



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

April 9, 2018

12000 Findley Road, Suite 275
Johns Creek, GA 30097
Phone: 770-476-1224
Fax: 770-476-1738
Email: sharonluke@arc-pa.org

Clinton E. Adams, DO, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Rocky Vista University
8401 S. Chambers Road
Parker, CO 80134
cadams@rvu.edu

Dear Dr. Adams:

The **Rocky Vista University Physician Assistant Program** has been granted **Accreditation-Provisional** status by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). This decision is based on the program application and all appendices submitted to the ARC-PA, the report of the site visit team and the program response to observations.

The ARC-PA noted **three (3)** areas of noncompliance with the *Standards*. Please see the companion Word document for the complete commission report and requested response. Failure to submit a response may result in reconsideration of the program's accreditation status. An invoice for the prorated annual accreditation maintenance fee is attached.

Please note that the program is approved for a maximum entering class size of up to **36** students in the first class of students, **50** in the second class and **50** in the third class. The program is not to exceed those maximum entering class size numbers for any reason during its next and subsequent admission cycles. The program will be monitored as it progresses throughout the provisional process to be sure that program and institutional resources support any progressive increase in class size for the first three classes.

Programs which are approved for incremental class size increases while holding Accreditation-Provisional status must maintain five consecutive years of Accreditation-Continued status after completing the provisional accreditation process before the ARC-PA will consider a request for an increase in maximum entering class size.

Collaborating Organizations: American Academy of Family Physicians • American Academy of Pediatrics • American Academy of Physician Assistants • American College of Physicians • American College of Surgeons • American Medical Association • Physician Assistant Education Association

Member: Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

Recognized by: Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

Provisionally accredited programs approved for incremental class size increase(s) with the initial accreditation action must adhere to the plan presented in the initial accreditation application of record approved by the commission before accepting the increased entering cohort.

A program that fails to adhere to its submitted and commission-approved plan for support of incremental class size increase(s) risks a change to its accreditation status and/or loss of approval to accept larger cohorts until adherence has been demonstrated and approved by the commission, as well as other sanctions deemed appropriate by the commission.

The ARC-PA will not consider expansion to a distant campus until the program has held Accreditation-Continued status for five years after completing the provisional accreditation process.

The awarding of provisional accreditation acknowledges that the PA program has the plans and resources that, if fully implemented as proposed, can lead to compliance with the *Standards*. It does not assure that accreditation-provisional will continue at the next commission review, particularly if conditions as they existed or the plans as proposed at the time of the initial provisional visit have significantly changed.

The date for the **Provisional Monitoring** review of the program by the ARC-PA will be scheduled to occur within six months prior to the graduation of the first cohort of students ideally occurring within the final three months of the program. The program will be contacted by the ARC-PA in advance of that review regarding details of the application, reports and selecting site visit dates.

To communicate the program's accreditation status in all printed and electronic media, the program and institution must use the following statement **exactly** as it is written. Any accreditation statements used in the past must be replaced with this language.

The ARC-PA has granted **Accreditation - Provisional** status to the **Rocky Vista University Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **Rocky Vista University**.

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA *Standards* or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the *Standards* as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

April 9, 2018

Page 3 of 3

The ARC-PA appreciates the commitment and dedication to quality PA education demonstrated by your participation in the accreditation process. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Sharon Luke, MSHS, PA-C
Executive Director

c: Thomas N. Told, DO, FACOFP; VP for Academic Affairs, Dean & Chief Academic Officer; ttold@rvu.edu
Debra F. Nickell, PhD, MBA, PA-C; Program Director; dnickell@rvu.edu
Karen Solinski, Exec VP for Legal & Governmental Affairs, HLC; accreditingactions@hlcommission.org
Emily Van Wyck, JD; Legal Counsel, ARC-PA