

Academic Programs and Planning (APP) Committee
Feedback and Response Form

Thank you for your submission of the proposal titled BSHS pre-PA concentration.

The APP committee reviewed the proposal on April 18, 2024 and requests the proposal authors use this form to respond to the following questions and or suggestions. As a concentration with an already existing major, this is an information item and does not need to come back to APP. Proposals, along with this APP feedback form and responses to this feedback, must be submitted at least ten days prior to a faculty senate meeting in order to be added to the agenda. Therefore, for consideration at the May 17th meeting, everything must be received by the executive committee no later than May 7th.

Committee Suggestion/Clarification	Author Response
<p>Explaining why the dual-degree agreement is ending would be helpful. There is a difference, in terms of the value of the proposed concentration, between ending because of a lack of student interest, ability to qualify for the program or Jefferson deciding to no longer deal with these sorts of articulation agreements.</p>	<p>The dual-degree BSHS/MSPA program was ended in 2023 by Jefferson University. We are teaching out the last two cohorts that are in the undergraduate phase. Jefferson decided to reevaluate their dual degree PA programs at all 3 campus sites. They claimed there was lower academic performance and higher attrition in the 3+2 programs, and since their graduate programs are in high demand (approximately 3000+ applicants each year), they did not need the direct entry to draw in students. The ending of the program is entirely on Jefferson, as we would have loved to continue the program. Keep in mind that the MOA was originally with Philadelphia University, which was then absorbed by Jefferson; this merger resulted in changes in leadership in the PA program (those who initiated the partnership have left Jefferson). We continue to have consistent student interest in pre-PA (as measured by the "Interest in PA" option</p>

	<p>for Degree Works). However, the “interest in PA” option does not provide the students with a comprehensive curriculum plan.</p>
<p>Related to above - why was the Jefferson relationship terminated? How successful was the Jefferson program? How many students from Stockton went on to complete the MS PA degree? Have you investigated establishing a relationship with Drexel since they will be the new elephant in the room?</p>	<p>Again, Jefferson was reevaluating the direct entry programs at all their PA campus locations. Jefferson’s program is quite successful, with 3 programs (Center City – Jefferson’s own program, East Falls (originally Philadelphia University, and a long-established program), and NJ (a second cohort of the East Falls program). We have had many students transition to the PA program at Jefferson (Cohorts: 2022 – 5 students; 2021 – 7; 2020 – 6; 2019 – 9; 2018 – 13; 2017 – 20; 2016 – 15; 2015 – 6. We were supposed to be 50% of the cohort (which we achieved in 2017), but when they opened their own campus location in Voorhees, they renegotiated the MOA to only 5 students per cohort (you can see more than 5 listed, and this was because I did a lot of begging with the old leadership at Jefferson). All the cohorts were accepted before the leadership changed. When that leadership change occurred, we were told the MOA was ending and we could not accept any new cohorts. They agreed to teach out current cohorts. There have been 2-3 students lost to attrition in the PA program that I am aware of (current leadership at Jefferson refuses to share information). Also, at least 2 Stockton students have been recognized as the highest ranked academic student in their graduating class. Though I have asked for pass rates on the PANCE exam, Jefferson</p>

	<p>says they cannot provide data specific to Stockton students.</p> <p>There was a mention of the potential for a partnership with Drexel for a dual degree PA program back when Dr. Kahanov was Provost. It was only mentioned that it was a possibility, but there were no further discussions. As a side note, it was felt that Jefferson used Stockton, through the dual degree PA program, to gain state approvals to set up a regional campus in the state. When they had a new campus location and no longer needed Stockton facilities, they renegotiated the number of students in the program. Then, as soon as the state approvals and that process was complete, they ended the partnership.</p>
<p>How does the proposed curriculum compare with other schools in the area and why would a future applicant choose Stockton's pre PA program over any other?</p>	<p>The curriculum is comparable to regional pre-PA undergraduate programs. It requires additional BIOL/CHEM as compared to Jefferson, because most of the other graduate PA programs in the region (Drexel, Rutgers, Widner, PCOM, etc.) require additional upper level BIOL/CHEM courses. We have developed this curriculum so that students will be able to apply to any PA program, despite the wide variability in the pre-requisite requirements across different programs (note – there is much greater variability in the PA pre-requisites as compared to other healthcare graduate programs, such as PT, OT, or CMDS/SLP). Students would choose to go here because of the location, to stay in state (again, there are only about 5 PA programs in the state and not many in South NJ, so students may want to stay local for the undergraduate portion of their education). Some students</p>

	<p>also identify PA as a career path after they've come to Stockton, so this would allow them to better prepare and track pre-requisite courses. Because we do not have a dual degree partnership, we don't expect any significant increase in enrollments due to adding this concentration, as they won't have any "advantage" when applying to a graduate program.</p>
<p>Not advocating for finding a way to make space within the curriculum for this but - PA programs have pretty substantial requirements for patient contact hours prior to getting accepted into any of their programs; this extracurricular requirement needs to be made clear to any students calling themselves pre-PA.</p>	<p>Most healthcare graduate programs have a substantial requirement for contact hours or shadowing hours, and these have never been included in the curriculum as it would be a major challenge to manage – especially from a faculty labor perspective. When students meet with their preceptor this is discussed. For example, most PA programs state 200-500 hours of direct patient contact is needed to apply. In reality, accepted students often have 1500-3000 hours. This is communicated to students during precepting meetings, and we continue to help students identify opportunities that would help them acquire these hours. This can be even more complicated, as not all schools will accept the same experiences for those hours, so students are educated to look up the individual school requirements for contact hours. This is an ongoing part of the precepting conversation with these students.</p>