

**To:** Senate Council

**From:** Dr. Karen Badger ([kbadger@uky.edu](mailto:kbadger@uky.edu)), Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; Dr. Scott Black ([wsblac0@uky.edu](mailto:wsblac0@uky.edu)), Chair of Department of Physician Assistant Studies

**Re:** Request from College of Health Sciences Dept. of Physician Assistant Studies Practical Exam during Dead Week

**Date:** September 17, 2020

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The Department of Physician Assistant Studies requests approval to administer practical exams for PAS 650 during Dead Week on Monday, November 24th at our Lexington and Morehead campus locations. In order to meet accreditation standards set forth by the program's accreditor (Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.), students are assessed with a two-part exam: a hands-on practical exam and a written portion. Since the practical exam requires students to have access to specific equipment in order to demonstrate proficiency in expected competencies, this portion of the exam needs to be conducted face-to-face. We are requesting approval to administer this portion of the exam during dead week so that we can be within the campus-based and on-line parameters set forth in the revised Fall 2020 semester calendar. We will plan on conducting the written portion of the exam on-line on December 2<sup>nd</sup> during final exam week at both program sites.

Approval of this request will align our assessment of student learning with expectations of our accreditation standards. The program accreditation standards reference appropriate assessment methods of student performance. The primary standard to consider in reference to this request is B1.03 because it specifically calls out the need to assess student acquisition of competencies based on learning outcomes and instructional objectives. Given this, there are standards that imply instructional content relevant to lab courses and hands-on/interactive engagement (B2.04, B2.07, B2.09, B2.12). The complete set of accreditation standards can be found here <http://www.arc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Standards-5th-Ed-Nov-2019.pdf> and the relevant excerpts are provided below:

**B1.03:** For each didactic and clinical course (including required and elective rotations), the program must define and publish learning outcomes and instructional objectives, in measurable terms that can be assessed, and that guide student acquisition of required competencies.

**B1.04:** The program must ensure educational equivalency of course content, student experience and access to didactic and laboratory materials when instruction is: a) conducted at geographically separate locations, and/or b) provided by different pedagogical and instructional methods or techniques for some students.

**B2.04:** The curriculum must include instruction in interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families and other health professionals.

**B2.07:** The curriculum must include instruction in patient evaluation, diagnosis and management across all age groups and from initial presentation through ongoing follow-up, including: a) interviewing and eliciting a medical history, b) performing complete and focused physical examinations, c) generating differential diagnoses, d) ordering and interpreting diagnostic studies, e) patient management including acute and chronic care plans, and f) patient education and referral.

**B2.09:** The curriculum must include instruction in clinical and technical skills including procedures based on then current professional practice.

**B2.12:** The curriculum must include instruction about basic counseling and patient education skill that is patient centered, culturally sensitive and focused on helping patients: :a) adhere to treatment plans, b) modify their behaviors to more healthful patterns, and c) develop coping mechanisms.

Please contact either of us if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you for considering this request.

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