



# Academic Remediation in PA Programs

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## academic remediation | study definition

failure of a formative assessment in the didactic year that required an intervention

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to compile a representative set of academic remediation data and practices in physician assistant (PA) education to begin the process of developing “best practices” for academic remediation.

**Methods:** Forty-two PA programs were asked to participate in a survey about academic remediation methods with their students. The survey included questions about class size, the number of students in the last two cohorts requiring remediation as well as the total number of remediations. The method and process of academic remediation plan development, along with the facilitator of the remediation plan and any structured programs for "at risk" students were assessed.



Scan to view survey

## Results:

- 22/42 programs completed the survey (52.4% participation)
- Participating programs closely represented demographics (*geographic, public/private, cohort size*) of PA programs as described by PAEA Program Report 35<sup>1</sup>
- The mean number of students requiring remediation over two cohorts was 23 (23.3% of student population) [range: 3-75]
- 77.8% of programs retest, 68.2% use oral discussion/exams, and 68.2% use written assignments as methods of remediation

Chart I: Methods Utilized for Academic Remediation

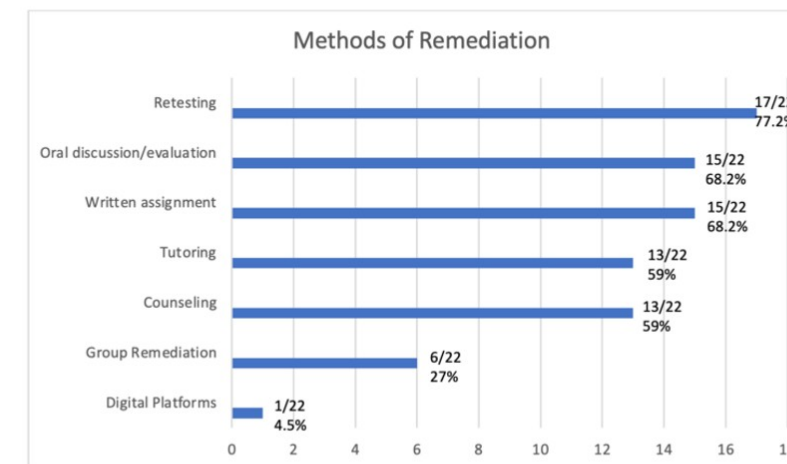
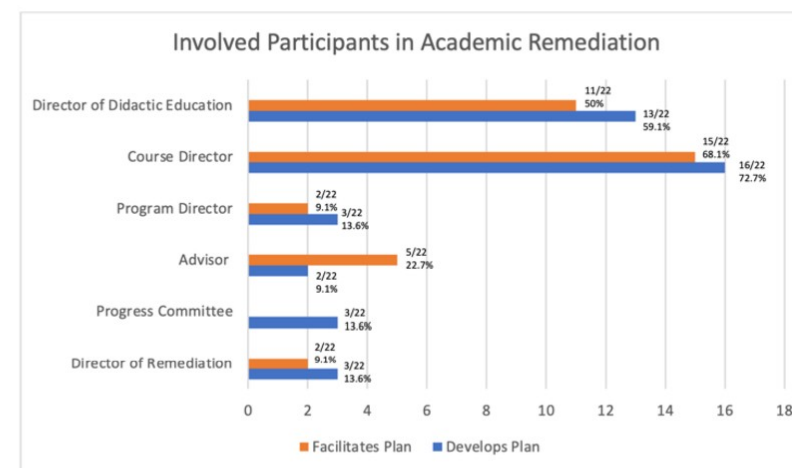


Chart II: Involved Participants in Academic Remediation



- A mean of 5.2 interventions [range: 0-50] were unsuccessful remediations
- 72.7% of programs do not provide remediation training for faculty

**Conclusion:** Academic remediation is a common component of PA education, yet there are no guidelines for how to provide remediation strategies. It is important to collaborate and begin to develop best practices for academic remediation. This was an initial overview of the remediation practices across a representative group of PA programs. The results highlight the opportunity for more focused research on remediated student outcomes, variable remediation definitions and outcomes, and the role of a remediation specialist.

## Reference:

<sup>1</sup> Physician Assistant Education Association. *By the Numbers: Program Report 35: Data from the 2019 Program Survey*, Washington, DC: PAEA; 2020. doi: 10.17538/PR35.2020