



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

TRANSMITTAL

**DATE:** April 25, 2003

**TO:** Angel Clark  
Senate Council

**FROM:** Lissa Holland  
Graduate Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LH' or similar initials, written over the 'FROM' line.

**The Graduate School**

351 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506-0027  
(859) 257-4613  
Fax: (859) 323-1928  
[www.rgs.uky.edu/gsl/](http://www.rgs.uky.edu/gsl/)

The Graduate Council met on April 24, 2003, and approved the following:

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

*Physician Assistant Studies*

**Change in Master's Degree Program – Physician Assistant Studies**

Experience with the first class of Masters students in requiring an oral defense has led the faculty to the conclusion that the logistics of requiring an oral defense for every student given the total of three overlapping classes of students (165 students) is unworkable in the long run and represents an exorbitant demand on limited faculty resources.

The PAS faculty proposes that instead of requiring all students to complete an oral defense on a research topic, students be required to complete a comprehensive written exam shortly before graduation. This exam will cover the entire curriculum and all students will take the same exam.

### REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM

Program: Physician Assistant Studies

Department/Division: Department of Clinical Sciences

College: College of Health Sciences Bulletin pp www.rqs.uky.edu/qs/bulletin/bullJan03/physiaaastatu.html

Degree Title (Old): MSPAS Major (New): MSPAS

CIP Code: M51.0807 HEGIS Code: 1299.10

Accrediting Agency (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

#### I. CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1. Number of transfer credits allowed (Graduate School limit; 9 hours or 25% of coursework)		
2. Residence requirement (if applicable)		
3. Language(s) and/or skill(s) required		
4. Termination criteria		
5. Plan A requirements*		
6. Plan B requirements*	<u>Oral defense</u>	<u>Comprehensive written examination</u>
7. Distribution of course levels required (At least one half must be at 600+ level & two thirds must be in organized courses)		
8. Required courses (if applicable)		
9. Required distribution of courses within program (if applicable)		
10. Final examination requirements		

\* If there is only one plan for the degree, plans involving a thesis (or the equivalent in studio work, etc.) should be discussed under Plan A and those not involving a thesis should be discussed under Plan B.

NOTE: To the extent that proposed changes in 5, 6 or 8 above involve the addition of courses in other programs, please submit correspondence from the other program(s) pertaining to the availability of such courses to your students.

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11. Any other requirements not covered above

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S)

If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to those requirements.  
Experience with our first class of Masters students in requiring an oral defense has led the faculty to the conclusion that the logistics of requiring an oral defense for every student given the total of 3 overlapping classes of students (165 students) is unworkable in the long run and represents an exorbitant demand on limited faculty resources.

We would like to continue to have the students complete a project for their degree; however, the PAS faculty proposes that instead of requiring all students to complete an oral defense on a research topic, students be required to complete a comprehensive written exam shortly before graduation. This exam will cover the entire curriculum, and all students will take the same exam.

The PAS faculty would like for the requested change to apply to the class that is scheduled to graduate in August 2003. Because our currently registered students (classes of 2003, 2004, 2005) entered the program under the oral exam required, the program would offer them the choice of either an oral or a written exam. The offer would be made non-coercive manner. The written final exam would be the only option available to the class of 2006 (entering January 2004), and subsequent classes.

CLEAR FORM

Signatures of Approval:

[Signature]  
Department Chair  
[Signature]  
Dean of the College

2-11-2003  
Date  
2-17-2003  
Date

Date of Notice to the Faculty

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*Undergraduate Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*University Studies  
[Signature]  
Graduate Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
4/25/03  
Date

[Signature]  
Academic Council for the Medical Center

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
3/26/03  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Notice to University Senate

\*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

**Office of the Chancellor**

*Albert B. Chandler Medical Center  
A301 Kentucky Clinic  
Lexington, KY 40536-0284  
(859) 323-5126  
Fax: (859) 323-1918  
[www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu)*

March 26, 2003

Douglass S. Kalika, Ph.D., Chair  
Graduate Council  
359 Patterson Office Tower  
CAMPUS 0027

Dear Dr. Kalika:

At its meeting on March 25, 2003, the Academic Council for the Medical Center approved, and recommends approval by the Graduate Council, for the proposals from the College of Health Sciences to revise the Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) Master's Degree Program.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phyllis P. Nash'.

Phyllis P. Nash, Ed.D.  
Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

PPN:co

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**attachments**

c: Thomas C. Robinson, Ph.D.  
Sharon E. Stewart, Ed.D.  
Angelique Clark  
Jacque Hager



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Office of the Dean  
College of Health Sciences  
CHS Building, Room 123  
900 South Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40536-0200  
(859) 323-1100 Ext. 8-0480  
Fax: (859) 323-1058  
[www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu)

MEMORANDUM

TO: James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D.  
Chair, Medical Center Academic Council  
FROM: Sharon R. Stewart, Ed.D. *ARS*  
Acting Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences  
TOPIC: Application for Change in Physician Assistant Studies Master's  
Degree Program  
DATE: February 17, 2003

The College of Health Sciences recommends for your approval the following change in the Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) Master's Degree program:

**Plan B requirements:**

**Proposed Changes:** The Physician Assistant Studies Division requests a change in the requirement that all students complete an oral defense to a requirement that students complete a comprehensive written examination.

**Rationale:** Experience with the first class of master's students in requiring an oral defense has led the faculty to the conclusion that the logistics of requiring an oral defense for every student given the total of 3 overlapping classes of students (165 students) is unworkable in the long run and represents an exorbitant demand on limited faculty resources. The PAS faculty proposes that, instead of requiring all students to complete an oral defense on a research topic, students be required to complete a comprehensive written exam shortly before graduation. This exam will cover the entire curriculum, and all students will take the same exam.

The PAS faculty would like for the requested change to apply to the first class that is scheduled to graduate in August 2003. Because our currently registered students (Classes of 2003, 2004, 2005) entered the program under the oral exam requirement, the program would offer them the choice of either an oral or a written exam. The offer would be made in a non-coercive manner. The written final exam would be the only option available to the Class of 2006 (entering January 2004), and subsequent classes.

**Contact person:** Doris J. Baker, Ph.D.      or      Robert D. Hadley, Ph.D.  
Ph.: 323-1100, ext 80854      Ph.: 323-1100, ext 80587



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www.uky.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Department Chairs, and  
Members of the Senate  
FROM: Sharon R. Stewart, Ed.D. *SRS*  
Acting Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences  
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DATE: February 17, 2003

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