Open Artifact - IRB Application Form

Application to Involve Human Subjects in Student Research

Trident University International

All questions below need to be adequately addressed and accurate. Any inconsistencies or missing documents will delay the IRB approval process

Part 1: Administration Information

1. Title of Protocol:
   Roadmap for Success: A Predictive Analysis Applied to Physician Assistant Education

2. Principal Investigator Information

   First Name
   <name>

   Last Name
   <name>

   System Email
   <email>

3. College
   College of Health and Human Services

4. Dissertation Committee Chair:
   <name>

5. Submit Date:
   Wednesday, March 1, 2017 10:00 AM PST

Part 2: Study Protocol and Methodology
1. Objective of the Study/Research Questions:

The purpose of this study is to produce a predictive model of variables that lead to student success in physician assistant training with success being measured as the overall PA program grade point average and passing the national certification exam.

*Research Question I*: To what extent do preadmissions characteristics (GPA-U, GPA-SC, GPA-60, GRE-Total) predict PANCE performance (pass/fail) and PANCE score for graduates of the XHSC PA Program?

*Research Question II*: To what extent do preadmissions characteristics (GPA-U, GPA-SC, GPA-60, GRE-Total) predict Program GPA for graduates of the XHSC PA Program?

*Research Question III*: To what extent does PA program performance measured by Program GPA predict PANCE performance (pass/fail) and PANCE score for graduates of the XHSC PA Program?

*Research Question IV*: Are there any racial/ethnic or gender differences in these three outcomes?

GPA-U= Grade Point Average Undergraduate  
GPA-SC= Grade Point Average Science  
GPA-60= Grade Point Average Last 60 Hours  
GRE-Total= Graduate Record Exam Total  
PANCE= Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination  
XHSC= University of X Health Science Center

2. Does the research involve human subjects?  
Yes

3. Has any data been collected / obtained for this study to date?  
Yes

Data Sources/Type

4. Select all categories that apply to this proposed study:  
Existing data that is not publicly available. In Question 5, specify where data is being obtained (institution, location, URL):

5. Provide details of all procedures selected above:
Secondary data that has been secured, de-identified and aggregated by the University of X Health Science Center Office of Institutional Research.

The data for this study was collected by the University of X Institutional Research Office and Physician Associate Program. Pre-admission data such as GPA and GRE, are stored on the XHSC People Soft system. Certifying examination scores are stored in the PA program student files. This data was aggregated and de-identified by the XHSC Institutional Review Office and then stored for analysis.

The data represents the last eleven cohorts of PA students. The students have already graduated. It was determined that FERPA was not applicable by the XHSC institutional research office and the XHSC IRB.

The XHSC IRB determined the study to be exempt.

Study Sites:

6. Select all study site locations that apply to this proposed study:
   Not applicable (i.e. existing data)

7. Specify name and location in text box below for any items checked above:
   N/A

Part 3: Participants, Recruitment, and Compensation (Part 3 is required if collecting data on participants)

1. How many participants do you plan to recruit?
   550

2. Age Range:
   20-50

3. Select all categories of participants included in your study:
   University Students

Other: Please enter in the text box provided below.
Data has already been collected in the regular course of business by the XHSC Institutional Research Office and the PA Program.

4. Describe additional inclusion or exclusion criteria for participants in this study:
Includes all students who attended the XHSC PA program from 2003-2016.

5. Please identify all recruitment methods:
Not applicable (i.e. existing data)

Other: Please enter in the text box provided below:

Part 4: Risks and Benefits

1. From the list below, please select all of the potential risks that are involved in your study.
There are no risks of any kind to any participants enrolled in this study.

Other risks: Please enter in the text box provided below.
N/A

2. Describe the nature & degree of risks or harms selected above. All of the risks/harms must be disclosed in the consent form.
N/A

3. Describe the steps that will be taken to minimize risks or harms and to protect welfare of participants.
N/A

4. Describe any benefits that individuals may reasonably expect from participation. If there are not, state "none."
None

5. Describe the anticipated benefits of this study to society and/or academic knowledge.
This study will allow physician assistant educators and applicants to make evidence based decisions regarding an applicant's ability to be successful in PA education in the following ways:
This study will expand the limited research in physician assistant education and includes novel concepts previously not studied. This study includes eleven years of cohort data as compared to the previous research that were only able to mine 2-3 years of cohort data. Expanding the time frame of data collection and increasing the number of subjects will help eliminate biases that may have occurred in the selection of applicants over a 2 to 3-year cycle. Minimal GPA and GRE requirements for programs have increased over the last few years; therefore, going back ten years will allow the inclusion of students with lower incoming scores in these categories. The study introduces the independent variable of last 60 hours GPA, which may be a good indicator of the student’s improving academic skills and as such a better indicator of success in their graduate program. Finally, this study will treat PA program GPA as an independent variable for predicting PA National Certifying Examination score and performance rather than a dependent variable of undergraduate GPA.

This study will provide PA educators and students an objective standard by which to measure the probability of their success in passing the PA National Certifying Examination (PANCE). To date, existing research has found inconsistent results when using the undergraduate GPA and GRE scores to predict success in PA course work/PANCE score. Without a sound understanding of characteristics that are predictive of success in completing PA education and passing the national certifying examination, policy makers, educators and students are left without clear guidelines to set admissions policies, judge an applicant or prepare the application for admission.

Further, the study will provide a predicative analysis that may assist faculty in identifying students who will struggle with passing their certifying examination. This will contribute to the program making critical remedial education decisions. As the nation braces for a shortage of medical providers, healthcare disparities continue to persist and PA schools face increased number of applicants, it is imperative that programs have objective data by which to choose applicants that will be successful in entering clinical practice through graduation and passing their certifying examination.

Finally, significance of the study is found in the impact it could have on informing PA educators and policy makers on a way to resolve the issue on increasing under-represented minorities (URM), male and veteran PAs. There is an undeniable shortage in these categories of providers in the PA and health provider profession. A shortage of URM health professionals leads to greater health disparities, is costly to the American taxpayer and compromises the overall quality of our country’s financial stability (WHO, 2000). Admission processes that focuses predominantly on grade point average and standardized test scores creates additional barriers for admission of URM and veteran students (Dibaise, 2015) (Adams, 2010). Additionally, the perception that veterans have a weaker academic record and therefore would make for riskier candidates has an impact on the number of veteran PA students (Michard, 2015). Wick and Tozier (2015) noted that recruiting service members into the PA profession not only makes patriotic sense but also makes good sense for the healthcare workforce given the projected provider shortages (Wick, 2015).

Part 5: Privacy and Confidentiality

1. Will the information for your study involve the collection or access to any of the personal identifiers below?

There will be no access to personal identifiers

Any unique identifier not mentioned above: Please enter in the text box provided below.

N/A

Part 6: Informed Consent

1. Please indicate the informed consent document(s) to be used in this study. Provide copies of documents, as applicable:

Not applicable (e.g. existing data)

2. Describe when and where the consent will be obtained If no consent will be provided, enter "N/A":

N/A

Part 7: Permission from Administrator/Authority at Study Site
1. Does your study site have their own Institutional Review Board?
   Yes

2. Was written permission obtained from appropriate administrators at your study site(s)?
   Yes

3. Did you participate in a service agreement to gain data access?
   No

4. Does your study site(s) have a written policy regarding the accessing data?
   Yes

5. If yes to #3 or #4, provide applicable website link: Enter N/A, if selected no for both
   http://compliance.XHSC.edu/hrpp/XHSC/Resources/PoliciesProcedures.aspx

Part 8: Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure

1. Do you have any financial interest related to this research?
   No

2. If yes, please specify:

Part 9: Attachments

The following documents should be uploaded separately with your application (with an identifying label such as item# below).

Any missing documents will delay the IRB approval process

Required for all studies:
1. Research Protocol/Methodology (from Proposal)

2. Data Collection Instruments, which includes at least one of the following:
   - All surveys, questionnaires, and data collection forms
   - List of all data fields accessed from existing data sources

3. Permission to administer study and/or access data, which includes one or more of the following:
   - Written permission from appropriate administrators at the study site (on their department letterhead)
   - Copy of service agreement
   - Supporting documentation that data is public use (e.g. statement from website with URL)

**Required for studies involving data collection:**

4. Informed Consent/Assent (please refer to example at [https://www.trident.edu/download/Sample-Consent-to-Participate_081513.doc.pdf](https://www.trident.edu/download/Sample-Consent-to-Participate_081513.doc.pdf))

5. All recruitment documents (e.g. flyers, contact letters, advertisements, etc.)

6. Other IRB approvals (if study site has its own IRB)

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**Investigator's Assurance**

I certify that the information provided in this application is complete and correct.

I understand that as Principal Investigator, I have ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the study, the ethical performance of the project, the protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects, and strict adherence to any stipulations imposed by the IRB.

I agree to comply with all TUI policies and procedures, as well as with all applicable federal, State, and local laws regarding the protection of human subjects in research, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Performing the project according to the approved protocol,
- Implementing no changes in the approved protocol or consent form without prior IRB approval (except in an emergency, if necessary to safeguard the well-being of human subjects),
• Obtaining the legally effective informed consent from human subjects or their legally responsible representative, and using only the currently approved, stamped consent form with human subjects,
• Obtaining all required permissions to perform study
• Promptly reporting significant or untoward adverse effects to the IRB in writing within 5 working days of occurrence.

e-Signature

<name>

Signed On:

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 8:30 AM PST