



**Policy Title:**

Clinical Site and Preceptor Procurement Policy

**Policy Identifier:**

A3.08

<b>Prepared by:</b> PA Program Faculty	Creation Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Reviewed by:</b> PA Program Executive Committee	Review Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Approved by:</b> PA Program Executive Committee	Effective Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Category:</b> Clinical Education Policies	

**ARC-PA Standards**

A3.08

**Scope**

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia PA students.

**Policy Statement**

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (USC SOMC) Physician Assistant (PA) Program is solely responsible for identifying, establishing, securing, and maintaining clinical sites and preceptors for all required supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs). PA students are not required to provide or solicit their own clinical sites or preceptors. The program applies this policy consistently for all students to ensure fairness and compliance with accreditation standards.

**Reason for Policy**

To ensure compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.08 by clearly defining the responsibilities of the program and students regarding the identification, solicitation, and assignment of supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs). This policy promotes equity in clinical education, ensures consistent application of program standards, and protects students from undue burden in securing clinical placements.

**Definitions**

- **Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (SCPE):** A structured educational experience where PA students engage in patient care activities under appropriate supervision to achieve specified learning outcomes.
- **Clinical Site:** An affiliated healthcare setting approved by the program to provide clinical education and training experiences for students.
- **Preceptor:** A qualified healthcare professional who provides direct supervision, instruction, and evaluation of students during clinical rotations.



- **Director of Clinical Education (DCE):** The faculty member responsible for coordinating, overseeing, and maintaining the quality and compliance of all SCPEs.

**Procedures**

**1. Program Responsibilities**

- The PA Program will coordinate and maintain formal affiliation agreements with clinical sites and preceptors that meet ARC-PA requirements for supervision, assessment, and learning outcomes.
- The Director of Clinical Education (DCE), in collaboration with the clinical team, is responsible for ensuring that all clinical experiences provide appropriate supervision, patient care opportunities, and educational objectives aligned with the program curriculum.
- The program ensures all sites and preceptors are evaluated regularly for quality, safety, and educational suitability.

**2. Student Role**

- Students may express interest in potential clinical sites or preceptors and may suggest possible opportunities to the program.
- Any suggested site or preceptor must be vetted, evaluated, and formally approved by the program prior to any student participation.
- Students are prohibited from independently contacting or negotiating with potential preceptors or clinical sites without prior authorization from the program.

**3. Consistency of Application**

- This policy applies equally to all students, ensuring that no student is advantaged or disadvantaged by personal contacts, previous employment, or geographic proximity to potential clinical sites.

**4. Enforcement and Accountability**

- Failure to comply with this policy or attempts by students to independently secure or arrange clinical placements without program authorization may result in disciplinary action consistent with program professionalism standards. The program reserves the right to determine final clinical site and preceptor assignments to ensure compliance with accreditation and institutional policies.

**Contacts**

Program Director  
 USC School of Medicine Columbia  
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**History**

Date of Change	Change
01/01/2026	Policy drafted into new template