

Memo

To: Karen Skaff, PhD
Chair, Department of Clinical Sciences
College of Health Sciences

To: Robert Hadley, PhD, PA-C
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
College of Health Sciences

From: Doris Rapp, PharmD, PA-C
Division/Program Director

Date: October 4, 2007

Re: Request for Change in Masters Degree

The Division of Physician Assistant Studies is submitting for your review a Request for Change in Masters Degree Program application. Two six hour required clerkships are being changed to 3 hour clerkships (Pediatrics and Surgery, PAS 661, PAS 663). Students will be allowed to select and complete two elective clerkships (3 credit hours each) under guidelines set forth by the program (PAS 842) to accommodate student preferences and future career goals. As a result of these changes the overall program hour requirements will be 97 hours. Since the program requirements already exceed graduate school and accreditation requirements there is no negative impact to the program.

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM**

Program: Physician Assistant Studies

Department/Division: Clinical Sciences

College: Health Sciences Bulletin pp 300-304

Degree Title (Old): Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Major (New): _____

CIP Code: 51.091 HEGIS Code: _____

Accrediting Agency (if applicable): Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant

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*	100	97
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)	PAS 661 Pediatric Clerkship (6 credits) PAS 663 Surgery Clerkship (6 credits) **PAS 842 variable credit (1-6); 3 credits (repeatable up to 12 hrs)**PAS 842 will change to PAS 665 – see other PA Program application.	PAS 661 Pediatric Clerkship (3 credits) PAS 663 Surgery Clerkship (3 credits) PAS 665 variable credit (1-6); 6 credits (repeatable up to 12 hrs)
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.

11. Any other requirements not covered above
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II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S)

If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to those requirements.

Two six hour required clerkships are being changed to 3 hour clerkships (Pediatrics and Surgery, PAS 661, PAS 663). Students will be allowed to select and complete two elective clerkships (3 credit hours each) under guidelines set forth by the program (PAS 842) to accommodate student preferences and future career goals. As a result of these changes the overall program hour requirements will be 97 hours. Since the program requirements already exceed graduate school and accreditation requirements there is no negative impact to the program. The change benefits both students and program.

In 2001 the UK Division of PA Studies began offering the Masters Degree. It was anticipated at that time that the curriculum would require ongoing re-evaluation and periodic revision. This proposed change reflects such an improvement through a reduction of two six credit hour (8 week) clerkships to three credit hour (four week) clerkships. While this represents an overall decrease of 6 credit hours, three credit hours will be replaced through allowing students to take PAS 842 (elective) twice. This will provide for more tailoring of their training to their future career goals. The changes will provide better training for the students by allowing for more advanced training in the area of their choice than is currently provided by the 8 week clerkships in general surgery and general pediatrics. Individualized training improves our graduates' qualifications for clinical positions.

These changes are in line with the program's long term curriculum strategy and are reflective of changes in current medical education and the medical practice environment. All course objectives will remain intact. The overall decrease in the program requirements by 3 hours (to a total of 97 hours) in no way diminishes the student's training or experience.

As a result of the program's experience with five graduating classes since 2001, certain problems have come to light. One such problem with the current 13 months of clerkships is a one month calendar overlap that is detrimental to both students and the program. This overlap between the two student classes increases competition for rotation sites and decreases the students' opportunities to be placed at the best sites. This reduction in the overall program by 3 hours will eliminate the one month overlap for our clinical year students while allowing students to customize their training.

Signatures of Approval:

10-8-07

Date of Approval by Department Faculty

12-10-07

Date of Approval by College Faculty



Reported by Department Chair



Reported by College Dean

*Date of Approval by Undergraduate Council

Reported by Undergraduate Council Chair

*Date of Approval by Graduate Council

Reported by Graduate Council Chair

*Date of Approval by Health Care Colleges Council (HCCC)

Reported by HCCC Chair

*Date of Approval by Senate Council

Reported by Senate Council Office

*Date of Approval by University Senate

Reported by Senate Council Office

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

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL