

INFORMATION ON ACCREDITATION

The ARC-PA has granted **Accreditation-Provisional** status to the **Valparaiso University Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by Valparaiso 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. The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-valparaiso-university>.

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

- ❖ Only the graduate MSPA portion of the 5-Year PA Program undergoes accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The undergraduate BSHS portion of the PA Program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission just like all undergraduate programs at Valparaiso University.
- ❖ PA programs are either accredited, or they are not accredited. The Valparaiso University 5-Year PA Program is accredited; and therefore, our graduates have all of the same benefits as any other PA student. Students who graduate from an accredited program are able to sit for the PANCE.
- ❖ As a new program, our accrediting body, the ARC-PA, requires a shorter period of time between the first three site visits. Once an accredited program continues to demonstrate the ability to meet the ARC-PA standards after the first three site visits, the accreditation status is changed to "continuing," and the time frame between site visits is lengthened. As long as the program maintains accreditation, there are no effects on the students. We have had a great start to our program, and we plan on maintaining accreditation.