

The School of Medical Sciences (SMS) and Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) fully support the LMU-SMS-Knoxville Physician Assistant Program. The LMU-SMS-Knoxville Physician Assistant Program is actively addressing the concerns raised by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) as part of continuous program self-assessment and improvement.

Accreditation Probation FAQs

Q. What does Accreditation-Probation mean?

A. Accreditation-Probation is a temporary accreditation status initially of not less than two years. However, that period may be extended by the ARC-PA for up to an additional two years if the ARC-PA finds that the program is making substantial progress toward meeting all applicable standards but requires additional time to come into full compliance. Probation accreditation status is granted, at the sole discretion of the ARC-PA, when a program holding an accreditation status of Accreditation-Provisional or Accreditation-Continued does not, in the judgment of the ARC-PA, meet the Standards or when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Q. Is a program on probation still accredited?

A. Yes.

Q. Does the Accreditation-Probation status affect the classroom and clinical experiences?

A. The Accreditation-Probation status does not affect the classroom and clinical experiences. Lincoln Memorial University continues to provide the resources necessary for full operation of the program.

Q. Does the Accreditation-Probation status affect the current students, faculty, staff, and alumni?

A. The Accreditation-Probation status does not affect the current students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Lincoln Memorial University continues to provide the resources necessary for full operation of the program.

Q. Does the Accreditation-Probation status affect the Master of Medical Sciences degree from Lincoln Memorial University?

A. The Accreditation-Probation status does not affect the Master of Medical Sciences degree awarded to graduates of the LMU-SMS-Knoxville Physician Assistant Program who fulfill all degree requirements.

Q. Can graduates of a program with Accreditation-Probation status take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE)?

A. Yes. The LMU-SMS-Knoxville Physician Assistant Program is accredited by the ARC-PA, and therefore graduates remain eligible to take the PANCE.

Q. Can graduates of a program with Accreditation-Probation status apply for state licensure?

A. Yes. The primary requirements for licensure are graduation from an accredited program and certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). The LMU-SMS-Knoxville Physician Assistant Program remains accredited, and graduates are eligible to take the PANCE administered by the NCCPA.

Q. Can programs with Accreditation-Probation status accept new students?

A. Yes. The LMU-SMS-Knoxville Physician Assistant Program continues to offer admission to student applicants for the current Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) cycle and will continue to offer admission to student applicants under the current Accreditation-Probation status.

Q. The program I am considering is on probation. If I enter that program, will I be graduating from an accredited program?

A. Probation is an active accreditation status and those entering a program that is on probation are entering a program that is accredited. To be eligible to take the PANCE, students must successfully complete a program that was accredited at the time the student matriculated (began orientation/first day of class). It is best to check with the NCCPA concerning exam eligibility criteria. <https://www.nccpa.net/>

Q. Where can I find information about a program's accreditation history?

A. The ARC-PA posts the accreditation history for Physician Assistant programs on the ARC-PA website. <https://www.arc-pa.org/> The accreditation history for the LMU-SMS-Knoxville PA Program can be viewed on the ARC-PA's website with the following link: <https://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-lincoln-memorial-university-knoxville/>.