

Progression Requirements A3.14a & A3.14b

Requirements for Progression within the Didactic Phase

A PA Program student must complete the following requirements by the end of each semester in which they occur in order to complete the PA Program:

1. All PA courses must be passed with a minimum grade of Pass (P) or Remediated Pass (RP).
2. Satisfactory completion of all written and/or practical Summative exams with a minimum grade of 69.45% Pass (P).
3. Successful remediation of any grade below a 69.45% receiving a Fail (F), on a written summative exam, H&P practical, or individual technical skill.
4. Successful remediation of any course failure (F) with a final grade of (RP).
5. Demonstration of proficiency of required clinical and technical skills necessary for clinical practice as determined by the program.
6. Satisfactory completion of BLS/ACLS.

Deadline: Completion of all Didactic Phase requirements must be completed by the end of each semester in which they occur. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in delayed graduation, dismissal from the program, or need to take leave of absence (if applicable – see corresponding section of the PA Student Handbook).

Requirements for Progression within the Clinical Phase

In addition to the requirements for promotion within the didactic phase, a PA Program student must complete the following requirements by the end of each semester in which they occur in order to complete the PA Program:

1. All PA courses must be passed with a minimum grade of Pass (P) or Remediated Pass (RP).
2. Satisfactory completion of all PAEA End of Rotation (EOR) examinations with a scaled score at or above the value equivalent to 1.5 standard deviations below the national mean (Pass).
3. Successful completion of remediation for any PAEA End of Rotation (EOR) examination with a scaled score more than 1.5 standard deviations below the national mean, in accordance with the program's remediation policy.
4. Satisfactory remediation for a grade below 69.45% receiving a Fail (F), on any other assessment as mandated by the course director.
5. Preceptor evaluations must be passed (graded) with a minimum grade of 80% (Pass).
 - a. If any item is below an 3/5 which is an 80% (Pass), or "not observed" students must complete a [Clinical and Technical Skills Gap Analysis Plan for SCPEs](#).
6. Demonstration of proficiency of all required clinical and technical skills necessary for clinical practice as determined by the PA Program.

Deadline: for completion of all Clinical Phase requirements must be completed by the end of each semester in which they occur. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in delayed graduation, dismissal from the program, or need to take leave of absence (if applicable – see corresponding section of the PA Student Handbook).

Requirements and Deadlines for Program Completion

To graduate from the Rowan-Virtua SOM PA Program and be eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE), students must meet the criteria listed below. The PA Program and the University will review all student records prior to graduation to ensure compliance with these requirements.

1. Academic Completion
 - Complete the Didactic Phase progression requirements
 - Complete the Clinical Phase progression requirements
 - Completion of all Performance Improvement Plans (if applicable)

2. PA Program Administrative and Financial Compliance
 - Resolution of all holds, including those placed by the registrar or student health services.
 - Submission of a completed application for graduation in compliance with the registrar's requirements.
 - Resolution of any outstanding financial balances with the University.

Deadline: All requirements for graduation must be completed by the end of each semester in which they occur. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in delayed graduation, dismissal from the program, or need to take [leave of absence](#) (if applicable – see corresponding section of the PA Student Handbook).

Performance Improvement Plan for At-Risk Students

The Rowan-Virtua SOM PA Program is committed to ensuring that all students demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to be successful on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) and in clinical practice. The program will work to identify at-risk students using the criteria listed below and support students meeting the criteria with additional assistance in the form of a required Performance Improvement Plan (PIP).

A PIP is a longitudinal process that is independent of an individual course. Students who are designated as at-risk based on the criteria below will be notified by the program. Students will meet with their advisor or designee to discuss, review, and collaborate on the development of the PIP.

Examples of required activities include tutoring, self-assessment, advisement from the Center for Student Success, additional assessments, and more frequent advising meetings. Please see the [Performance Improvement Plan](#) section of this handbook for more information.

All students must successfully complete their specific PIP to be eligible for graduation, if applicable. The terms of successful completion will be noted within the individual PIPs and be in accordance with the policy below.

Criteria for Entry into a Performance Improvement Plan

1. Didactic Year

- Failure of three (3) or more exams in the same semester.
- Failure of two (2) or more practical physical exam clinical skills assessments.
- Failure of the summative practical physical exam clinical skills assessment.
- Failure of two (2) or more technical clinical skills assessments.
- Failure of the Clinical Medicine 1 Summative Exam or the Clinical Medicine 2 Summative Exam.
- Being placed on Academic Probation.
- Receiving a written warning for professionalism or being placed on Professional Probation.

2. Clinical Year

- A score below 1450 on the PAEA End-of-Curriculum (EOC) Exam.
- Failure of an End-of-Rotation Exam.
- SPC-determined need for addressing a professionalism-related skill(s).
- Failure of the Capstone Course.
- Being placed on Academic Probation.
- Receiving a written warning for professionalism or being placed on Professional Probation.

PIP Requirements

Students who fail to meet one or more of the above benchmarks must complete a robust PIP, which will be individualized to address the specific deficiencies identified. PIP may include but is not limited to remediation efforts described elsewhere within this Handbook and course syllabi. In addition, other PIP components may include:

- Required participation in individualized study sessions and assessments.
- Required participation in program-sponsored tutoring services.
- Required evaluation and guidance from Center for Student Success staff.
- Required self-assessment, identifying self-realized areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.
- Completion of additional board preparation activities, potentially including a second PANCE board-prep course at the student's expense.
- A delay in graduation if remediation cannot be completed within the initially scheduled timeframe.
- A grade of "Incomplete" (I) in the capstone course or SCPE clinical rotation until all requirements of the improvement plan are successfully fulfilled.
- As a required resource for all clinical year courses, all students must purchase a subscription to **UWorld** for PANCE preparation. This subscription will be integrated into the remediation and improvement plan process to ensure students have access to high-quality study materials.
- [Capstone Course Remediation](#).

- Additional requirements as recommended by program faculty, faculty advisors, course directors, the SP, or institutional support service personnel if applicable (Office of Accessibility, Center for Student Success, Office of Student Health, etc.) tailored to the student's areas in need of improvement.

PIP Exit

Students who successfully complete all requirements and goals of their PIP by demonstrating appropriate improvement will exit the PIP process and [progress](#) in the program as outlined elsewhere in this Handbook. If the program determines that the student has met all requirements, the student will be allowed to progress to graduation and will become eligible for PANCE registration.

NCCPA Examination: PANCE (PA National Certification Examination)

Only those students who graduate in good standing from a program accredited by the ARC-PA may sit for the PANCE exam. Advanced registration is required and can be completed 3 months prior to graduation. Registration is completed online at www.nccpa.net. Once the completed application is received from a candidate, and confirmation of graduation is received from the PA Program, a scheduling permit is created by the NCCPA and emailed directly to the candidate. The available testing dates for each candidate will begin seven days after the expected program completion date and end 180 days later. Registration may be withheld from students within the PA Program if students are on a PIP.

Graduation from the Rowan-Virtua SOM PA Program does not ensure that one can practice as a PA. Graduates must successfully pass the PANCE examination and meet state registration and licensing requirements in order to become licensed to practice as a PA.