

**University of Kentucky**  
**COVID-19 Admissions Response Plan**  
**April 8, 2020**

*Many undergraduate institutions have moved to an online instruction model and Pass/Fail grading for the Spring & Summer 2020 semesters. The unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the need for flexibility. To avoid putting any applicant at a disadvantage, The University of Kentucky Physician Assistant (UKPA) Program has created a response plan for admissions requirements and the upcoming admissions cycle.*

*The UKPA Program conducts a holistic admissions review of all applicants, meaning that emphasis is not only placed on metrics such as GPAs and GRE. The admissions committee reviews all aspects of the application including non-academic factors such as patient contact, shadowing, essays, letters of recommendation, leadership, etc.*

*The response plan will be reevaluated for the Fall 2020 semester if grading models or course changes continue to occur due to the pandemic.*

### **Pre-Requisite Courses Grades & Completion**

The UKPA Program will accept Pass/Fail grading for prerequisite coursework for the Spring & Summer 2020 semesters only. This will only be applicable if the applicant's undergraduate institution has transitioned to the Pass/Fail grading model. Undergraduate, prerequisite, and science GPAs will still be calculated with letter grades excluding Pass/Fail grading to assist in application review. Lastly, applicants who have a Pass/Fail grade for a prerequisite course requirement, will need to complete a grade confirmation form (appendix A) to send to their course director to verify a letter grade and send back to the program admissions officer.

*The UKPA Program strongly recommends applicants to choose the option that best prepares them for the rigor of our graduate level coursework. By choosing to receive a letter grade, this will give you and the admissions committee a better indicator of your knowledge of the curriculum.*

The UKPA program will also extend prerequisite course completion for the 2020-2021 Admissions Cycle. Currently, our program allowed up to two outstanding prerequisite course requirements that must be completed by August 2020. However, due to some summer courses being cancelled, the UKPA Program will allow up to two outstanding prerequisite courses to be completed by December 2020. If you are completing prerequisite courses in the Fall 2020 semester and accepted in August 2020 by the UKPA Program, your acceptance will be conditional based on completing the courses with a "C" grade or better. Your bachelor's must be completed by December 2020 and a transcript showing the completion of your degree must be received prior to the start of the PAS program. If a final transcript is not received showing confirmation of courses and your degree prior to the start of the program, your admission to the program may be rescinded.

### **GRE & TOEFL**

The UKPA Program still requires the completion of the GRE and TOEFL exams. Currently, ETS has allowed at home testing using ProctorU. Please review the ETS [website](#) for more information about the exams. Official exam scores must be received by July 15, 2020.

## **Patient Contact & Shadowing**

The UKPA Program understands that many applicants are unable to gain healthcare experiences due to new policies set by healthcare facilities to protect from COVID-19. Patient Contact is a requirement to apply to the UKPA Program, however we do not set a minimum number of hours. The class statistics for hours is listed on the webpage for applicants to determine their competitiveness. Please note that we see a range of 300-54,000 hours for accepted applicants. Again, we conduct a holistic admissions process and review the quality of experience as much as the quantitative.

Shadowing with PAs is strongly recommended to strengthen your application, however it is not a requirement to apply. The class statistics for the average of shadowing hours is also listed on our admissions webpage. We holistically look at your application for understanding and passion for the profession in several ways including shadowing, personal statements, extracurricular activities, interview, etc.

## **Application Procedures**

At this time, the UKPA program will adhere to the same application procedures and July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Please review the [Steps for Applying](#) tab on our webpage for applications and deadlines.

## **Program Interviews**

The UKPA program is investigating the possibility of using online interviews if the pandemic regulations to self-quarantine are still enforced in August. We are also considering the possibility of utilizing an online interview screening process prior to the August interview dates. More information will be provided to applicants during the 2020-2021 Admissions Cycle if this process is incorporated in the application. This will not be an additional cost for applicants.

## **Informational Session**

The UKPA Program encourages you to attend the Zoom virtual Admissions Informational Session on May 1, 2:30pm. You may find the [RSVP](#) information on our website under the Informational Session dates tab.

Please make sure you are thoroughly reviewing our program website as well as using the [Transfer Equivalency Database](#) to check course equivalencies.

If you have additional questions about our admissions that is not addressed on our website or in this document, please contact Julia Berry, [julia.berry@uky.edu](mailto:julia.berry@uky.edu).

Appendix A

University of Kentucky Physician Assistant Program  
2020-2021 Admissions Cycle  
Pass/Fail Prerequisite Grade Confirmation Form

**Applicant Instructions:** Please complete the form below. Enter the date, name, and Pass/Fail prerequisite course(s) taken and send to your course instructor(s).

**Course Instructors:** Please enter the applicant's course grade(s), sign, and return to Julia Berry, [julia.berry@uky.edu](mailto:julia.berry@uky.edu). Please do not hesitate to contact Julia with any questions.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Name	Course Prefix	Course #	Credit Hours	Grade <i>(completed by Course Instructor Only)</i>

Course Instructor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_