
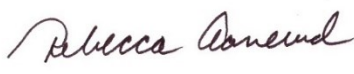


June 1, 2017

To: Suzanne Allen, Vice Dean for Academic, Rural and Regional Affairs, School of Medicine
John Slattery, Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Education, School of Medicine

From: David L. Eaton, Vice Provost and Dean 
Rebecca Aanerud, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs 

RE: Review of MEDEX Northwest Programs (2016-2017)

This memo outlines the recommendations from the academic program review of the MEDEX Northwest Programs. Detailed comments and findings can be found in the documents that were part of the following formal review proceedings:

- Charge meeting between review committee, program, and administrators (October 27, 2016)
- Department self-study (January 6, 2017)
- Site visit (February 13-14, 2017)
- Review committee report (March 17, 2017)
- Department response to the review committee report (May 1, 2017)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (June 1, 2017)

The review committee consisted of:

Basia Belza, Professor, UW School of Nursing (Committee Chair)
Walter Kukull, Professor, UW Department of Epidemiology
Anthony Brennehan, Clinical Professor, Physician Assistant Studies, University of Iowa

This review included the following programs offered by MEDEX Northwest at the University of Washington (UW): Master of Clinical Health Services and Extended Master of Clinical Health Services.

The Graduate School Council considered findings and recommendations from the review at its meeting on June 1, 2017. A summary of this report, composed by Graduate School Council Members, is attached to this document.

Graduate School Council Recommendations

The Graduate School Council commends the MEDEX Northwest Program on the strength of its programs, faculty, and students. After discussion regarding the attached general recommendations, the Council recommended the following action items:

- Full academic program review in 10 years (2026-2027)
- In five years (Winter Quarter, 2022): Submit a written report to the Graduate School Council to provide updates on the following topics:

- recruitment of preceptors and clinical sites,
- creating equitable career opportunities for faculty across the MEDEX Northwest sites,
- using formative evaluations for student assessment, and
- bringing greater clarity to the ways in which the MEDEX academic progress and dismissal policies do and do not align with Graduate School policies.
- This report should also illuminate the ways in which the School of Medicine is partnering with and supporting MEDEX in crucial areas, such as the development of clinical training sites and defining career paths for faculty.

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

cc: Gerald Baldasty, Provost and Executive Vice President
 Patricia Moy, Associate Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs, Office of the Provost
 Matthew Thompson, Professor & Chair, Department of Family Medicine, School of Medicine
 Terry Scott, Program Director & Assistant Professor, MEDEX Northwest
 Keren Wick, Associate Professor & Graduate Program Director, MEDEX Northwest
 UW Members of the academic program review committee
 Members of the Graduate School Council
 Wesley Henry, Associate Director, Academic Affairs and Planning, The Graduate School
 President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Attachment

Summary of Graduate Program Review

Academic Unit Name: MEDEX Northwest Program (Department of Family Medicine, School of Medicine)

Program Strengths:

1. The program features a dedicated, cohesive, and diverse group of faculty and staff committed to student success and producing scholarly output above the national average for PA programs.
2. The program recruits and retains dedicated, passionate students that support the program and mission.
3. Program faculty identify at risk students upon program entry, assign them to advisors best capable of meeting their needs during the program, and provide intense tutoring for students who have failed a course or in jeopardy of failing the national certifying exam (PANCE, the PA National Certifying Exam).
4. The program features didactic content with learning objectives that seem to align strongly with PANCE pass rates given recent success.

Challenges & Risks:

1. The range of sites for the clinical year and consistency of quality in preceptor acumen are less than desired. Students express concern about how clinical assignments are made and desire more advance notice of assignments. Support from the School of Medicine in clinical site development is an essential asset in this regard. Clinical skills required for the clinical year as well as their evaluation may be specific to preceptors rather than consistent across the Program.
2. With respect to assessment of student performance and feedback to students, the historical timeliness of feedback and the number of formative—as opposed to summative—assessment points are suspect. Lecture material (as opposed to objectives material) from the didactic year does not appear to be well addressed in exams.
3. Upward mobility for program faculty may be limited, and certain professorial ranks may not be readily available to program faculty. It is important to find ways that the School of Medicine can support the MEDEX Northwest program in advocating for faculty within the faculty promotion system.
4. MEDEX dismissal processes are more stringent than those of the UW Graduate School as a whole and may not be well understood by students.
5. PANCE rates, while showing recent gains, have not demonstrated sustained success. Maintaining and building upon these successes in PANCE pass rates is crucial to the MEDEX mission.
6. Fee setting process for students at satellite programs do not currently involve those units in a direct fashion.

Areas of Concurrence:

1. The Program commented extensively on Review Committee recommendations and typically agreed with the historic reality offered in the report. MEDEX offered a 25-page response to a 7-page report from the Review Committee that agreed upon the importance of:
 - a. Broader clinical opportunities that meet certification standards as well as the presence of high quality preceptors;
 - b. Timeliness of feedback to students and the prudence of formative assessments;
 - c. Attracting and retaining high quality faculty within a discipline marked by a terminal Master's degree;
 - d. A dismissal policy that is well understood by students;
 - e. PANCE pass rates that meet or exceed national averages;
 - f. A fee setting process that includes participation by students at satellite programs rather than solely by the UW Services and Activities Fee Committee.
2. While MEDEX agrees broadly with the importance of each area above, the Program seems to believe that it has plans in place to address most issue raised; the exception rests in the area of setting fee levels, and there the Program agrees that its requests to alter the fee setting process have not been successful.