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# Physician Assistant Program Goals, Indicators and Outcomes Report 2007-2016

## UAB PA Program Goals and Outcomes

### University of Alabama at Birmingham Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

**Physician Assistant Program Mission:** The mission of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Physician Assistant (PA) Program is to provide qualified individuals the knowledge, skills, and judgment needed to assist physicians in the care of patients in and medical settings.

**Accreditation:** The program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) The University of Alabama at Birmingham is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees.

**Degree Conferred:** Diploma- The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) degree is awarded by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**U.S. News and World Report** ranks the UAB Physician Assistant Program among the top Physician Assistant programs in its annual "Best Graduate Schools" edition.

#### Organization of the Program

The Physician Assistant Program is an entry-level physician assistant educational program. It is a Master's of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program within the UAB Graduate School. The program is housed within the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, School of Health Professions, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

School of Health Professions  
Dean: Harold P. Jones, Ph.D.

Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences  
Chair: Janelle M. Chiasera, Ph.D.

Physician Assistant Program  
Program Director: James R Kilgore, Ph.D., PA-C  
Medical Director: Donald Reiff, M.D.  
Associate Medical Director: John Baddley, MD, MSPH

## **Goals and Desired Outcomes**

The UAB PA program faculty has established performance indicators, outcome objectives and goals for the program. The program faculty regularly monitors and evaluates progress towards meeting its stated goals in regards to admissions, academics, career placement and graduate satisfaction. This report presents performance and related outcomes in these areas.

### **Goals of the UAB Physician Assistant Program**

- Admissions: Applicants
  - Goal: To attract and admit high quality applicants
- Program Completion Rates
  - Goal: High graduation rates
  - Goal: Low rates of attrition
- Student Perception of Preparation at Program Completion
  - Goal: Students will feel prepared to become an entry-level clinical PA at the end of the program
- PANCE Performance
  - Goal: Graduates of the UAB PA program will demonstrate mastery of the knowledge needed for an entry-level physician assistant
- Graduate Satisfaction
  - Goal: Graduates will indicate satisfaction with their quality of physician assistant education they received at UAB
- Graduate Ratings of Program Preparedness
  - Goal: Graduates will report strong levels of preparation provided by the UAB PA program
- Graduate Employment
  - Goal: Graduates of the UAB PA program will be in high demand for careers as a Physician Assistants

## Admissions: Goals, Performance Indicators, and Results

- **Goal: To attract and admit high quality applicants**
  - **Indicators**
    - Average GPA of entering classes will be equal to or above 3.45
    - Average verbal GRE scores of entering classes will be at or above 50<sup>th</sup> percentile
  - **Results**

UAB Physician Assistant Program Admission Data						
Cohort	Number Enrolled	Mean Age (SD)	Average Science GPA	Average Overall GPA	Average Verbal GRE %	Average Quant GRE %
2015-2017	80	27 (5.25)	3.47	3.54	58	46
2014-2016	68	26 (4.13)	3.54	3.57	61	51
2013-2015	59	26 (4.55)	3.50	3.57	60	56
2012-2014	57	26 (3.29)	3.54	3.61	63	59
2011-2013	47	26 (3.95)	3.61	3.62	56	52
2010-2012	46	26 (4.35)	3.52	3.55	63	54
2009-2011	42	26 (5.00)	3.55	3.58	63	56
2008-2010	34	26 (4.25)	3.53	3.56	57	52
2007-2009	36	25 (3.20)	3.51	3.46	63	55
2006-2008	33	26 (4.56)	3.53	3.45	58	47
2005-2007	32	26 (6.11)	3.42	3.47	53	41

- **Findings**
  - Average GPAs of the entering classes were above 3.45
  - Average verbal GRE scores were at the 50<sup>th</sup> national percentile

## Program Completion Rates: Goals, Performance Indicators and Results

- **Goal: High graduation rates**
  - **Indicator**
    - On-time graduation rates  $\geq$  90%
- **Goal: Low attrition rates**
  - **Indicator**
    - Academic attrition rates  $\leq$  5%

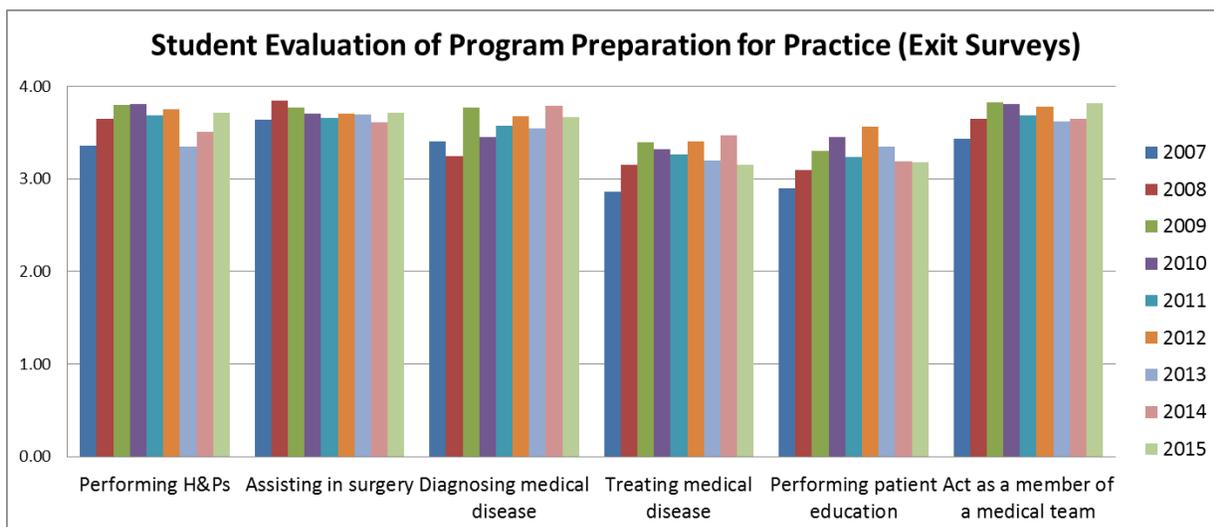
UAB PA Program Attrition & Class Graduation Rates							
Class	Matriculated	Academic Attrition	Academic Attrition %	Deceleration	Deceleration %	Graduated	Graduation %
2004-2006	32	3	9%	1	3%	28	88%
2005-2007	32	2	6%	2	6%	28	88%
2006-2008	33	1	3%	0	0%	32	97%
2007-2009	36	0	0%	1	3%	35	97%
2008-2010	34	2	6%	0	0%	32	94%
2009-2011	42	0	0%	0	0%	42	100%
2010-2012	46	1	2%	1	2%	44	96%
2011-2013	47	1	2%	1	2%	45	96%
2012-2014	57	2	4%	1	2%	54	95%
2013-2015	59	0	0%	2	3%	57	97%

- Findings

- Beginning in 2008 on-time graduation rates were equal to or greater than 90%.
- Beginning in 2008 academic attrition rates were equal to or less than 5%.

### Student Perception of Preparation at Program Completion: Goals, Performance Indicators, and Results

- Goal: Students will feel prepared to become an entry-level clinical PA at the end of the program.
  - Indicators
    - Average ratings of student's level of preparedness will be equal to or greater than 3.0 (Good) on a 4.0 (Excellent) scale as indicated on exit surveys.
  - Results



- **Findings**

- Average ratings of student’s level of preparedness were equal to or greater than 3.0 (Good) on a 4.0 (Excellent) scale on exit surveys in most areas since 2008.

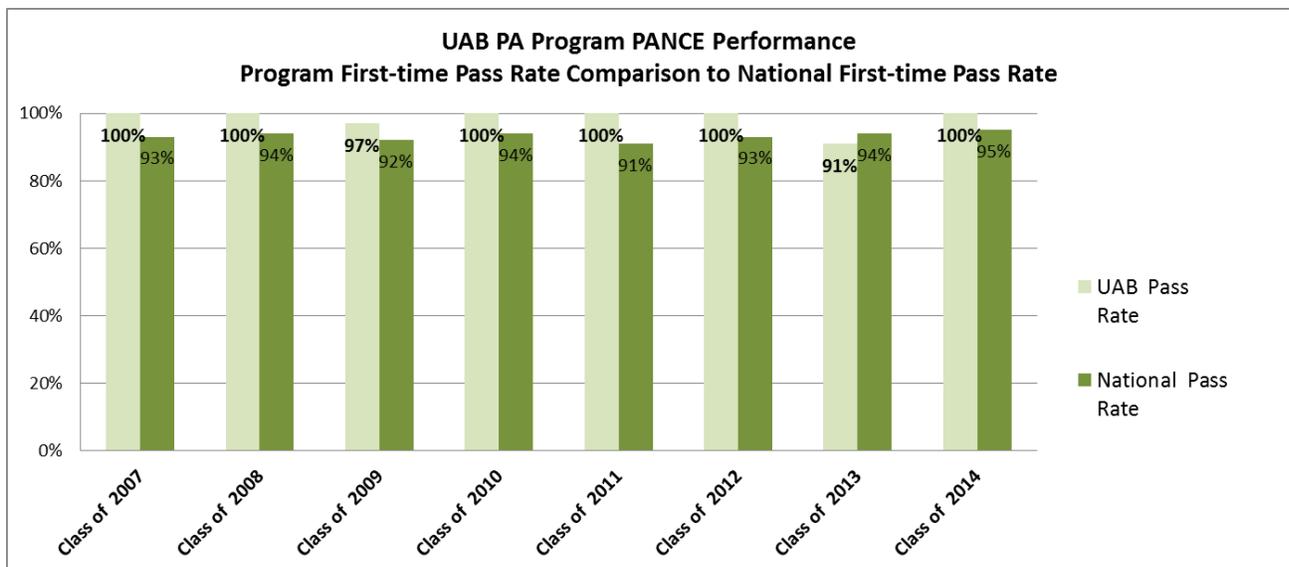
## PANCE Scores: Goals, Performance Indicators, and Results

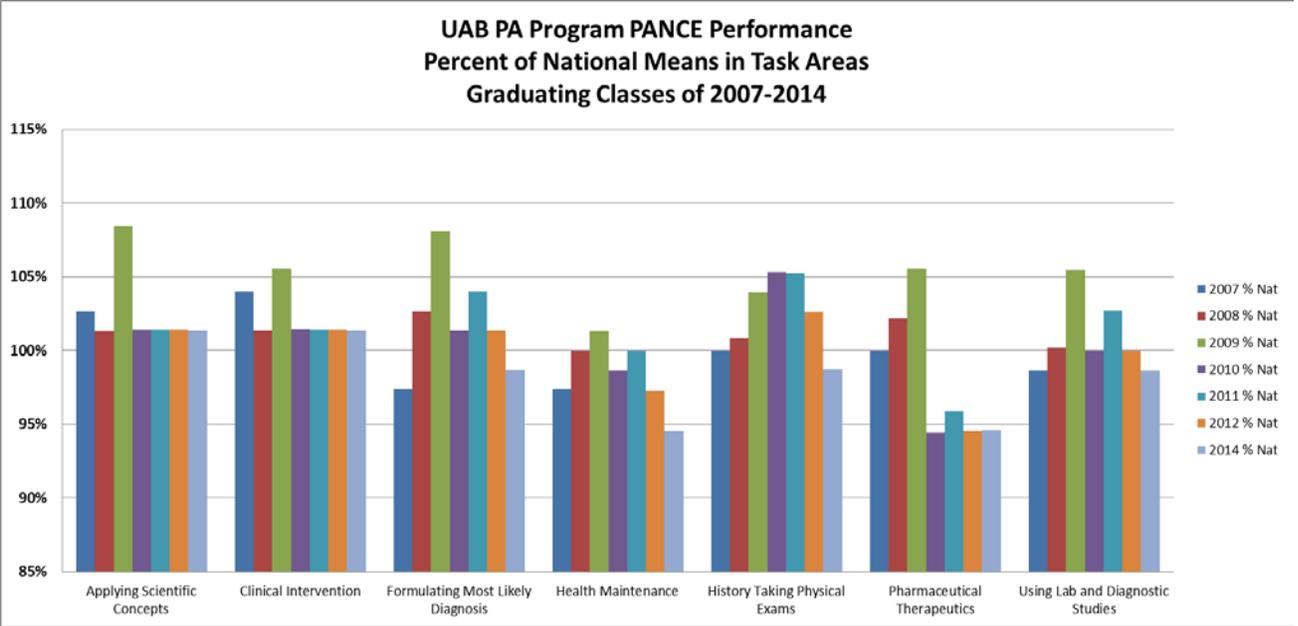
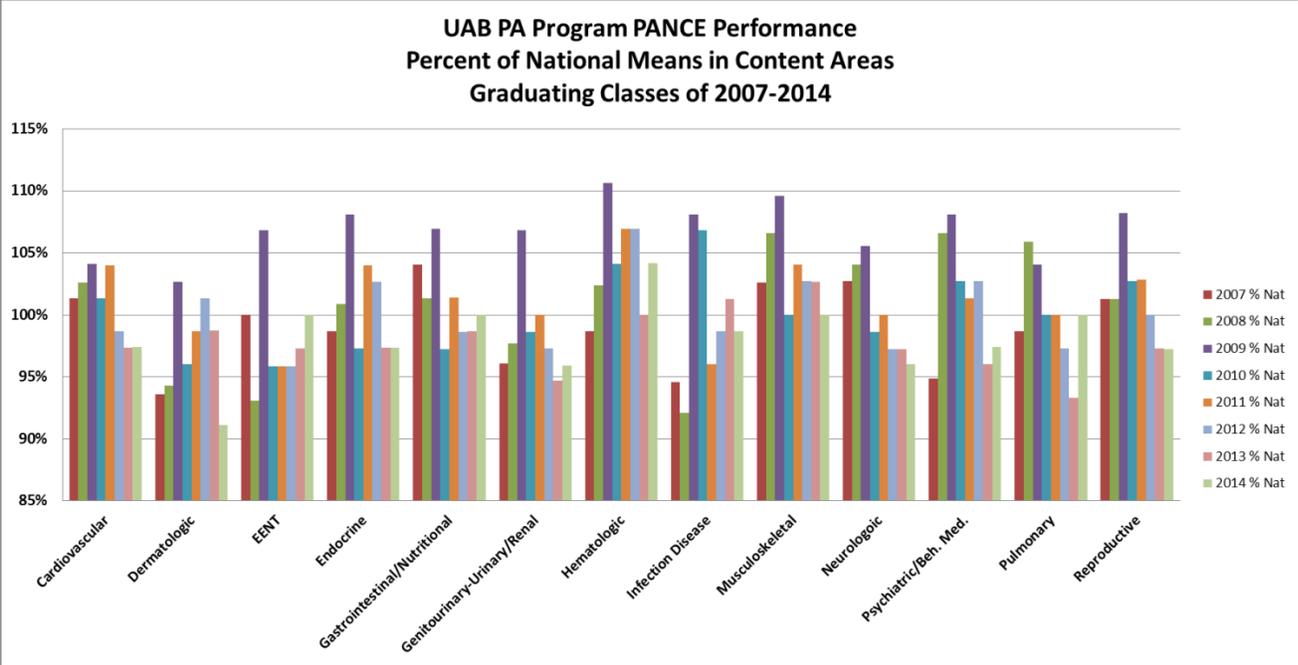
- **Goal: Graduates of the UAB PA program will demonstrate mastery of the knowledge needed for an entry-level physician assistant.**

- **Indicators**

- 90% of UAB PA program graduates will pass the PANCE on the first attempt.
- UAB PA program PANCE scores will be equal to or greater than 95% of the national average in each of the 13 content areas
- UAB PA program PANCE scores will be equal to or greater than 95% of the national average in each of the 7 task areas.

- **Results**



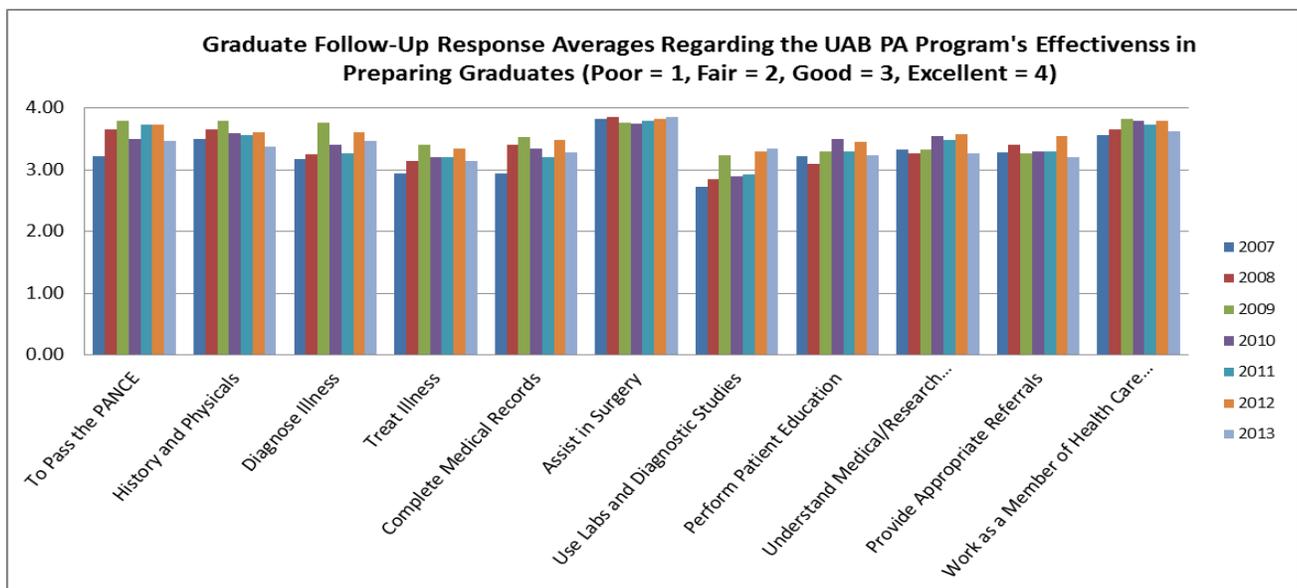
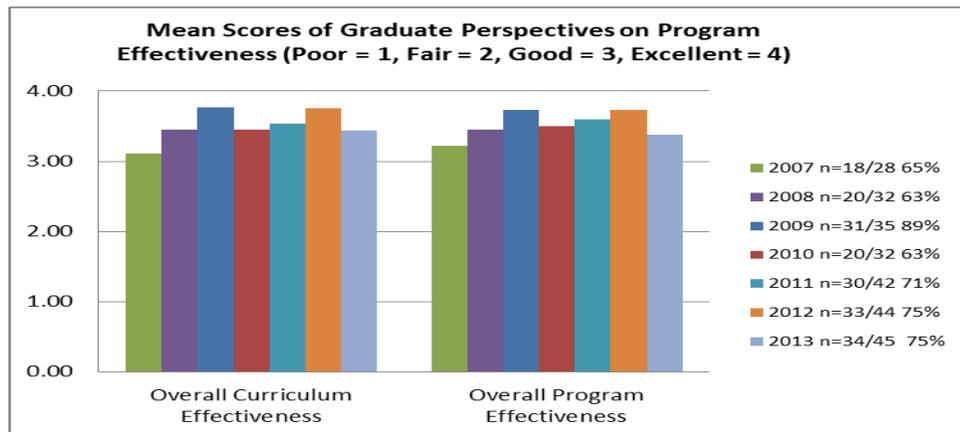


- **Findings**
  - Greater than 90% of UAB PA program passed the PANCE on the first attempt.
  - UAB PA program PANCE scores are greater than 90% of the national average in each of the 13 content areas.
  - UAB PA program PANCE scores are equal to or greater than 90% of the national average in each of the 7 task areas.

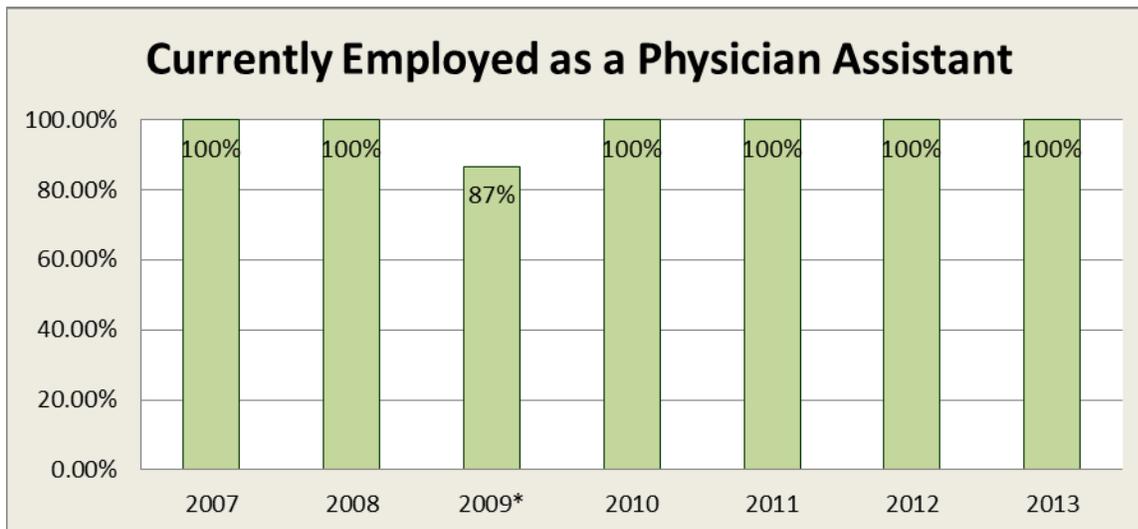
## Graduate Satisfaction at One-Year Follow-Up: Goals, Performance Indicators, and Results

- **Goal: Graduates will indicate satisfaction with their quality of education**
  - **Indicators**
    - Average ratings of overall curriculum and program effectiveness will be equal to or greater than 3.0 (Good) on a 4.0 (Excellent) scale as indicated on graduate follow-up surveys.
- **Goal: Graduates will report strong levels of preparation provided by the UAB PA program.**
  - **Indicators**
    - Average ratings of graduates' level of preparedness will be equal to or greater than 3.0 (Good) on a 4.0 (Excellent) scale as indicated on graduate follow-up surveys.

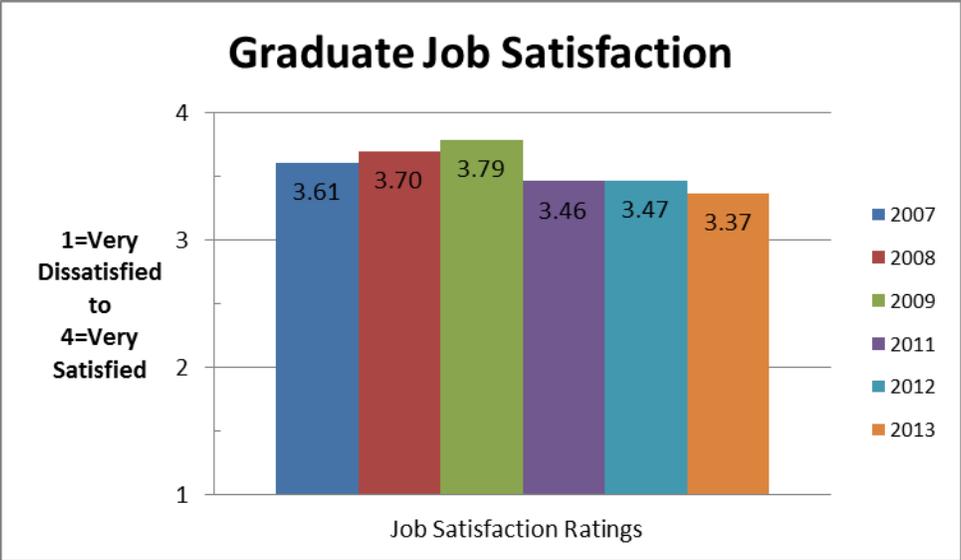
### ○ **Results**



- **Findings**
  - Average ratings of overall curriculum and program were greater than 3.0 (Good) on a 4.0 (Excellent) scale on graduate follow-up surveys.
  - Since 2008, average ratings of graduates' level of preparedness is greater than 3.0 (Good) on a 4.0 (Excellent) scale on graduate follow-up surveys with the exception of laboratory and diagnostic studies in 2007, 2008, 2010 & 2011.
  
- **Goal: Graduates will be in high demand for careers as a PA**
  - **Indicators**
    - Graduates seeking work as a PA will be employed within 6 months of their job search
    - Average rating of 3.0 (Satisfied) on a 4.0 (Very Satisfied) scale in response to the question: "How satisfied are you in your current position?"



\*Data from 2009 was incomplete

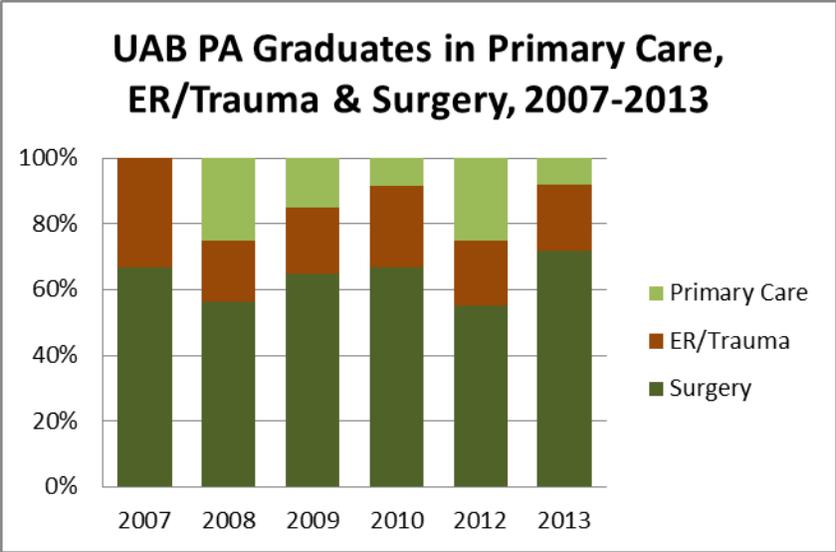


○ **Results**

- With the exception of 2009, graduates seeking work as a PA found work within 6 months of their job search
- Graduates of the UAB PA program expressed overall satisfaction with their careers as PAs

**Other Graduate Outcomes**

**Types of Physician Assistant Work as Reported by Graduates of the UAB PA Program**



**Community and Patient Population Characteristics Reported by Graduates of the UAB PA Program**

