

The logo for ARC-PA, featuring the letters 'ARC-PA' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'ARC' is white and the 'PA' is blue, separated by a white horizontal line. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background.

*Accreditation Review Commission on Education
for the Physician Assistant, Inc.*

COVID-19 & ARC-PA By the Numbers

October 2020

PAEA Annual Forum

The ARC-PA is the **recognized** accrediting agency that **protects** the interests of the **public**, including current and prospective **PA students**, and **PA profession** by **defining the standards** for PA education and **evaluating** PA educational programs within the territorial United States to **ensure** their compliance with those standards.

ARC-PA Mission



Timeline

- March 10: Joint Statement from ARC-PA & PAEA
 - Didactic Coursework guidance
 - Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs) guidance
- March 20: Update
 - ARC-PA does not dictate the length of SCPEs
 - “Waiving program requirements for students to meet SCPE learning outcomes is unfortunately not an option.
 - Programs that need to extend their completion dates should notify the ARC-PA.
- March 31: Update
 - The Commission strongly supports programs removing students from clinical sites **until the assurance of proper PPE is available.**
 - The ARC-PA has never mandated graduation requirements.
 - It is imperative that there are not drastic ‘short-cuts’ made to PA education that may release graduates who are not ready for practice. It is the responsibility of the program to assess students to determine they have met program-required competencies prior to graduation
 - Average response time for plans is 1-2 weeks

Timeline

- April 13: Update
 - ARC-PA does not plan to penalize program for decisions made during the pandemic to keep students safe.
 - The ARC-PA defines supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs) as: *Supervised student encounters with patients that include comprehensive patient assessment and involvement in patient care decision making and which result in a detailed plan for patient management.*
 - Programs may use virtual experiences, simulation or other technology to meet **some** of the program defined learning outcomes for SCPEs, but the intention remains that **SCPEs will include some direct patient care**, meet the program defined learning outcomes, and be of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare students for the clinical practice of medicine.
 - Telemedicine may be used to meet SCPE learning outcomes in some cases but has its limits.
 - Grading policy change guidance
- April 17: Updated COVID-19 Change forms available

Timeline

- May 4: Update
 - Are all programs required to complete the COVID-19 change forms?
 - The Commission wants to see plans for programs with substantial changes to the curriculum
 - Programs continue submission of changes as outlined in the E-section of the ARC-PA Standards as they occur.
 - COVID-19 reports should be made if the program made any changes to:
 - length of program (longer or shorter)
 - curriculum for any cohort
 - matriculation dates of any cohort
 - graduation dates
 - changes to cohorts start or end dates in SCPEs
 - teaching modalities for any cohort (for example, moving to online teaching use of virtual rotations, etc.)
 - 125 Covid-9 forms submitted/reviewed

Timeline

- August 11: Update
 - Programs have experienced the need for change in their submitted plans in light of evolving situations and decisions made on home campuses.
 - The ARC-PA expects the submission of a new COVID-19 form for programs that have changes or new details to report to ARC-PA.
 - Program faculty and staff participation in onsite screening
 - Program faculty and staff participation in contact tracing
 - 266 COVID-19 Change forms received, reviewed, processed
 - Over 110 emails responded to regarding COVID-19 questions and clarifications

Current

- As of September 25, 2020
 - 239 Programs submitted program change forms/emails related to COVID-19
 - 90% reviewed before June Commission Meeting
 - Assistant Director, Commissioner, Assistant Director of Accreditation Services & Executive Director

Data Collected

- COVID-19 Change Forms submitted for June & September Commission Meeting
 - Self-reported
 - Voluntary
 - Open-ended questions
 - Timing varied of submission
 - March through August
- Portal Alerts
 - Self-reported
 - E standard requirements

Program Length Changes

Graduation Changes

- 46 Programs change in graduation month; 2 permanent
- Range: 1- 6 months
- Mean: 2.1 months; Median: 2 months; Mode: 1 month
- Many programs delayed within the same month not counted

Didactic Length

- 1 program shortened by 1 week
- 12 programs lengthened by avg of 5.6 weeks; Range .25-3 months
- None listed as permanent

Clinical Year Length

- 17 programs shortened by avg of 1.5 months; Range .25-3 months
- 34 programs lengthened by avg of 1.9 months (1 outlier removed); Range .5-15 months
- None listed as permanent

Delays



Matriculation Delays

- 7 programs
- Avg: 2.1 months
- Range: 2 weeks-6 months
- 3 permanent



Clinical Year Delays

- 34 programs
- Avg: 1.6 months
- Range: 1 week-4 months
- 3 permanent

Didactic Curriculum Changes

- Synchronous/Asynchronous: 99% of submitted forms
- Resequencing of courses
- Clinical/PE Skills Boot Camps
- Prosection instead of dissection anatomy
- Exam Security Software
 - ExamSoft/Examplify +/- Zoom=52
 - Respondus Lockdown=28
 - Exam ID/Exam Monitor=16
 - ExamMaster=9
 - ProctorU=6
 - Honor Lock=4
 - Proctorio=3
 - TopHat=2
 - RPNow proctoring=1
 - Examity=1
 - ExamDriver=1

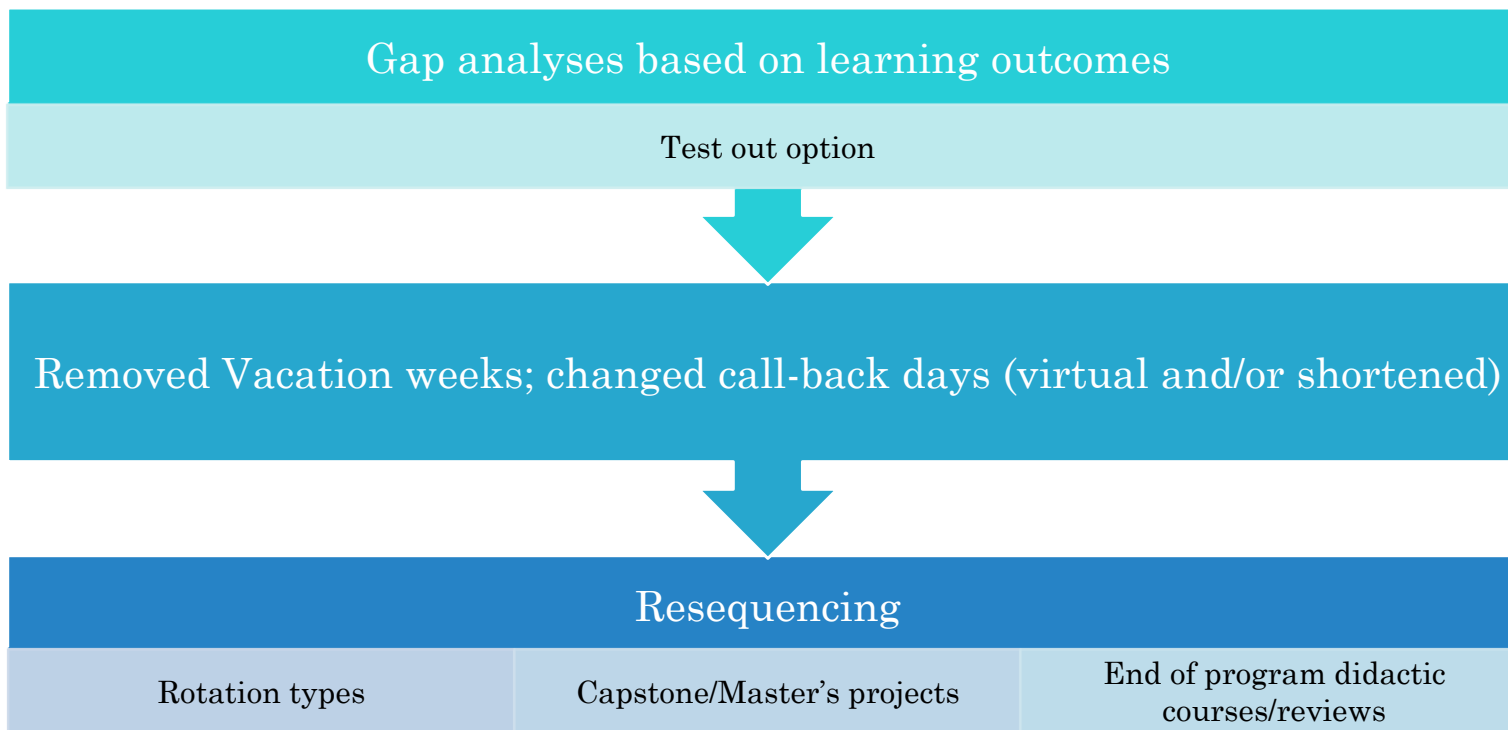
Didactic Curriculum Content Software Changes

- Complete Anatomy 3D=11
- Aquifer=13
- iHuman=9
- Visible Body Software=6
- Anatomage=3
- Osmosis=3
- VH dissector=3
- vCases=2
- DxR clinician=2
- Acland Videos=2
- Access Med cases =2
- Adam Interactive=2
- Firecracker=1
- Nearpod=1
- UMedic=1
- BlueLink for Anatomy=1
- ReelDx =1
- Pocket Anatomy/Visual Anatomy=1
- eMurmur=1
- Touch of Life Technologies=1
- EMS Simulation iQ=1

Didactic Curriculum Delivery Software

- Zoom=154
- WebEx=21
- Blackboard Collaborate/Ultra=26
- Canvas=19
- Panoptic=17
- Google Hangout/Meets=14
- Microsoft Teams=10
- Moodle=8
- Kaltura=6
- Voice Over PowerPoints=6
- Mediasite=6
- Echo 360=3
- Camtasia=2
- Brightspace/D2L=2
- YuJa=2
- BigBlueButton=2
- TechSmith Relay=2
- Sakai=2
- Go-Pros for anatomy=1
- Screencast-O-Matic=1
- GoReact=1
- YouTube private channel=1
- Audacity=1
- Bongo=1
- Flipgrid=1
- VTEL=1
- Voice Thread=1
- MDTV=1
- Blue Jeans=1
- Google Duo=1
- Simtics=1

Clinical Curriculum Changes



Rotation Length Changes

Reduction in direct patient care hours

- NY constraints (1600 hours minimum)
- Several reported 50% reduction

Increased length of time to complete competencies

Reduction in patient encounters/rotations

Reduction in Community Preceptorships/Final Rotations

- 3 programs reported 4-6 weeks

Weeks/Number of Rotations

- 117 programs reported
- Range of rotations applied: 1-10
- Range of weeks reduced: .5-3 weeks
- Average length 1.6 weeks

Rotation type changes

- Elimination of duplicate types of rotations:
 - e.g. IM, FM, Primary Care
- Elimination of “non-ARC” required rotations:
 - e.g. PMR, Ortho, Urgent Care
- Telemedicine patients:
 - e.g. Behavioral Medicine
- Non-clinical electives: virtual/academic/didactic
 - 110 programs reported
 - MAT
 - COVID-19
 - Pandemic
 - FEMA training
 - Supplemental content

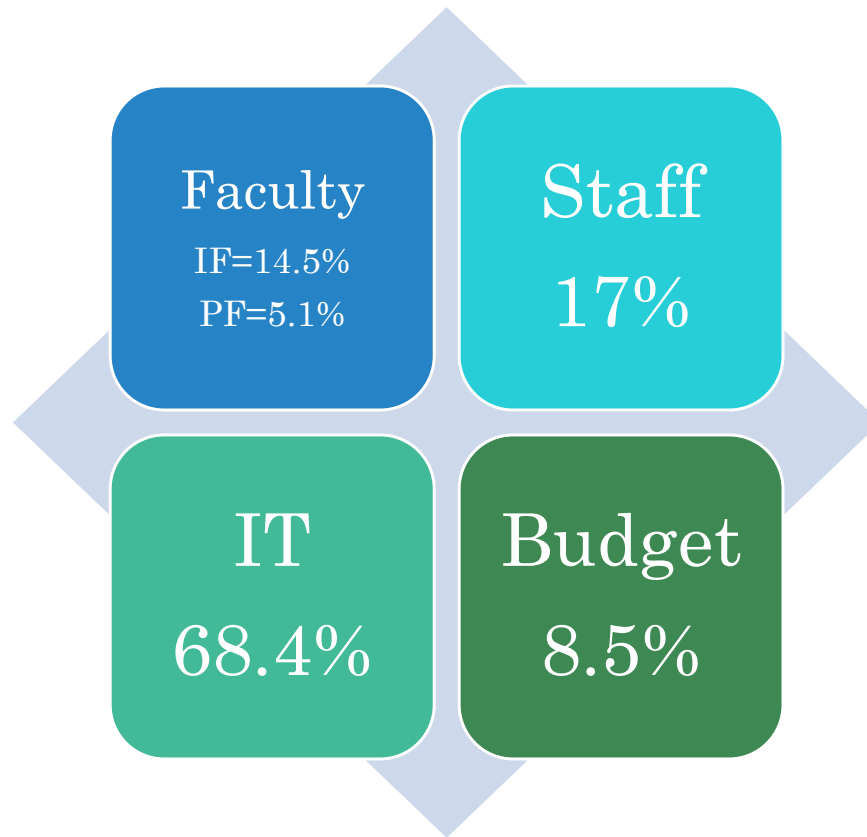
Clinical Curriculum Supplemental Materials Use

n=159

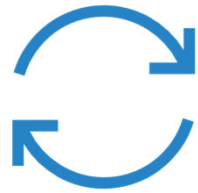
- Aquifer = 84
- i-Human=49
- Rosh Review=27
- AccessMed=17
- vCases=8
- UWorld=8
- PA Excel=7
- Shadow Health=7
- WISE-MD; WISE On-call=7
- Medscape=7
- MedSim=7
- EHR Go= 6
- Kaplan Board Prep=5
- ExamMaster=5
- Lecturio=4
- ReelDx=4
- NEJM=3
- CaseX =3
- Online MedEd=3
- DxR clinician=3
- Osmosis=3
- CaseNetwork=2
- VR cases=2
- CME4Life=2
- Full Code=2
- Harvard Center for Medsim=2
- GIBLIB=2
- PAPI lecture=1
- Core Higher Ed=1
- UMedic/uMed=1
- Challenger=1
- Dynamed=1
- Coursera=1
- Amboss=1
- Touch Surgery=1
- EMS Simulation iQ =1
- Oxford Medical Simulation Avatar cases=1
- eMurmur=1
- Firecracker=1
- NextgenU.com=1

Resource Changes

n=117 Programs



Other reported changes



Admissions
Processes



Summative Exam
Processes



Program Credits

Portal Data-Personnel Changes

Program Director		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
	2018	2	4	6	5	3	6	2	28
	2019	2	2	5	5	4	7	3	28
	2020	1	2	3	4	3	3	2	18
Interim Program Director		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
	2018	1	2	2	1	5	3	2	16
	2019	2	3	3	0	1	4	1	14
	2020	1	1	4	1	4	1	1	13

Portal Data-Personnel Changes

Medical Director

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
2018	0	0	4	5	4	1	2	16
2019	1	3	2	2	3	3	5	19
2020	0	1	4	3	2	1	1	12

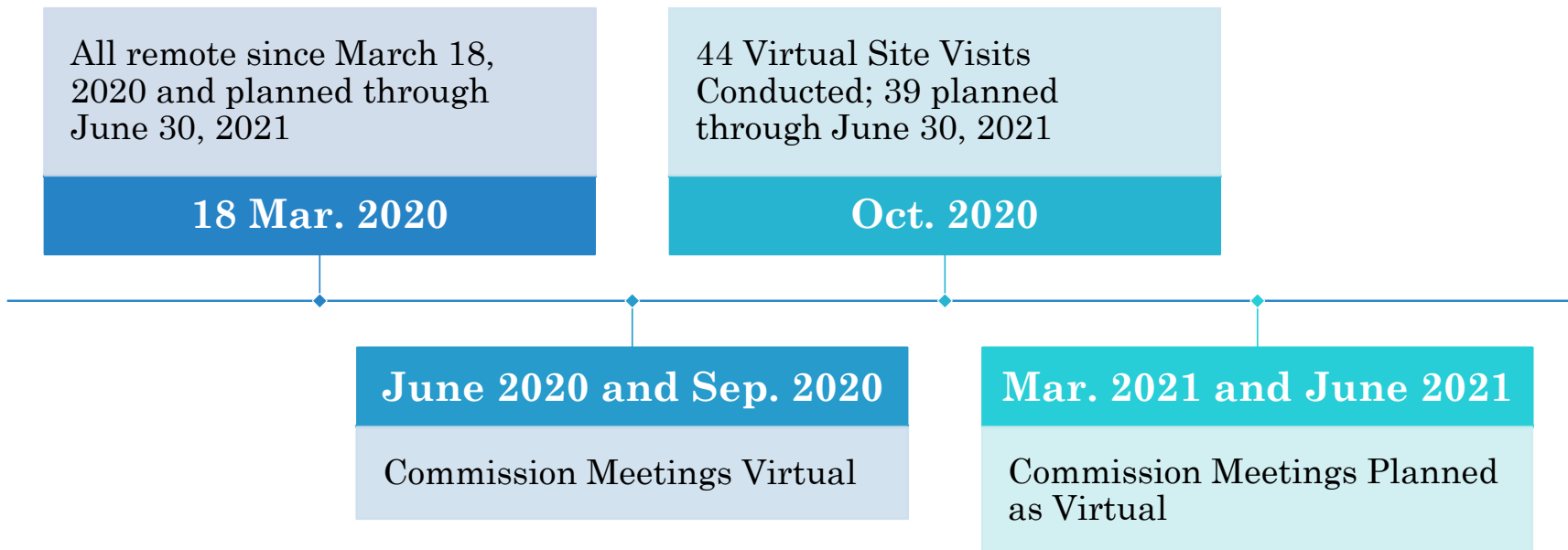
Interim Medical Director

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
2018	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
2019	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
2020	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	4

Principal Faculty

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
2018	2	5	4	9	11	11	2	44
2019	0	0	7	2	2	3	11	25
2020	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	13

ARC-PA Business changes



Annual Report/ 5th Edition Changes

Budget Changes



SCPEs



Personnel Changes



Student Enrollment



Questions?

**Many Thanks to
ARC-PA Staff &
ARC-PA Assistant
Directors**