

# Powering Careers: PA Graduates Pursue Oncology at Higher Rates

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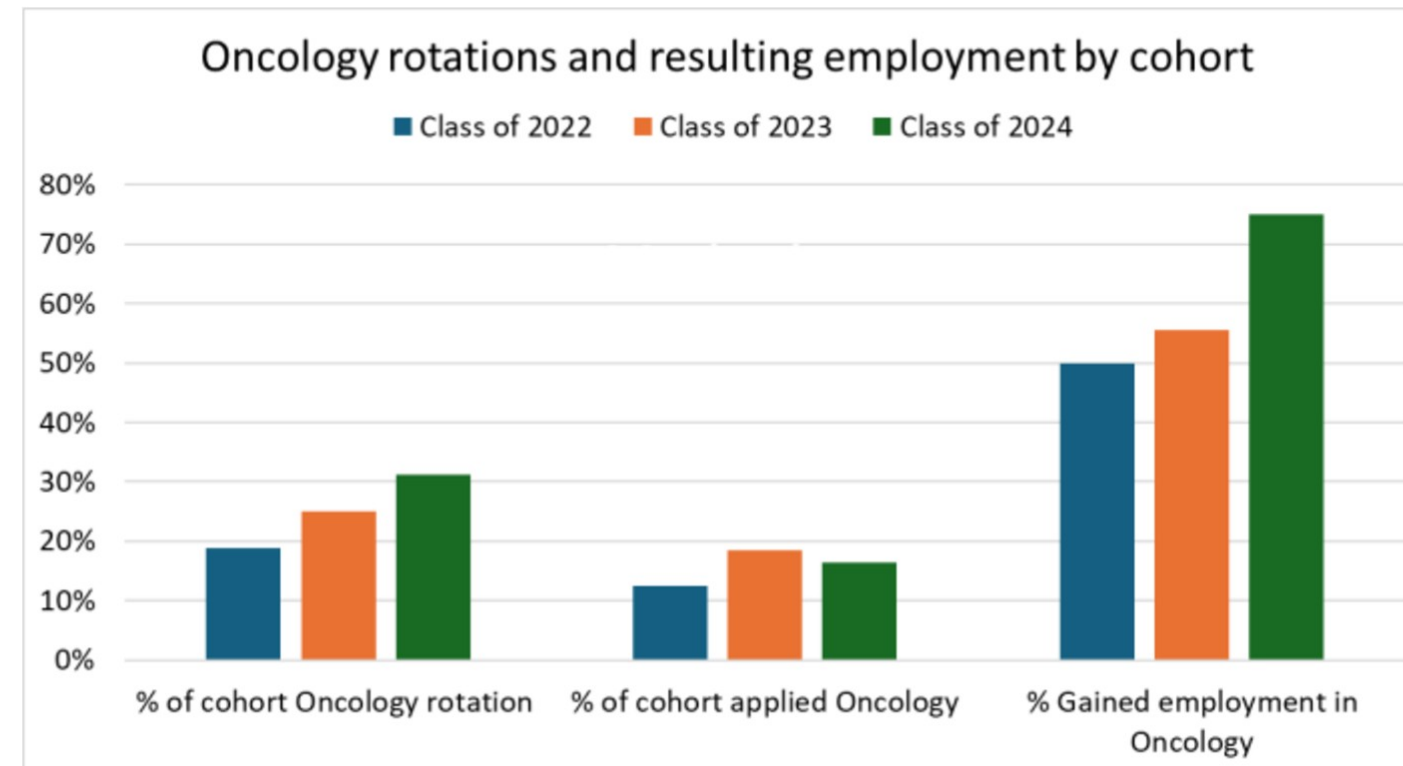
## Purpose:

This study examines trends in oncology employment among USF PA program graduates, comparing them to national data to evaluate how specialized training and clinical rotations may enhance workforce readiness and address provider shortages in oncology.

## Methods:

Institutional data from the USF PA program (2022–2024 cohorts) were analyzed to assess the most highly utilized oncology rotation, job applications, and employment rates to oncology subspecialties. These findings were compared with the NCCPA 2023 Statistical Profile, which ranked oncology as an internal medicine subspecialty, and only 1.5% of PAs reporting it as their principal practice area.

## Outcomes:



Among the 2022–2024 cohorts, 36 students completed oncology rotations. Compared to national data, where only 1.5% of PAs report oncology as their principal practice area, PA program graduates show significantly higher rates of both interest and career attainment in this specialty.



## Conclusion/Clinical implications :

The USF PA program demonstrates the value of targeted oncology rotations in fostering interest and success in the specialty. These findings suggest that structured exposure and career support meaningfully influence subspecialty choice and can help address the urgent need for workforce expansion in oncology. The disparity between USF outcomes and national averages highlights an opportunity to scale these efforts nationwide. Future strategies should include expanding oncology rotations, developing mentorship programs, and offering specialized postgraduate training to attract more PAs to this essential field. Partnerships between PA programs and oncology practices can further strengthen integration into cancer care teams. Replicating the growing interest and employment success seen at USF across other programs could help mitigate workforce shortages and improve access and outcomes for oncology patients nationwide.