

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania
(formerly Lock Haven University)
Accreditation History

First accredited: October 1997

Next review: March 2027

Maximum class size: 72 (includes main campus and 3 distant campuses-Clearfield, Coudersport, Harrisburg)

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March 2025

Adverse Action-Accreditation-Probation due to noncompliance concerns regarding:

- The sponsoring institutions responsibility for program assessment and compliance with the ARC-PA Standards and policies.
- The sponsoring institution's responsibility to provide the program with sufficient financial resources to operate the educational program and fulfill obligations to matriculating and enrolled students.
- The sponsoring institution's provision to the program with sufficient principal faculty and administrative staff to operate the educational program, comply with *Standards*, and fulfill obligations to matriculating and enrolled students.
- The sponsoring institution's support for the program in securing sufficient clinical sites and preceptors to allow students to meet the program learning outcomes for supervised clinical practice experiences.
- A clinical curriculum with sufficient breadth and depth to prepare the student for the clinical practice of medicine.
- Ensuring educational equivalency of course content when instruction is provided by different pedagogical and instructional methods or techniques for some students.
- Securing supervised clinical practice experiences and preceptors who enable students to meet program defined learning outcomes for pediatric and women's health to include prenatal and gynecologic care.
- The program's methods of assessment in the clinical courses align with what is expected and taught in the clinical curriculum.
- The program's methods of assessment for the supervised clinical practice experiences monitor and document the progress of each student in a manner that would promptly identify deficiencies in knowledge or skills in the specific program defined learning outcomes in a timely manner.
- Documented equivalency of student evaluation methods and outcomes when instruction was provided by different instructional methods or techniques for some students.
- A fully defined, ongoing self-assessment process that documented program effectiveness and fostered program improvement; that addressed administrative aspects of the program and institutional resources; effectiveness of the didactic and clinical curriculum; preparation of graduates to achieve program defined competencies; PANCE performance; and sufficiency and effectiveness of principal and instructional faculty and staff.
- Evidence of the consistent implementation of the program's ongoing self-assessment process through the performance of critical data analysis to address all aspects of the program.

The commission noted 26 areas of noncompliance with the *Standards* and 6 new observations by the commission. A focused probation visit will occur in advance of the March 2027 commission meeting. The program's maximum class size remains 72. The program did not appeal the commission's decision.

Report due August 1, 2025 (*Standards*, 5th edition):

- **Standard A1.02a** (lacked evidence the sponsoring institution is responsible for supporting the planning by program faculty of curriculum design, course selection, and program assessment)

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- **Standard A1.02d** (lacked evidence the sponsoring institution is responsible complying with ARC-PA accreditation Standards and policies)
- **Standard A1.03a** (lacked evidence the sponsoring institution provides sufficient release time and financial resources in support of the program director and principal faculty, as applicable to the job description, maintenance of certification and licensure)
- **Standard A1.03b** (lacked evidence the sponsoring institution provides sufficient release time and financial resources in support of the program director and principal faculty, as applicable to the job description, for professional development directly relevant to PA education)
- **Standard A1.06** (lacked evidence the sponsoring institution provides the program with sufficient financial resources to operate the educational program and fulfill the program's obligations to matriculating and enrolled students)
- **Standard A1.07** (lacked evidence the sponsoring institution provides the program with the human resources, including sufficient faculty, administrative and technical staff, necessary to operate the educational program, comply with the Standards, and fulfill obligations to matriculating and enrolled students)
- **Standard A1.10a** (lacked evidence the sponsoring institution supports the program in securing clinical sites and preceptors sufficient in number to allow all students to meet the program's learning outcomes for supervised clinical practice experiences)
- **Standard A2.03** (lacked evidence principal faculty is sufficient in number to meet the academic needs of enrolled students and manage the administrative responsibilities consistent with the complexity of the program)
- **Standard A3.11** (lacked evidence the sponsoring institution and program's announcements and advertising accurately reflect the program offered)
- **Standard A3.12d** (lacked evidence the program defines, publishes and makes readily available to enrolled and prospective students general program information to include all required curricular components including required rotation disciplines)
- **Standard B1.01d** (lacked evidence the curriculum is of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare the student for the clinical practice of medicine)
- **Standard B1.04b** (lacked evidence the program ensures educational equivalency of course content, student experience and access to didactic and laboratory materials when instruction is provided by different pedagogical and instructional methods or techniques for some students)
- **Standard B3.01** (lacked evidence the program secures clinical sites and preceptors in sufficient numbers to allow all clinical students to meet the program's learning outcomes for supervised clinical practice experiences.
- **Standard B3.07e** (lacked evidence supervised clinical practice experiences occur with preceptors who enable students to meet program defined learning outcomes for pediatrics)
- **Standard B3.07f** (lacked evidence supervised clinical practice experiences occur with preceptors who enable students to meet program defined learning outcomes for women's health including prenatal and gynecologic care)
- **Standard B4.01a** (lacked evidence the program conducts frequent, objective and documented evaluations of student performance in meeting the program's learning outcomes and instructional objectives for both didactic and supervised clinical practice experience components and that align with what is expected and taught)

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- **Standard B4.01b** (lacked evidence the program conducts frequent, objective and documented evaluations of student performance in meeting the program's learning outcomes and instructional objectives for both didactic and supervised clinical practice experience components and that allow the program to identify and address any student deficiencies in a timely manner)
- **Standard C1.01a** narrative (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses administrative aspects of the program and institutional resources)
- **Standard C1.01b** narrative (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses effectiveness of the didactic curriculum)
- **Standard C1.01c** narrative (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses effectiveness of the clinical curriculum)
- **Standard C1.01d** narrative (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses preparation of graduates to achieve program defined competencies)
- **Standard C1.01e** narrative (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses PANCE performance)
- **Standard C1.01f** narrative (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses sufficiency and effectiveness of principal and instructional faculty and staff)

Report due June August 3, 2026 (*Standards*, 5th edition) modified self-study report:

- **Standard C1.01a** (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses administrative aspects of the program and institutional resources)
- **Standard C1.01b** (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses effectiveness of the didactic curriculum)
- **Standard C1.01c** (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses effectiveness of the clinical curriculum)
- **Standard C1.01d** (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses preparation of graduates to achieve program defined competencies)
- **Standard C1.01e** (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses PANCE performance)
- **Standard C1.01f** (lacked evidence program defines its ongoing self-assessment process that is designed to document program effectiveness and foster program improvement and addresses sufficiency and effectiveness of principal and instructional faculty and staff)
- **Standard C1.02b** (lacked evidence the program implements its ongoing self-assessment process by performing critical analysis of data)

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- **Standard C2.01b** (lacked evidence the program defines and maintains effective processes and documents the initial and ongoing evaluation of all sites and preceptors used for supervised clinical practice experiences, to ensure students are able to fulfill program learning outcomes with access to patient populations)

No report due (commission expects program to demonstrate responsibility for complying with the standard at the probation visit):

- **Standard B4.04b** (lacked evidence the program documents equivalency of student evaluation methods and outcomes when instruction is provided by different pedagogical and instructional methods or techniques for some students)

Observation response due May 16, 2025 (Standards, 5th edition):

- **Standard B3.03b** (lacked evidence supervised clinical practice experiences enable all students to meet the program's learning outcomes across the life span, to include infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly)
- **Standard B3.03c** (lacked evidence supervised clinical practice experiences enable all students to meet the program's learning outcomes for women's health [to include prenatal and gynecologic care])
- **Standard C1.02a** (lacked evidence the program implements its ongoing self-assessment process by conducting data collection)
- **Standard C1.02c.i.** (lacked evidence the program implements its ongoing self-assessment process by applying the results leading to conclusions that identify program strengths)
- **Standard C1.02c.ii.** (lacked evidence the program implements its ongoing self-assessment process by applying the results leading to conclusions that identify program areas in need of improvement)
- **Standard C1.02c.iii.** (lacked evidence the program implements its ongoing self-assessment process by applying the results leading to conclusions that identify action plans)

The program received an alert through the Program Management Portal that the number of students exceeded the maximum entering class size. The program submitted the required Exceeding Class Size report. The commission **accepted the report**. No further information requested.

September 2024

Program Change: Expansion to a distant campus. The commission **does not approve** the expansion to the distant campus in Mansfield, PA.

Report due November 21, 2024:

- Update Budget tab in Program Management Portal.
- Update PANCE pass rate average over five years on website.

Report due November 21, 2024 (Standards, 5th edition):

- **Standard A1.02g** (lacked evidence sponsoring institution is responsible for documenting appropriate security and personal safety measures for PA students and faculty in all locations where instruction occurs)
- **Standard A1.06** (lacked evidence sponsoring institution provides the program with sufficient financial resources to operate the educational program and fulfill obligations to matriculating and enrolled students)

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- **Standard A2.10** (lacked evidence the program director supervises the medical director, principal and instructional faculty and staff in activities that directly relate to the PA program)
- **Standard A3.12b** (lacked evidence the program defines, publishes and makes readily available to enrolled and prospective students, general program information to include evidence of its effectiveness in meeting its goals)
- **Standard B3.07e** (lacked evidence supervised clinical practice experiences occur with preceptors who enable students to meet program defined learning outcomes for pediatrics)
- **Standard B3.07f** (lacked evidence supervised clinical practice experiences occur with preceptors who enable students to meet program defined learning outcomes for women's health including prenatal and gynecologic care)
- **Standard B3.07g** (lacked evidence supervised clinical practice experiences occur with preceptors who enable students to meet program defined learning outcomes for behavioral and mental health care)
- **Standard C2.01b** (lacked evidence the program defines and maintains effective processes and documents the initial and ongoing evaluation of all sites and preceptors used for supervised clinical practice experiences, to ensure students are able to fulfill program learning outcomes with access to patient populations)

September 2022

Program Change: Change in program sponsorship. The Commission **approved** the proposed change in program sponsorship from Lock Haven University to Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, effective July 1, 2022 . No further information is requested.

March 2022

Program Change: Change in Distant Campus location. The Commission **approved** the relocation of the Harrisburg, PA distant campus from the Dixon University Center to Harrisburg Area Community College. No further information requested.

September 2021

The commission **accepted the report** providing evidence of

- Follow-up for the class of 2021 on graduation, including confirmation all students met all program and supervised clinical practice experience learning outcomes and completed summative testing. No further information requested.

March 2021

The commission **accepted the report** providing evidence of

- The placement of the class of 2021 in supervised clinical practice experiences.

Additional information (updated report after graduation of the class of 2021, including confirmation that all students met all program and supervised clinical practice experience learning outcomes and completed summative testing) due July 1, 2021.

September 2020

The commission **accepted the report** providing evidence of

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- Follow-up regarding the program's plans in response to COVID-19.

Additional information (confirmation of the placement of the class of 2021 in supervised clinical practice experiences) due October 1, 2020.

June 2020

The commission **acknowledged the report** providing evidence of

- The proposed plan in response to COVID-19.

Additional information (for the class of 2020-number of supervised clinical practice experiences completed, planned graduation date, proposed graduation date for students who needed additional clinical training, detailed information on proposed virtual clinical education and institutional approval of plans) due July 1, 2020.

June 2018

The commission **accepted the report** providing evidence of

- Sufficiency of administrative support. No further information requested.

March 2018

The commission **accepted the report** addressing 4th edition

- **Standard A2.10** (provided evidence the program director supervises the principal faculty and staff in all activities that directly relate to the PA program) and
- **Standard A2.18** (provided evidence there is at least a 1.0 FTE position, dedicated exclusively to the program, to provide administrative support for the program).

Additional information (sufficiency of administrative support) due February 16, 2018.

The commission **acknowledged the report** providing evidence of

- Updated website and Portal. No further information requested.

September 2017

Accreditation-Continued; Next Comprehensive Evaluation: September 2027. Maximum class size: 72.

Reports due October 25, 2017

- Update website with accreditation status and update link in Program Management Portal to website.

November 10, 2017 (*Standards*, 4th edition) -

- **Standard A2.10** (lacked evidence the program director supervises the principal faculty and staff in all activities that directly relate to the PA program) and
- **Standard A2.18** (lacked evidence there is at least a 1.0 FTE position, dedicated exclusively to the program, to provide administrative support for the program).

July 2017

The program received an alert through the Program Management Portal that the number of students exceeded the maximum entering class size. The program submitted the required Exceeding Class Size report. The commission **accepted the report**. No further information requested.

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March 2014

The commission **accepted the report** providing evidence of

- Updated website and report addressing SCPEs in non-pediatrics/ob/gyn/and psychiatric settings.

September 2013

The commission **accepted the report** addressing 4th edition

- **Standard B3.02** (provided evidence supervised clinical practice experiences [SCPEs] enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice),
- **Standards B3.03a, b and d** (provided evidence of SCPEs providing sufficient patient exposure with patients seeking a) medical care across the life span, b) women's health and d) behavioral and mental health conditions),
- **Standard B3.04b** (provided evidence of SCPEs occurring in emergency departments) and
- **Standards B3.07d-f** (provided evidence of SCPEs with preceptors practicing in d) pediatrics. e) ob/gyn and f) behavioral and mental health).

Additional information (update website link to PANCE Pass Rate Summary Report and report addressing SCPEs in non-pediatrics, non-ob/gyn settings and non-psychiatric settings) due October 31, 2013.

September 2012

Accreditation-Continued; Next Comprehensive Review: September 2017. Maximum Student Capacity: 144. Report due July 1, 2013 (*Standards*, 4th edition) -

- **Standard B3.02** (lacked evidence supervised clinical practice experiences [SCPEs] enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice),
- **Standards B3.03a, b and d** (lacked evidence of SCPEs providing sufficient patient exposure with patients seeking a) medical care across the life span, b) women's health and d) behavioral and mental health conditions),
- **Standard B3.04b** (lacked evidence of SCPEs occurring in emergency departments) and
- **Standards B3.07d-f** (lacked evidence of SCPEs with preceptors practicing in d) pediatrics. e) ob/gyn and f) behavioral and mental health).

September 2009

Program Change: Expansion to a distant site (two distant sites, one in Coudersport, PA and the other in Harrisburg, PA). The commission **approved the proposed expansion** and a **change in the maximum aggregate** enrollment to 140. No further information requested.

September 2005

Accreditation-Continued; Next Comprehensive Evaluation: September 2011. Maximum Student Capacity: 92. The commission noted zero areas of noncompliance with the *Standards*.

September 2004

The commission **acknowledged the report** providing evidence of

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- The clinical educational equivalency of the program at the branch campus in Clearfield, PA, and the main campus. No further information requested.

September 2003

The commission **accepted the report** providing evidence of

- Didactic educational equivalency of the program at the branch campus in Clearfield, PA, and the main campus. No further information requested.

September-December 2001

The commission **approved an increase in enrollment** from 60 to 84 and **acknowledged the distant campus** in Clearfield, PA. Reports due July 15, 2003 and July 15, 2004 (documentation of educational equivalency in didactic year [2003] and clinical year [2004]).

March 2001

The commission **accepted the report** addressing 1st edition

- **Standard I B 1 c (3)** (provided evidence of a sufficient number of faculty to provide students with adequate attention, instruction, and supervised practice to acquire the knowledge and competence needed for entry to the profession) and
- **Standard I B 1 d** (provided evidence of a sufficient number of clerical and other support staff). No further information requested.

The commission **did not acknowledge** and **did not approve** the proposal of the Corrections Medicine Track as it appeared to be a separate program.

September 2000

Accreditation-Continued; Next Comprehensive Evaluation: September 2005.

Report due January 15, 2001 (*Standards*, 1st edition) -

- **Standard I B 1 c (3)** (lacked evidence of a sufficient number of faculty to provide students with adequate attention, instruction, and supervised practice to acquire the knowledge and competence needed for entry to the profession) and
- **Standard I B 1 d** (lacked evidence of a sufficient number of clerical and other support staff).

September 1998

The commission **accepted the report** providing evidence of

- Faculty office space and documentation of student health. No further information requested.

October 1997

Accreditation-Provisional; Next Comprehensive Evaluation: September 2000.

Report due August 1, 1998 (*Essentials*, 1997)

- *Essentials I B 3 a* (lacked evidence that faculty office space is adequate) and
- *Essentials I C 3 a* (lacked evidence the program documents students are free from conditions that endanger other students or patients).

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