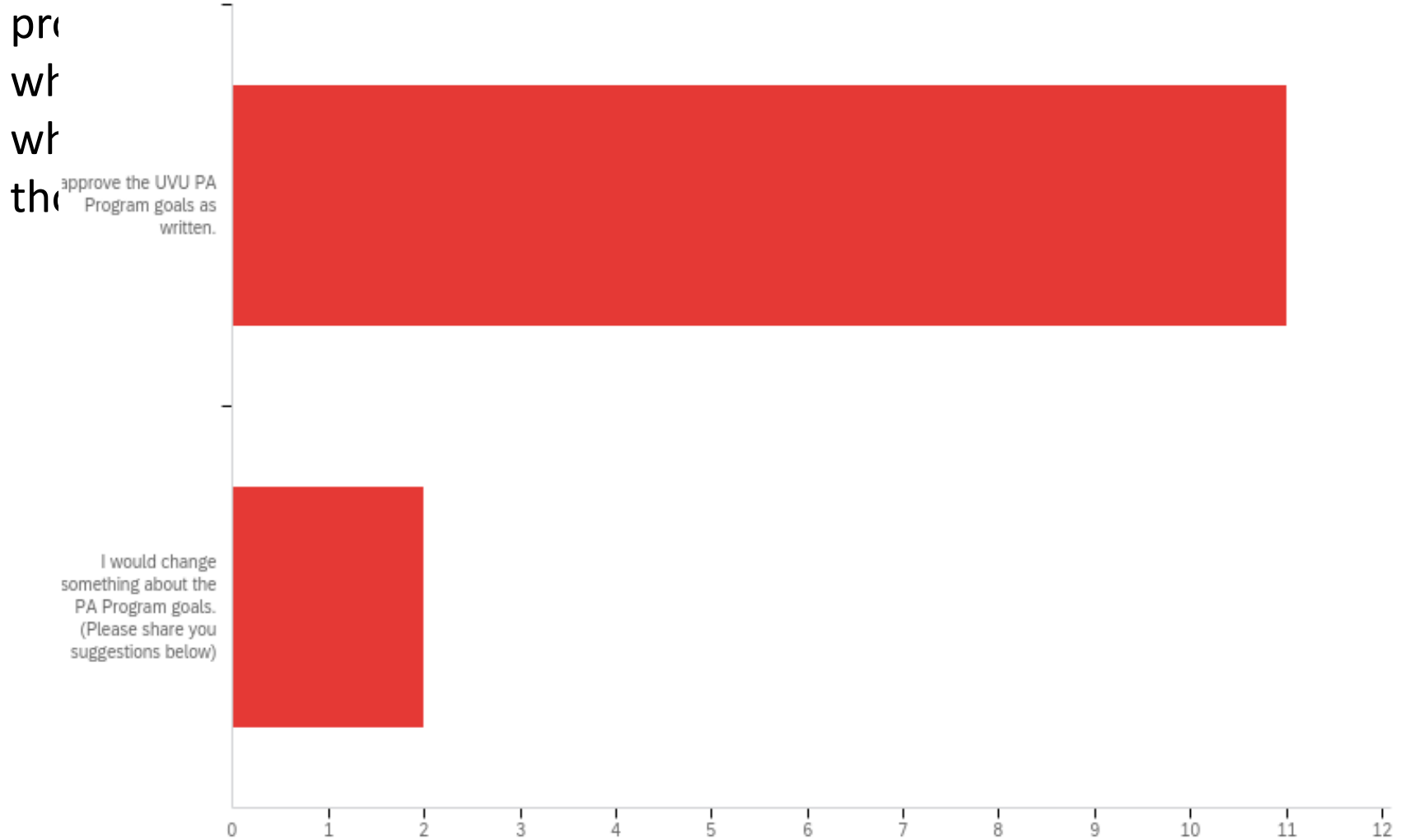
I would change
something about the
Mission Statement.
(please share your
suggestions below)



Q7 - PA Program Mission Statement The mission of the Physician Assistant Program at Utah Valley University is to graduate academically and clinically prepared compassionate providers who strengthen our regional healthcare workforce through exceptional patient care. My thoughts are:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	I approve the UVU PA Program Mission Statement as written.	92.86%	13
2	I would change something about the Mission Statement. (please share your suggestions below)	7.14%	1
	Total	100%	14

Q8 - Goals of the UVU PA Program 1. Prepare graduates to practice within the UVU service region (Utah, Wasatch, and Summit counties) as well as central and southern Utah. 2. Educate physician assistants to



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#	Answer	%	Count
1	I approve the UVU PA Program goals as written.	84.62%	11
2	I would change something about the PA Program goals. (Please share you suggestions below)	15.38%	2
	Total	100%	13

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I would change something about the PA Program goals. (Please share your suggestions below) -
Text

I would like to see something in your goals statement about preparing physician assistants to function collaboratively and respectfully within a multidisciplinary team, or in a team. And within #4, may be something regarding life long learning, such as "demonstrate academic preparedness for PA practice and life long learning." Tracy Hill

5. Provide clinical rotation opportunities aligned with the specialty needs within the UVU service region Ken Armstrong

One of the biggest challenges facing the UVU PA Program is securing quality rotations within our service area (Utah, Wasatch, and Summit counties and south). With increasing competition from the new DO program in Provo and rotation slots often given to students from programs all over the country, we anticipate the situation will become increasing more challenging as we get closer to our anticipated clinical rotations in 2023.

What are some ways UVU can navigate this challenge? (please comment below)

Note: Currently, we narrowly have commitments to cover the 10 five-week rotations for our first cohort of 30 students (Family Medicine I,II, Behavioral Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Women's Health, and Elective I,II), however our goal is to have 150% of the required rotations to allow for the inevitable changes within these commitments. Areas of particular concern are: General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Women's Health.

Consider Jails as a rotation through the state penitentiary. **JR**

This is a huge challenge in our community as you are well aware and a concern among providers.

A couple of thoughts - current mid-level providers may be the best and most available resource for helping train your PA students. I am not sure if that works within your accrediting guidelines but that is a potential source which will be under-utilized by the DO school who will focus on physicians.

This is out there a bit - but Matt Swenson is a brilliant child psychologist in our community who may soon be setting up a model for behavioral health across a series of clinics. Forward thinking might include seeing if he would partner with you to provide in field behavioral health experiences. Intermountain also has embedded some behavioral health providers in primary care clinics - these are LCSW's and mid-levels who might provide a site for behavioral health.

Finally -maybe you could leverage some of the service area rural clinics who might not be under the same pressures. That might require some driving but could include Heber, Mt. Pleasant, Nephi, which are within an hour or so of Orem.

General Surgery in general is a tough one as supply is limited and pressure is extreme.

Tough problem - good luck. **Tracy Hill**

1. Conduct an annual, specialty-specific provider community staffing assessment focusing on clinical rotation collaboration with the appropriate Intermountain hospital CEOs and Intermountain Medical Group leadership.

2. Utilize advisory board member relationships in approaching key physician groups. **Ken Armstrong**

Offer compensation to clinics willing to take rotations.
Find ways to make it less intrusive to clinic and clinic patients.
Do a first year salary share with clinic if they hire PA **Adam Rasmussen**

I am sure you have down this. I would focus on PA's training PA's. Most employer physicians will agree to bring on a PA in training if their employed PA requests an opportunity to train them. The employer physician by association will participate in the education as well. This is the case in my office. **Steve Berry**

As students are anticipating entering the program they can be striving to help find rotations with medical providers that they are familiar with. **Jeff Abram**

Physician practices **Kimball Anderson**

I was in Colorado last week teaching some didactic courses to the first cohort of PA students with the Colorado Mesa University PA program. They had a class size of 15 and although it is a rural area with few clinical sites, they are able to secure quality clinical rotations for these 15 students. I talked to PA staff as I had seen the objectives of our meeting before going out there and that guided how I think through it.

-(Flexibility with our initial admission/inaugural class); Reduce the number of students from 30 to 20 in the first year. Go up to 25 in second year and up to 30 in 3rd year which is our goal. We would be getting the 30 students but just in the 3rd year when we are able to get more clinical sites.

-In addition to the surgical sites we already have, contact private surgeons and physician assistants to negotiate clinical rotations for students (many private practice surgeons are contracted with Salt Lake Regional for instance). I can reach out to Steven J. Mintz, MD when it is time to sort it out (private practice but has surgical practice privileges at Salt Lake Regional).

-Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Women's Health; Reach out and Invite private practice providers within Utah county for a lunch/dinner at UVU which we should sponsor and inform them about what we are trying to accomplish-they are a huge part of the solution (including those affiliated with Timpanogos Hospital and Mountain Point Medical Center).

-Finally, we are based in Utah county and we should start thinking of a free clinic within the city which will be affiliated with UVU. Investigation about this as a clinical site can start now even though it may be a project which kicks off in 5 years. **We think this is Edwin Nyambi?**

Establish a credible programs of graduates that likely remain in the service area to work. Provide trainer/proctor training or webinars to help them be a good mentor, as well as teach them skills and processes that other programs don't offer - how to balance the patient load and train, how to offer feedback on skill concerns, perhaps CME on best practices in a disease state. Offer other opportunities to the trainers such as sport event tickets, perhaps a recognition night at an event - dinner, introduce to the audience at half time, etc. **Unknown**

that will be the challenge. **Unknown**

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