PAEA RESEARCH
Curriculum Report 5 $\square$ Didactic

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The PAEA Research Team staff was responsible for the development and administration of the survey as well as for the preparation of this report. For any questions regarding the contents of this report, please contact research@PAEAonline.org.

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# BYTHE NUMBERS CURRICULUM REPORT 5: DATA FROM THE 2019 DIDACTIC CURRICULUM SURVEY 

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## INTRODUCTION

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1972, the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) represents all accredited physician assistant (PA) education programs in the United States. At the time of the 2019 Didactic Curriculum Survey administration in July 2019, PAEA represented 242 PA programs. For more information about PAEA and our products and services, visit PAEAonline.org.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

These data were collected in 2019, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic in 2020. It is unknown to what extent results are still reflective of PA programs as the pandemic forced PA education to rapidly adapt on a situational basis. For more information about the changes that PA programs made to continue providing excellent education amidst an ever-evolving crisis, PAEA members are encouraged to read our limited series of COVID-19 Rapid Response Reports.

## METHODS

## SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The 2019 Curriculum Survey collected data on PA programs' didactic curricula, which are reported in the following sections:
Section 1. Program Information: Satellite campuses, distance learning, requirements students must meet to participate in supervised clinical practice rotations, and learning management systems

Sections 2 through 6: Course structure, required contact hours, methods of instruction, and methods of assessment for the following categories of didactic curriculum:

- Section 2. Basic Medical Sciences
- Section 3. Clinical Preparatory Sciences
- Section 4. Behavioral \& Social Sciences
- Section 5. Health Policy \& Professional Practice
- Section 6. Research


## Section 7. Certifications

Section 8. Interprofessional Education: Types of health professional students that PA students interact with, and the classroom/laboratory and extracurricular settings in which interprofessional education occurs during the didactic phase

The data in all sections of the survey reflect the 2018-2019 academic year.

## SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

The Curriculum Survey is administered in three parts that rotate annually and that correspond to the major phases of PA school: the prerequisites/admissions phase, the didactic phase, and the clinical phase. Thus far, the Prerequisite Curriculum Survey has been administered in 2015 and 2018, the Didactic Curriculum Survey administered in 2016 and 2019, and the Clinical Curriculum Survey administered in 2017. Reports on each of the survey results are released the year following administration.

The 2019 Didactic Curriculum Survey was sent to the program directors of PAEA's 242 member programs in July 2019. The PAEA Research Team sent email reminders to non-respondents and conducted follow-up calls until the survey closed in December 2019. The survey yielded an overall response rate of $98.8 \%$ based on the 239 respondents; however, the response rate varies for individual items.

## DATA CLEANING AND ANALYSIS

Responses to multiple-choice questions were checked for logical consistency and examined for extreme values and possible errors. In cases of obvious misinterpretations or inconsistencies in the responses to specific items, respondents were contacted for clarification. Responses that fell outside of reasonable parameters were not included in the analyses. The number of responses to individual survey items varied slightly. The tables and figures presented in this report display aggregate data from the respondents. Programs had the option of reporting on other courses not included in the survey instrument. Due to low frequencies of repeat responses across programs and therefore the limited utility of those data, results for these "other" courses were not included in the present report.

In general, analyses of the data consisted of calculating descriptive statistics on the variables of interest - percentage, minimum and maximum values; arithmetic mean ( $M$ ) ; standard deviation ( $S D$ ); median ( $M d n$ ); and $10^{\text {th }}, 25^{\text {th }}, 50^{\text {th }}, 75^{\text {th }}$, and $90^{\text {th }}$ percentiles (P10, P25, P50, P75, P90). For some tables and figures, percentages will not equal $100 \%$ due to rounding or when multiple responses were allowed. Total columns on tables and figures are designated by $n$ for the number of programs reporting. Any other notations not described here are defined in the body of the report.

## LIMITATIONS

As previously noted, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic may significantly limit the generalizability of this report.
For the first time since 2015, when the Curriculum Survey was split into its current three-part rotation, this survey did not achieve a $100 \%$ response rate; therefore, this report does not contain complete coverage of all PAEA member programs at the time of survey administration. Still, the high response rate of $98.8 \%$ does ensure that results presented here are broadly representative of the entire landscape of PA programs in the United States. Upon realizing that a $100 \%$ response rate was not going to be possible this year, the PAEA Research Team investigated whether non-responding and responding programs differed based on certain program characteristics, such as institution type and Academic Health Center status. Fortunately, no clear patterns were identified, but this analysis revealed inconsistencies in reported program characteristics over the years.

As with any survey, all data presented in this and prior reports are self-reported by programs and may vary in response rate and accuracy; thus, yearly fluctuations in the data do occur. If substantial changes in any data occur in a particular year, PAEA recommends waiting until the following year's report is released before taking any permanent actions in your program, in order to identify whether the change was unique to that year (e.g., due to response rate or random fluctuation).

Finally, programs were provided with lists of course names and topic areas and asked to report about the portions of their curricula that matched most closely. It is unknown to what extent they are exact matches, and it is possible there may be overlap between subject areas (e.g., "behavioral medicine" and "substance use disorder") or subject areas that were not captured.

## QUESTIONS AND DATA REQUESTS

The data from the 2019 Curriculum Survey, as well as custom reports using these data, are available upon request. More information is available in PAEA's Data Request and Sharing Policies. Please direct inquiries regarding data requests or this report to the Research Team at research@PAEAonline.org.

## SECTION 1.PROGRAM INFORMATION

Data presented in this section were also published in October 2020 in By the Numbers: Program Report 35: Data from the 2019 Program Survey. For more information about program characteristics, please see our By the Numbers: Program Report series.

FIGURE 1. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PA PROGRAMS BY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REGIONS AND DIVISIONS


## REGION 1 NORTHEAST

67 PROGRAMS
DIVISION 1 NEW ENGLAND
Connecticut (6)
Maine (1)
Massachusetts (8)
New Hampshire (2)
Rhode Island (2)
Vermont (0)
DIVISION 2 MIDDLE ATLANTIC
New Jersey (3)
New York (23)
Pennsylvania (22)

REGION 2 MIDWEST
54 PROGRAMS
DIVISION 3 EAST NORTH CENTRAL
Illinois (5)
Indiana (8)
Michigan (6)
Ohio (12)
Wisconsin (5)
DIVISION 4 WEST NORTH CENTRAL
Iowa (3)
Kansas (1)
Minnesota (4)
Missouri (4)
Nebraska (4)
North Dakota (1)
South Dakota (1)

[^0]REGION 3 SOUTH
83 PROGRAMS
DIVISION 5 SOUTH ATLANTIC
Delaware (0)
District of Columbia (1)
Florida (16)
Georgia (5)
Maryland (3)
North Carolina (10)
South Carolina (5)
Virginia (8)
West Virginia (3)
DIVISION 6 EAST SOUTH CENTRAL
Alabama (3)
Kentucky (3)
Mississippi (1)
Tennessee (8)

## DIVISION 7 WEST SOUTH CENTRAL

## Arkansas (2)

Louisiana (3)
Oklahoma (3)
Texas (9)

REGION 4 WEST
35 PROGRAMS

## DIVISION 8 MOUNTAIN

Arizona (3)
Colorado (4)
Idaho (1)
Montana (1)
Nevada (2)
New Mexico (2)
Utah (2)
Wyoming (0)

## DIVISION 9 PACIFIC

Alaska (0)
California (16)
Hawaii (0)
Oregon (2)
Washington (2)

TABLE 1. SPONSORING INSTITUTION ATTRIBUTES

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Type of institution | 148 | 61.9 |
| Private, non-profit | 70 | 29.3 |
| Public | 13 | 5.4 |
| Private, for-profit | 7 | 2.9 |
| Public/private hybrid | 1 | 0.4 |
| Military |  |  |
| Academic Health Center status | 174 | 72.8 |
| Not AHC | 65 | 27.2 |
| AHC |  |  |
| Administrative housing | 119 | 49.8 |
| School of Allied Health/Health Professions/Health Sciences | 42 | 17.6 |
| Department of PA Studies/PA Program | 37 | 15.5 |
| College/School of Medicine | 11 | 4.6 |
| College of Graduate and Professional Studies | 5 | 2.1 |
| College of Arts and Sciences | 4 | 1.7 |
| Science department | 2 | 0.8 |
| Other health discipline (e.g., Nursing, Pharmacy, Podiatry) | 19 | 7.9 |
| Other administrative housing | 239 | 100.0 |
| Total |  |  |

TABLE 2. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PA PROGRAMS

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Northeast Region |  |  |
| New England Division | 19 | 7.9 |
| Middle Atlantic Division | $\mathbf{n}$ | 20.1 |
| Subtotal | $\mathbf{6 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 8 . 0}$ |
| Midwest Region | 36 | 15.1 |
| East North Central Division | 18 | 7.5 |
| West North Central Division | 54 | 22.6 |
| Subtotal |  |  |
| South Region | 51 | 21.3 |
| South Atlantic Division | 15 | 6.3 |
| East South Central Division | 17 | 7.1 |
| West South Central Division | 83 | 34.7 |
| Subtotal |  |  |
| West Region | 15 | 6.3 |
| Mountain Division | 20 | 8.4 |
| Pacific Division | 35 | 14.6 |
| Subtotal | $\mathbf{2 3 9}$ | 100.0 |
| Total |  |  |

## DISTANCE LEARNING

## FIGURE 2. DISTANCE CAMPUSES



On average, among the 16 programs with satellite campuses that reported their student enrollment at both their primary and distance campuses, $37.4 \%$ of the program's students were enrolled in a satellite campus ( $\mathrm{min}=18.4 \%$, $\max =66.7 \%, S D=15.1 \%, M d n=31.9 \%)$.

TABLE 3. NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED AT DISTANCE CAMPUSES

|  | $n(P)$ | $n(S)$ | Min | Max | $\boldsymbol{M}$ | $\boldsymbol{S D}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Students enrolled at primary campus | 16 | 560 | 9 | 85 | 35.0 | 21.6 |
| Students enrolled at distance campus(es) | 16 | 865 | 24 | 122 | 54.1 | 23.2 |
| Total enrollment | $\mathbf{1 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 4 2 5}$ | $\mathbf{4 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 7 2}$ | $\mathbf{8 9 . 1}$ | $\mathbf{8 5 . 5}$ |

Note: Only programs that indicated they had at least one distance campus were asked to respond to this question. $n(S)$ refers to the number of enrolled students reported by the $n(P)$ responding programs. Zeroes were excluded from analysis.

TABLE 4. DELIVERY OF CURRICULUM TO DISTANCE CAMPUSES (\%)

|  | $n$ | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Always |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Faculty assigned to primary campus | 17 | 0.0 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 47.1 | 47.1 |
| Faculty assigned to distance campus(es) | 17 | 0.0 | 5.9 | 23.5 | 29.4 | 41.2 |
| Primary and distance campus curricula are independent | 16 | 75.0 | 18.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.3 |
| Virtual Classroom Training (VCT) | 16 | 37.5 | 6.3 | 12.5 | 31.3 | 12.5 |

[^1]TABLE 5. PERCENTAGE (\%) OF DIDACTIC CONTENT ORIGINATING FROM EACH CAMPUS OR SOURCE

|  | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Min | Max | $\boldsymbol{M}$ | SD | Mdn |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Primary campus to satellite | 16 | 1.0 | 99.0 | 52.2 | 25.9 | 55.0 |
| Satellite to primary campus | 16 | 1.0 | 62.0 | 27.9 | 18.6 | 27.5 |
| Primary campus self-contained | 8 | 5.0 | 98.0 | 33.1 | 32.2 | 22.5 |
| Satellite campus self-contained | 8 | 5.0 | 98.0 | 33.1 | 32.2 | 22.5 |
| Students access curriculum from a third-party source | 3 | 5.0 | 15.0 | 8.3 | 5.8 | 5.0 |

Note: Only programs that indicated they had at least one distance campus were asked to report the approximate percentage of their didactic content that originated from each campus or source on an annual basis. Percentages were required to sum to $100 \%$. Zeroes were excluded from analysis.

CONTENT DELIVERY

TABLE 6. PRIMARY MODE OF INSTRUCTION

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Lecture/laboratory | 95 | 40.3 |
| Patient-based (PBL)/Case-based/Team-based (TBL) learning | 9 | 3.8 |
| Combination of these modes | 131 | 55.5 |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 3 5}$ | $\mathbf{9 9 . 6}$ |

TABLE 7. PRIMARY CURRICULUM DELIVERY METHOD

|  | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | \% |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| On-site | 224 | 94.9 |
| Distance, synchronous | 8 | 3.4 |
| Distance, asynchronous | 1 | 0.4 |
| Other methods | 3 | 1.3 |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 3 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

TABLE 8. LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM(S) USED BY PROGRAM

|  | n | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| BlackBoard ${ }^{\text {mm }}$ | 88 | 37.3 |
| Canvas ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ | 79 | 33.5 |
| Moodle ${ }^{\text {m }}$ | 27 | 11.4 |
| D2L ${ }^{\text {m }}$ | 21 | 8.9 |
| SakaiT ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ | 6 | 2.5 |
| Other |  |  |
| eMedley ${ }^{\text {mem }}$ | 4 | 1.7 |
| Exxat ${ }^{\text {tw }}$ | 4 | 1.7 |
| All other learning management systems | 16 | 6.8 |
| None | 3 | 1.3 |
| Total | 236 | - |

[^2]TABLE 9. PRIMARY METHOD FOR TESTING WITHIN CURRICULUM

|  | $n$ | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Computer-based, locally (program) developed (e.g., ExamSoft ${ }^{\text {Tm }}$, Blackboard ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ ) | 182 | 76.2 |
| Computer-based, commercially developed (e.g., Exam Master ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ ) | 25 | 10.5 |
| Scantron ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ or similar scannable device | 12 | 5.0 |
| Paper-based | 2 | 0.8 |
| Both computer-based, locally developed and Scantron ${ }^{\text {™ }}$ | 15 | 6.3 |
| Other methods | 3 | 1.3 |
| Total | 239 | 100.0 |

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVANCEMENT WITHIN AND BEYOND DIDACTIC PHASE

194 programs (82.9\%) reported that students had to achieve a minimum average GPA across all didactic courses to be considered for promotion/advancement to the next semester of the didactic phase. Of these programs, 192 programs reported an average required minimum GPA of $2.90(\min =2.00, \max =3.15, S D=0.24, M d n=3.00)$.

TABLE 10. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS TO PROCEED TO CLINICAL PHASE OF PROGRAM

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Minimum GPA achieved for entire didactic curriculum | 163 | 72.1 |
| Successful passing grades in each didactic course (i.e., a pass/fail  <br> grading system) 130 | 57.5 |  |
| Pass OSCEs | 105 | 46.5 |
| Pass pre-clinical summative examination | 77 | 34.1 |
| Minimum average percentage/letter grade achieved for entire <br> didactic curriculum <br> Minimum GPA or percentage/letter grade achieved for some, but not <br> all courses <br> Other requirements | 67 | 29.6 |
| Total | 16 | 7.1 |

Note: Percentages may sum to more than $100 \%$ because programs could select multiple requirements.

226 programs (94.5\%) required students to meet academic requirements to proceed to the clinical phase of the program. Among the 165 programs that reported their required minimum average GPA, the average requirement was 2.2 ( $\min =2.00, \max =3.15, S D=0.19, M d n=3.00$ ).

TABLE 11. MINIMUM LETTER GRADE FOR ENTIRE DIDACTIC CURRICULUM REQUIRED TO PROCEED TO CLINICAL PHASE OF PROGRAM

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| B | 21 | 35.6 |
| B- | 13 | 22.0 |
| C+ | 4 | 6.8 |
| C | 12 | 20.3 |
| C- | 9 | 15.3 |
| Total | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

Note: Only programs that indicated that students were required to achieve a minimum average percentage or letter grade to proceed to the clinical phase of the program were asked to respond to this question.

FIGURE 3. PROFESSIONALISM STANDARD


Note: $n=236$

FIGURE 4. NPI NUMBER REQUIREMENT


[^3]
## DOCTORAL DEGREE CONSIDERATION

The discussion about offering PA-related doctoral degrees as an entry-level or optional choice has grown in recent years. These data were collected in the summer of 2019, prior to motions advanced by PAEA member programs at Education Forum business meetings to investigate the feasibility of an entry-level PA doctorate.

FIGURE 5. DOCTORAL DEGREE CONSIDERATION


Program currently offers or has discussed offering PA-related doctoral degree
Program does not currently offer and has not discussed offering PA-related doctoral degree

Note: $n=236$

TABLE 12. STATUS OF PA-RELATED DOCTORAL DEGREE CONSIDERATIONS

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Program currently offers a PA-related post-graduate doctoral degree | 4 | 8.0 |
| Program currently offers a PA-related entry-level doctoral degree | 0 | 0.0 |
| Program has firm plans to offer a PA-related post-graduate doctoral degree | 3 | 6.0 |
| Program has firm plans to offer a PA-related entry-level doctoral degree | 1 | 2.0 |
| Program has discussed offering a PA-related post-graduate doctoral degree <br> but currently has no firm plans | 34 | 68.0 |
| Program has discussed offering a PA-related entry-level doctoral degree but <br> currently has no firm plans | 8 | 16.0 |
| Total | $\mathbf{5 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

Note: Only programs that indicated that they had either discussed offering or currently offer a PA-related doctoral degree were asked to respond to this question.

## SECTION 2. BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES

Programs were asked to report on the following basic medical science courses:

- Anatomy
- Biochemistry*
- Genetics
- Immunology*
- Medical terminology
- Microbiology
- Molecular basis of disease
- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology
- Physiology*

Programs could also report about "other" basic medical science courses. Examples of these courses include embryology, neuroanatomy, and nutrition. Due to low frequencies, these results were not included in the current report. Courses in the list above marked with an asterisk (*) were added to the 2019 survey based on the most frequently listed "other" basic medical science courses reported by programs in the 2016 survey.

TABLE 13. BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES: COURSE STRUCTURE (\%)

|  | $n$ | Stand-alone/ <br> Distinct | Integrated <br> into several <br> courses | Module in <br> one course | Do not offer |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Anatomy | 236 | 86.0 | 12.7 | 1.3 | 0.0 |
| Biochemistry | 233 | 5.2 | 43.8 | 2.6 | 48.5 |
| Genetics | 235 | 21.3 | 59.1 | 16.2 | 3.4 |
| Immunology | 236 | 5.5 | 70.3 | 16.9 | 7.2 |
| Medical terminology | 236 | 9.3 | 35.6 | 6.8 | 48.3 |
| Microbiology | 235 | 17.4 | 64.3 | 6.4 | 11.9 |
| Molecular basis of disease | 234 | 3.0 | 75.2 | 5.1 | 16.7 |
| Pathophysiology | 236 | 48.7 | 49.2 | 1.3 | 0.8 |
| Pharmacology | 236 | 86.9 | 13.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Physiology | 235 | 56.6 | 40.4 | 1.7 | 1.3 |


|  | $n$ | Min | Max | M | $S D$ | P10 | P25 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { P50 } \\ & (M d n) \end{aligned}$ | P75 | P90 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Anatomy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 232 | 2.0 | 193.0 | 52.9 | 25.7 | 28.2 | 38.8 | 45.0 | 60.0 | 86.7 |
| Lab | 220 | 1.0 | 180.0 | 52.3 | 33.0 | 15.0 | 30.0 | 45.0 | 67.5 | 90.6 |
| Biochemistry |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 109 | 1.0 | 100.0 | 17.0 | 17.1 | 2.8 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 20.0 | 45.0 |
| Lab | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR |
| Genetics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 215 | 1.0 | 216.0 | 15.0 | 18.5 | 4.0 | 6.5 | 10.0 | 16.0 | 30.0 |
| Lab | 5 | 1.5 | 30.0 | 10.1 | 11.4 | 2.5 | 4.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 21.2 |
| Immunology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 202 | 1.0 | 216.0 | 12.0 | 17.9 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 13.0 | 20.0 |
| Lab | 3 | 2.0 | 6.0 | 3.7 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 5.4 |
| Medical terminology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 94 | 1.0 | 135.0 | 12.9 | 20.7 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 6.0 | 14.8 | 28.5 |
| Lab | 4 | 10.0 | 50.0 | 27.2 | 18.4 | 11.5 | 13.8 | 24.5 | 38.0 | 45.2 |
| Microbiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 193 | 1.0 | 216.0 | 20.9 | 21.6 | 4.0 | 9.5 | 15.0 | 30.0 | 45.0 |
| Lab | 15 | 2.0 | 45.0 | 12.5 | 14.3 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 6.0 | 15.0 | 35.0 |
| Molecular basis of disease |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 172 | 1.0 | 288.0 | 22.2 | 32.4 | 4.0 | 7.4 | 12.0 | 25.0 | 45.0 |
| Lab | 5 | 2.0 | 20.0 | 12.8 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 12.0 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 18.0 |
| Pathophysiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 220 | 2.0 | 403.0 | 69.0 | 65.2 | 20.0 | 37.5 | 47.5 | 78.5 | 135.0 |
| Lab | 7 | 4.0 | 67.5 | 23.9 | 22.7 | 4.0 | 10.0 | 16.0 | 30.0 | 51.0 |
| Pharmacology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 228 | 2.0 | 368.0 | 93.1 | 42.7 | 45.0 | 70.0 | 90.0 | 110.0 | 136.5 |
| Lab | 11 | 2.0 | 48.0 | 12.2 | 14.8 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 6.0 | 15.0 | 30.0 |
| Physiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 220 | 2.0 | 288.0 | 50.8 | 32.1 | 20.0 | 30.0 | 45.0 | 60.0 | 83.1 |
| Lab | 21 | 2.0 | 67.5 | 18.4 | 16.7 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 15.0 | 20.0 | 45.0 |

Note: Only programs that reported a minimum number of required contact hours are reported here. If a program left the question blank or entered " 0 ," they were excluded from this table. In addition, based on previous years' data, reports of over 450 minimum required hours for any particular course were excluded as extreme outliers. "NR" indicates that no valid responses were received.

FIGURE 6. BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES: AVERAGE REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS


TABLE 15. BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES: MODES OF INSTRUCTION (\%)

|  | $n$ | Lecture only | Lab only | Lecture/lab combination | Seminar | Selfinstructional | Case-based/ TBL/PBL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Anatomy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 235 | 7.7 | 0.9 | 90.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Secondary mode | 76 | 7.9 | 18.4 | 13.2 | 1.3 | 23.7 | 35.5 |
| Biochemistry |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 115 | 89.6 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 5.2 |
| Secondary mode | 35 | 42.9 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 20.0 | 31.4 |
| Genetics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 221 | 86.9 | 0.5 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 5.0 | 3.6 |
| Secondary mode | 76 | 36.8 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 5.3 | 22.4 | 32.9 |
| Immunology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 213 | 91.1 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 4.7 |
| Secondary mode | 55 | 38.2 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 20.0 | 38.2 |
| Medical terminology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 119 | 43.7 | 0.0 | 5.0 | 0.0 | 48.7 | 2.5 |
| Secondary mode | 35 | 20.0 | 5.7 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 45.7 | 22.9 |
| Microbiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 201 | 84.6 | 0.5 | 11.4 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 3.0 |
| Secondary mode | 56 | 32.1 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 19.6 | 42.9 |
| Molecular basis of disease |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 190 | 91.6 | 0.5 | 4.2 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 3.2 |
| Secondary mode | 59 | 39.0 | 0.0 | 3.4 | 1.7 | 16.9 | 39.0 |
| Pathophysiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 230 | 88.7 | 0.4 | 5.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.7 |
| Secondary mode | 82 | 29.3 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 15.9 | 48.8 |
| Pharmacology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 219 | 93.6 | 0.4 | 3.4 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.3 |
| Secondary mode | 86 | 25.6 | 4.7 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 14.0 | 53.5 |
| Physiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 230 | 85.7 | 0.9 | 9.1 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| Secondary mode | 70 | 34.3 | 1.4 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 17.1 | 40.0 |

TABLE 16. BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES: MODES OF ASSESSMENT (\%)

|  | $n$ | Multiplechoice | Practical exams | OSCEs | Writing assignment | Oral presentation | Portfolio |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Anatomy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 235 | 84.3 | 14.9 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 185 | 17.8 | 77.8 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Biochemistry |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 116 | 96.6 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 23 | 60.9 | 8.7 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 4.3 | 0.0 |
| Genetics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 221 | 96.8 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 60 | 43.3 | 5.0 | 6.7 | 31.7 | 11.7 | 1.7 |
| Immunology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 212 | 99.1 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 43 | 58.1 | 4.7 | 9.3 | 23.3 | 4.7 | 0.0 |
| Medical terminology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 119 | 89.1 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 6.7 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 33 | 45.5 | 12.1 | 12.1 | 27.3 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| Microbiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 200 | 99.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 40 | 55.0 | 7.5 | 12.5 | 17.5 | 5.0 | 2.5 |
| Molecular basis of disease |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 189 | 98.9 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 43 | 51.2 | 14.0 | 9.3 | 16.3 | 7.0 | 2.3 |
| Pathophysiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 231 | 99.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 70 | 41.4 | 10.0 | 18.6 | 17.1 | 11.4 | 1.4 |
| Pharmacology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 234 | 98.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 74 | 28.4 | 6.8 | 28.4 | 23.0 | 10.8 | 2.7 |
| Physiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 229 | 99.1 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 57 | 42.1 | 10.5 | 17.5 | 15.8 | 12.3 | 1.8 |

## SECTION 3. CLINICAL PREPARATORY SCIENCES

Programs were asked to report on the following clinical preparatory science courses:

- Clinical decision-making*
- Clinical medicine
- Electrocardiology*
- History/Interviewing skills
- Laboratory medicine/Imaging/Diagnostics
- Physical assessment/Examination skills
- Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS)
- Technical skills/Procedures

Programs could also report about "other" clinical preparatory science courses.
Examples of these courses include clinical integration, emergency medicine, and medical documentation. Due to low frequencies, these results were not included in the current report. Courses in the list above marked with an asterisk (*) were added to the 2019 survey based on the most frequently listed "other" clinical preparatory science courses reported by programs in the 2016 survey.

TABLE 17. CLINICAL PREPARATORY CLASSES: COURSE STRUCTURE (\%)

|  | $n$ | Stand-alone/ <br> Distinct | Integrated into <br> several courses | Module in one <br> course | Do not offer |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Clinical decision-making | 235 | 23.8 | 74.0 | 0.9 | 1.3 |
| Clinical medicine | 236 | 82.6 | 16.1 | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| Electrocardiology | 236 | 25.4 | 51.7 | 22.0 | 0.8 |
| History/Interviewing skills | 236 | 54.7 | 41.9 | 3.4 | 0.0 |
| Laboratory medicine/Imaging/Diagnostics | 236 | 49.2 | 47.5 | 3.0 | 0.4 |
| Physical assessment/Examination skills | 235 | 77.0 | 21.7 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) | 235 | 3.4 | 46.8 | 16.2 | 33.6 |
| Technical skills/Procedures | 235 | 53.2 | 44.3 | 2.6 | 0.0 |

TABLE 18. CLINICAL PREPARATORY CLASSES: REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS

|  | $n$ | Min | Max | M | $S D$ | P10 | P25 | P50 <br> (Mdn) | P75 | P90 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Clinical decision-making |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 199 | 1.0 | 1,600.0 | 81.0 | 148.7 | 5.8 | 20.0 | 45.0 | 85.0 | 156.0 |
| Lab | 107 | 3.0 | 380.0 | 51.9 | 49.1 | 12.0 | 21.5 | 40.0 | 61.0 | 100.8 |
| Clinical medicine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 227 | 3.0 | 1,056.0 | 266.3 | 167.9 | 98.4 | 166.5 | 240.0 | 339.0 | 437.8 |
| Lab | 53 | 4.0 | 186.0 | 54.5 | 41.8 | 10.8 | 20.0 | 40.0 | 75.0 | 109.6 |
| Electrocardiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 224 | 2.0 | 108.0 | 17.6 | 13.4 | 6.0 | 10.0 | 15.0 | 22.0 | 30.0 |
| Lab | 103 | 1.0 | 35.0 | 8.5 | 7.2 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 6.0 | 12.0 | 17.6 |
| History/Interviewing skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 231 | 2.0 | 200.0 | 35.6 | 31.6 | 10.0 | 15.0 | 28.0 | 45.0 | 75.0 |
| Lab | 163 | 1.0 | 200.0 | 33.3 | 33.9 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 20.0 | 45.0 | 69.6 |
| Laboratory medicine/Imaging/Diagnostics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 228 | 2.0 | 220.0 | 46.3 | 34.2 | 15.0 | 20.0 | 38.5 | 60.0 | 90.0 |
| Lab | 101 | 1.0 | 150.0 | 22.3 | 26.6 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 15.0 | 30.0 | 45.0 |
| Physical assessment/Examination skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 223 | 3.0 | 220.0 | 51.0 | 36.5 | 18.4 | 27.0 | 43.0 | 60.0 | 96.0 |
| Lab | 200 | 4.0 | 270.0 | 58.8 | 41.6 | 20.0 | 30.0 | 45.0 | 72.0 | 116.4 |
| Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 131 | 1.0 | 100.0 | 7.1 | 11.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 7.2 | 15.0 |
| Lab | 118 | 1.0 | 176.0 | 10.4 | 18.3 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 5.5 | 12.0 | 20.0 |
| Technical skills/Procedures |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 203 | 2.0 | 300.0 | 31.2 | 33.5 | 8.0 | 12.5 | 20.0 | 40.0 | 60.0 |
| Lab | 193 | 4.0 | 260.0 | 41.3 | 35.3 | 14.2 | 20.0 | 30.0 | 48.0 | 80.0 |

Note: Only programs that reported a minimum number of required contact hours are reported here. If a program left the question blank or entered " 0 ," they were excluded from this table.

FIGURE 7. CLINICAL PREPARATORY COURSES: AVERAGE REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS


TABLE 19. CLINICAL PREPARATORY CLASSES: MODES OF INSTRUCTION (\%)

|  | $n$ | Lecture only | Lab only | Lecture/lab combination | Seminar | Selfinstructional | Case-based/ TBL/PBL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Clinical decision-making |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 231 | 22.1 | 1.3 | 42.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 31.2 |
| Secondary mode | 122 | 18.9 | 1.6 | 10.7 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 61.5 |
| Clinical medicine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 234 | 76.1 | 0.4 | 18.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.7 |
| Secondary mode | 116 | 10.3 | 4.3 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 76.7 |
| Electrocardiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 233 | 45.5 | 1.7 | 49.8 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| Secondary mode | 104 | 6.7 | 11.5 | 14.4 | 2.9 | 12.5 | 51.9 |
| History/Interviewing skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 235 | 14.9 | 0.9 | 81.3 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| Secondary mode | 107 | 6.5 | 15.0 | 10.3 | 1.9 | 7.5 | 58.9 |
| Laboratory medicine/Imaging/Diagnostics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 235 | 52.8 | 0.4 | 44.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Secondary mode | 105 | 7.6 | 9.5 | 12.4 | 1.0 | 8.6 | 61.0 |
| Physical assessment/Examination skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 234 | 7.7 | 3.8 | 87.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Secondary mode | 103 | 4.9 | 13.6 | 17.5 | 2.9 | 6.8 | 54.4 |
| Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 154 | 12.3 | 14.3 | 69.5 | 2.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Secondary mode | 53 | 11.3 | 17.0 | 26.4 | 5.7 | 13.2 | 26.4 |
| Technical skills/Procedures |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 233 | 5.6 | 12.0 | 82.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Secondary mode | 88 | 8.0 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 1.1 | 12.5 | 39.8 |

TABLE 20. CLINICAL PREPARATORY CLASSES: MODES OF ASSESSMENT (\%)

|  | $n$ | Multiplechoice | Practical exams | OSCEs | Writing assignment | Oral presentation | Portfolio |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Clinical decision-making |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 229 | 56.3 | 10.9 | 17.0 | 9.6 | 5.7 | 0.4 |
| Secondary mode | 160 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 48.1 | 10.0 | 13.1 | 0.0 |
| Clinical medicine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 234 | 97.4 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 107 | 11.2 | 15.9 | 50.5 | 16.8 | 5.6 | 0.0 |
| Electrocardiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 231 | 82.7 | 13.9 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 112 | 18.8 | 46.4 | 21.4 | 13.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| History/Interviewing skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 235 | 40.9 | 24.7 | 23.0 | 8.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 173 | 17.9 | 20.2 | 44.5 | 9.8 | 7.5 | 0.0 |
| Laboratory medicine/lmaging/Diagnostics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 234 | 88.5 | 10.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 119 | 19.3 | 35.3 | 35.3 | 9.2 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Physical assessment/Examination skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 233 | 33.9 | 45.1 | 20.6 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Secondary mode | 183 | 32.8 | 28.4 | 34.4 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 0.0 |
| Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 146 | 39.7 | 50.0 | 4.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 4.1 |
| Secondary mode | 59 | 50.8 | 32.2 | 11.9 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| Technical skills/Procedures |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 233 | 28.3 | 64.8 | 4.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.7 |
| Secondary mode | 146 | 42.5 | 39.7 | 14.4 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1.4 |

## SECTION 4. BEHAVIORAL \& SOCIAL SCIENCES

Programs were asked to report on the following behavioral and social science courses:

- Behavioral medicine*
- Counseling skills
- Human sexuality
- Psychiatry*
- Psychological development
- Psychological/Interpersonal/Cultural health factors
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD; includes addiction and substance use/abuse)

Programs could also report about "other" clinical preparatory science courses.
Examples of these courses include trauma-informed care, emotional intelligence, and domestic violence. Due to low frequencies, these results were not included in the current report. Courses in the list above marked with an asterisk (*) were added to the 2019 survey based on the most frequently listed "other" behavioral and social science courses reported by programs in the 2016 survey.

TABLE 21. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: COURSE STRUCTURE (\%)

|  | $n$ | Stand-alone/ Distinct | Integrated into several courses | Module in one course | Do not offer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Behavioral medicine | 236 | 55.9 | 33.9 | 8.5 | 1.7 |
| Counseling skills | 236 | 3.4 | 88.6 | 5.9 | 2.1 |
| Human sexuality | 234 | 1.7 | 86.3 | 10.7 | 1.3 |
| Psychiatry | 235 | 33.2 | 46.0 | 14.9 | 6.0 |
| Psychological development | 232 | 3.4 | 82.8 | 7.3 | 6.5 |
| Psychological/Interpersonal/Cultural health factors | 234 | 8.5 | 82.9 | 7.3 | 1.3 |
| Substance Use Disorder (SUD) | 232 | 1.7 | 87.5 | 9.5 | 1.3 |

TABLE 22. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS

|  | $n$ | Min | Max | M | SD | P10 | P25 | P50 (Mdn) | P75 | P90 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Behavioral medicine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 220 | 0.5 | 172.0 | 28.5 | 21.6 | 6.0 | 12.0 | 28.5 | 40.0 | 48.0 |
| Lab | 24 | 0.5 | 30.0 | 8.6 | 6.7 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 12.2 | 14.7 |
| Counseling skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 219 | 1.0 | 106.0 | 13.2 | 16.1 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 15.0 | 30.0 |
| Lab | 79 | 1.0 | 60.0 | 9.1 | 10.7 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 10.5 | 20.0 |
| Human sexuality |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 223 | 1.0 | 100.0 | 7.2 | 8.6 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 15.0 |
| Lab | 20 | 1.0 | 13.0 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 4.0 | 7.1 |
| Psychiatry |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 206 | 1.0 | 150.0 | 24.2 | 17.5 | 7.0 | 12.0 | 20.0 | 30.0 | 45.0 |
| Lab | 19 | 2.0 | 30.0 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 10.6 |
| Psychological development |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 207 | 1.0 | 100.0 | 7.6 | 9.5 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 15.4 |
| Lab | 5 | 2.0 | 13.0 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 9.4 |
| Psychological/Interpersonal/Cultural health factors |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 222 | 1.0 | 139.0 | 12.7 | 15.4 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 15.0 | 30.0 |
| Lab | 25 | 1.0 | 20.0 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 6.0 | 16.6 |
| Substance Use Disorder (SUD) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 210 | 1.0 | 100.0 | 10.0 | 10.8 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 12.0 | 24.0 |
| Lab | 18 | 1.0 | 24.0 | 4.9 | 5.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 10.9 |

Note: Only programs that reported a minimum number of required contact hours are reported here. If a program left the question blank or entered " 0 ," they were excluded from this table.

FIGURE 8. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: AVERAGE REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS


TABLE 23. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: MODES OF INSTRUCTION (\%)

|  | $n$ | Lecture only | Lab only | Lecture/lab combination | Seminar | Selfinstructional | Case-based/ TBL/PBL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Behavioral medicine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 231 | 78.8 | 0.0 | 13.9 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 6.1 |
| Secondary mode | 81 | 16.0 | 0.0 | 2.5 | 7.4 | 9.9 | 64.2 |
| Counseling skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 229 | 42.8 | 0.9 | 45.4 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 8.3 |
| Secondary mode | 85 | 15.3 | 8.2 | 7.1 | 8.2 | 3.5 | 57.6 |
| Human sexuality |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 230 | 83.9 | 0.0 | 8.7 | 3.5 | 0.4 | 3.5 |
| Secondary mode | 63 | 27.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.3 | 14.3 | 52.4 |
| Psychiatry |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 218 | 81.7 | 0.0 | 12.8 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 5.0 |
| Secondary mode | 65 | 23.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 6.2 | 7.7 | 56.9 |
| Psychological development |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 215 | 93.0 | 0.0 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.2 |
| Secondary mode | 58 | 24.1 | 0.0 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 12.1 | 56.9 |
| Psychological/Interpersonal/Cultural health factors |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 230 | 78.3 | 0.0 | 12.6 | 3.0 | 0.4 | 5.7 |
| Secondary mode | 80 | 15.0 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 10.0 | 6.2 | 65.0 |
| Substance Use Disorder (SUD) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 227 | 84.1 | 0.0 | 7.9 | 0.9 | 3.1 | 4.0 |
| Secondary mode | 81 | 18.5 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 17.3 | 12.3 | 50.6 |

TABLE 24. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: MODES OF ASSESSMENT (\%)

|  | $n$ | Multiple- <br> choice | Practical <br> exams | OSCEs | Writing <br> assignment | Oral <br> presentation | Portfolio |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

## SECTION 5. HEALTH POLICY \& PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Programs were asked to report on the following health policy and professional practice courses:

- Coding and billing
- Cultural and socioeconomic issues
- Medical ethics
- PA professional issues (includes legal and policy issues)
- Provider health and well-being (includes burnout prevention)
- Public health topics (includes health promotion and preventative medicine)
- Quality improvement/Patient safety

Programs could also report about "other" health policy and professional practice courses. Examples of these courses include contract negotiations, licensing and credentialing, and interprofessional practice. Due to low frequencies, these results were not included in the current report.

TABLE 25. HEALTH POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COURSES: COURSE STRUCTURE (\%)

|  | $n$ | Stand-alone/ <br> Distinct | Integrated <br> into several <br> courses | Module in <br> one course | Do not offer |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Coding and billing | 234 | 2.6 | 73.1 | 23.1 | 1.3 |
| Cultural and socioeconomic issues | 233 | 6.0 | 84.1 | 9.4 | 0.4 |
| Medical ethics | 236 | 41.9 | 48.7 | 9.3 | 0.0 |
| PA professional issues | 235 | 47.2 | 43.0 | 9.8 | 0.0 |
| Provider health and well-being | 234 | 1.7 | 71.8 | 13.7 | 12.8 |
| Public health topics | 235 | 26.4 | 64.3 | 8.9 | 0.4 |
| Quality improvement/Patient safety | 233 | 3.9 | 83.7 | 12.4 | 0.0 |

TABLE 26. HEALTH POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COURSES: REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS

|  | $n$ | Min | Max | M | SD | P10 | P25 | P50 (Mdn) | P75 | P90 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Coding and billing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 227 | 1.0 | 30.0 | 4.7 | 3.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 10.0 |
| Lab | 24 | 1.0 | 15.0 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.2 | 5.4 |
| Cultural and socioeconomic issues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 226 | 1.0 | 100.0 | 13.0 | 12.4 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 16.0 | 30.0 |
| Lab | 17 | 1.0 | 20.0 | 6.2 | 5.2 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 10.0 | 11.2 |
| Medical ethics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 229 | 1.0 | 60.0 | 16.3 | 13.7 | 2.4 | 6.0 | 12.0 | 24.0 | 40.0 |
| Lab | 21 | 1.0 | 15.0 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 |
| PA professional issues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 230 | 1.0 | 65.0 | 16.6 | 13.1 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 15.0 | 20.0 | 32.0 |
| Lab | 9 | 1.0 | 11.0 | 4.9 | 3.9 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 10.2 |
| Provider health and well-being |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 197 | 1.0 | 43.0 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 |
| Lab | 4 | 1.0 | 30.0 | 9.2 | 13.9 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 10.5 | 22.2 |
| Public health topics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 227 | 1.0 | 200.0 | 19.1 | 21.7 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 12.0 | 30.0 | 41.6 |
| Lab | 13 | 2.0 | 45.0 | 9.2 | 11.7 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 15.8 |
| Quality improvement/Patient safety |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 227 | 1.0 | 45.0 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 15.0 |
| Lab | 9 | 1.0 | 23.0 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 12.0 | 16.6 |

Note: Only programs that reported a minimum number of required contact hours are reported here. If a program left the question blank or entered "0," they were excluded from this table.

FIGURE 9. HEALTH POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COURSES: AVERAGE REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS


TABLE 27. HEALTH POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COURSES: MODES OF INSTRUCTION (\%)

|  | $n$ | Lecture only | Lab only | Lecture/lab combination | Seminar | Selfinstructional | Case-based/ TBL/PBL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Coding and billing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 229 | 82.5 | 0.0 | 9.6 | 5.2 | 1.7 | 0.9 |
| Secondary mode | 67 | 25.4 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 9.0 | 1.9 | 46.3 |
| Cultural and socioeconomic issues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 229 | 75.5 | 0.0 | 11.8 | 7.0 | 1.7 | 3.9 |
| Secondary mode | 83 | 20.5 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 53.0 |
| Medical ethics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 234 | 79.5 | 0.0 | 7.7 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 6.4 |
| Secondary mode | 103 | 17.5 | 2.9 | 1.9 | 8.7 | 4.9 | 64.1 |
| PA professional issues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 231 | 90.0 | 0.4 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 0.4 | 1.7 |
| Secondary mode | 75 | 16.0 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 20.0 | 17.3 | 45.3 |
| Provider health and well-being |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 201 | 84.1 | 0.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Secondary mode | 59 | 20.3 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 16.9 | 15.3 | 45.8 |
| Public health topics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 232 | 85.3 | 0.0 | 10.3 | 2.2 | 0.4 | 1.7 |
| Secondary mode | 79 | 20.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 57.0 |
| Quality improvement/Patient safety |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary mode | 230 | 84.3 | 0.4 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 1.7 | 2.6 |
| Secondary mode | 77 | 26.0 | 2.6 | 3.9 | 9.1 | 10.4 | 48.1 |

TABLE 28. HEALTH POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COURSES: MODES OF ASSESSMENT (\%)

|  | $n$ | Multiple <br> choice | Practical <br> exams | OSCEs | Writing <br> assignment | Oral <br> presentation | Portfolio |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

## SECTION 6. RESEARCH

Programs were asked to report on the following research courses:

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology
- Evidence-based medicine
- Research methodology
- Thesis/Capstone project

Programs could also report about "other" research courses. Examples of these courses include scholarly or scientific writing and interpretation of medical literature. Due to low frequencies, these results were not included in the current report.

FIGURE 10. REQUIREMENT OF MASTER'S CAPSTONE OR OTHER PROJECT


No master's capstone requirement Master's capstone requirement

Note: $n=236$

TABLE 29. TYPE OF MASTER'S CAPSTONE

|  | $n$ | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Scholarly paper (e.g., review of literature) | 105 | 54.7 |
| Project | 46 | 24.0 |
| Original research (e.g., thesis) | 16 | 8.3 |
| Other |  |  |
| Student may select from multiple options (e.g., case report or literature review) | 8 | 4.2 |
| Multiple research-related requirements (e.g., scholarly paper and poster presentation) | 8 | 4.2 |
| All other types of capstones | 9 | 4.7 |
| Total | 192 | 100.0 |

[^4]|  |  | Stand-alone/ <br> Distinct | Integrated <br> into several <br> courses | Module in <br> one course | Do not offer |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Biostatistics | 235 | 13.2 | 61.3 | 13.2 | 12.3 |
| Epidemiology | 235 | 12.8 | 69.4 | 9.8 | 8.1 |
| Evidence-based medicine | 235 | 42.6 | 50.2 | 6.4 | 0.9 |
| Research methodology | 236 | 35.2 | 50.4 | 11.0 | 3.4 |
| Thesis/Capstone project | 230 | 59.6 | 20.9 | 3.5 | 16.1 |

TABLE 31. RESEARCH COURSES: REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS

|  | $n$ | Min | Max | M | SD | P10 | P25 | P50 (Mdn) | P75 | P90 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Biostatistics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 197 | 1.0 | 60.0 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 15.0 | 21.6 |
| Lab | 12 | 1.0 | 30.0 | 7.2 | 7.8 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 8.0 | 11.6 |
| Epidemiology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 208 | 1.0 | 180.0 | 12.7 | 17.6 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 15.0 | 30.0 |
| Lab | 3 | 2.0 | 10.0 | 7.3 | 4.6 | 3.6 | 6.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| Evidence-based medicine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 225 | 1.0 | 357.5 | 27.1 | 43.4 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 15.0 | 30.0 | 48.0 |
| Lab | 15 | 2.0 | 30.0 | 9.1 | 7.9 | 2.8 | 4.5 | 7.0 | 9.0 | 19.8 |
| Research methodology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 221 | 1.0 | 90.0 | 15.6 | 14.2 | 2.0 | 5.0 | 12.0 | 20.0 | 40.0 |
| Lab | 7 | 3.0 | 30.0 | 14.1 | 11.3 | 3.6 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 23.0 | 28.8 |
| Thesis/Capstone project |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | 175 | 1.0 | 160.0 | 28.8 | 28.1 | 4.0 | 10.0 | 20.0 | 45.0 | 60.0 |
| Lab | 27 | 2.0 | 180.0 | 41.1 | 44.8 | 4.0 | 10.0 | 30.0 | 52.5 | 90.0 |

Note: Only programs that reported a minimum number of required contact hours are reported here. If a program left the question blank or entered " 0 ," they were excluded from this table.

FIGURE 11. RESEARCH COURSES: AVERAGE REQUIRED CONTACT HOURS


## SECTION 7. CERTIFICATIONS

Programs were asked to report whether the following certifications were required and, if so, how they were incorporated into the didactic curriculum:

- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Child abuse/neglect
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)

TABLE 32. CERTIFICATIONS (\%)

|  | $n$ | Required, but not included in program's curriculum | Separate course in program's curriculum | Integrated into other courses | Not required |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) | 236 | 21.6 | 30.1 | 45.8 | 2.5 |
| Basic Life Support (BLS) | 236 | 36.0 | 23.3 | 39.8 | 0.8 |
| Child abuse/neglect | 232 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 82.8 | 12.1 |
| Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) | 235 | 15.7 | 3.8 | 78.3 | 2.1 |
| Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) | 233 | 4.7 | 6.9 | 18.0 | 70.4 |

In addition to the above certifications, programs were able to report up to three "other" certifications completed by their students. The "other" certifications reported most frequently are presented below.

TABLE 33. OTHER CERTIFICATIONS (\%)

|  | Required, but <br> not included in <br> program's <br> curriculum | Separate course <br> in program's <br> curriculum | Integrated into <br> other courses |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) waiver | 17 | 29.4 | 6.9 |

## SECTION 8. INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

FIGURE 12. IPE


Students participate in IPE
Students do not participate in IPE

Programs were asked whether their students interacted with other health professions students, as opposed to simply being in the same classroom or laboratory course.

TABLE 34. PERCENTAGE (\%) OF TOTAL DIDACTIC CURRICULUM DEVOTED TO IPE BY TYPE OF PROGRAM


[^5]TABLE 35. OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS THAT PA STUDENTS ROUTINELY INTERACT WITH

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Athletic training | 60 | 27.5 |
| Audiology | 19 | 8.7 |
| Dental hygiene | 18 | 8.3 |
| Medicine | 123 | 56.4 |
| Residents | 67 | 30.7 |
| Nursing (undergraduate) | 128 | 58.7 |
| Nursing (advanced practice) | 78 | 35.8 |
| Dentistry | 25 | 11.5 |
| Occupational therapy | 89 | 40.8 |
| Optometry | 11 | 5.0 |
| Paramedic/EMT | 20 | 9.2 |
| Pharmacy | 96 | 44.0 |
| Physical therapy | 116 | 53.2 |
| Public health | 42 | 19.3 |
| Radiology | 11 | 5.0 |
| Radiography | 9 | 4.1 |
| Respiratory therapy | 22 | 10.1 |
| Social work | 59 | 27.1 |
| Speech pathology | 49 | 22.5 |
| Other |  |  |
| Nutrition and dietetics | 10 | 4.6 |
| Genetic counseling | 5 | 2.3 |
| All other health professions students | 37 | 17.0 |
| Total | 218 | - |

Note: Percentages will sum to more than $100 \%$ because programs could select multiple types of health professions students. The health professions students under "Other" were categorized based on programs' write-in descriptions. "Other" health professions students were only reported if 5 or more programs wrote in that response.

FIGURE 13. OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS THAT PA STUDENTS ROUTINELY INTERACT WITH


## TABLE 36. IPE IN CLASSROOM AND LABORATORY SETTINGS

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| IPE seminar or series of seminars | 147 | 67.4 |
| Case studies or case-based learning | 134 | 61.5 |
| Health fairs and community events/service learning (required) | 94 | 43.1 |
| Campus-wide simulation/mock disaster | 58 | 26.6 |
| OSCE: Simulation | 54 | 24.8 |
| OSCE: Standardized patient | 46 | 21.1 |
| Anatomy lab | 41 | 18.8 |
| Clinical medicine | 34 | 15.6 |
| Stand-alone IPE course | 34 | 15.6 |
| Anatomy lecture | 29 | 13.3 |
| PA professional issues course | 25 | 11.5 |
| History and physical exam lab | 23 | 10.6 |
| Pharmacology or pharmacotherapeutics course | 20 | 9.2 |
| Physiology or biochemistry course | 20 | 9.2 |
| Medical ethics course | 19 | 8.7 |
| Research course | 10 | 4.6 |
| Other classroom/laboratory settings | 1 | 0.5 |
| Total | 218 | - |

Note: Percentages will sum to more than $100 \%$ because programs could report multiple settings.

## TABLE 37. REGULAR EXTRACURRICULAR IPE ACTIVITIES

|  | $n$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Community health fairs | 122 | 62.6 |
| Interprofessional student groups | 109 | 55.9 |
| Health screenings in community settings | 105 | 53.8 |
| Volunteering as medical support at community events | 77 | 39.5 |
| Non-medical community service | 71 | 36.4 |
| Student-run clinic or volunteering at a clinic for underserved | 70 | 35.9 |
| Mission trips | 69 | 35.4 |
| Fundraising events | 64 | 32.8 |
| Conducting free sports physicals | 22 | 11.3 |
| Providing care from a free mobile health clinic | 19 | 9.7 |
| Providing care to migrant farm workers | 10 | 5.1 |
| Other extracurricular IPE activities | 24 | 12.3 |
| Total | 195 | - |

Note: Percentages will sum to more than $100 \%$ because programs could report multiple activities.

Programs were asked to indicate the classroom and/or laboratory settings in which their PA students engaged in interprofessional learning.

Programs were asked to select extracurricular activities that occurred on a regular basis where their PA students interacted with other health professions students. Of 220 responding programs, 25 (11.4\%) were not included in this table because they selected "None."


[^0]:    Note: Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of PAEA member programs in each state.

[^1]:    Note: Only programs that indicated they had at least one distance campus were asked to report the frequency with which they deliver didactic curriculum to students at distance campuses via these methods of instruction.

[^2]:    Note: Percentages may sum to more than $100 \%$ because programs could select multiple learning management systems. The learning management systems listed under "Other" were categorized based on programs' write-in descriptions.

[^3]:    Note: $n=237$

[^4]:    Note: Only programs that required students to complete a master's capstone or similar project were asked to respond to this question. The types of capstone under "Other" were categorized based on programs' write-in descriptions.

[^5]:    Note: Only programs that provided an estimate are reported here. If a program left the question blank or entered "0," they were excluded from this table.

