

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

**What does probation mean?** Once placed on probation, a program must demonstrate that it has resolved the issues that resulted in the probationary status and has continued to provide a high quality education for its students. Ultimately the program must demonstrate compliance with Accreditation Standards. Programs that fail to demonstrate compliance with accreditation requirements in a timely manner may be scheduled for a focused site visit and/or risk having their accreditation withdrawn.

**What does this mean for students in the accredited PA program?** The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) accredits the professional phase (years 3, 4, 5) of the RIT PA Program. The RIT PA Program, within the College of Health Sciences and Technology, remains an accredited program that continues to produce highly qualified students and graduates.

**Will I be eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) upon completion of the program?** Yes. PA programs on probation remain accredited. All RIT PA graduates will be eligible to take the PANCE upon successful completion of the program.

**What improvements are needed for the PA Program?** The primary reasons for the probationary status fall into the following areas: infrastructure and resources, development of a formalized summative evaluation, and a more robust and ongoing programmatic self-assessment process. This includes the refinement of measurable learning objectives and student assessment tools in the clinical year. Additional human resources are being added to support the PA Program and students.

**When will this work begin?** The PA Program began working on these improvements in summer 2017, after the ARC-PA site visitation the preceding April. The program has initiated a comprehensive plan of work directed toward rectifying the specific issues that have been identified. A detailed timeline is in place to complete this very important work.

**What does this mean for me as an applicant?** The PA Program remains accredited. The ARC-PA will re-evaluate the program's compliance with accreditation standards during the meeting in September 2019. The admissions requirements remain unchanged.

**What is the planned follow-up?** The PA Program is taking every action necessary to prevent this situation from occurring again. The principal faculty and administration continue to provide a high quality educational experience for PA students which has resulted in past successes, academic excellence, and the program's long standing reputation in PA education. We are confident that we will exceed the accreditation standards as we strive to continuously improve.

