

Physician Assistant Studies

College of Health Sciences

The University of Kentucky, Division of Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) offers a Plan B, non-thesis, physician assistant master's degree program that is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (M.S.P.A.S.) program is designed for students who wish to become PAs and hold a baccalaureate or will have earned a baccalaureate degree by the time they enter the program. The M.S.P.A.S. program is offered at two distinct locations in either Lexington or Morehead, KY.

The mission of the UK M.S.P.A.S. program is to improve the health and well-being of the people in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Accordingly, we seek applicants who have a strong interest in practicing medicine in Kentucky, especially its most underserved areas. We employ a holistic approach to choose those students who will best fulfill our mission. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination. After successful completion of the NCCPA Exam, graduates are eligible for state certification/licensure to practice as certified physician assistants.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the M.S.P.A.S. program occurs annually, with a new class beginning each January. Qualified applicants for the Lexington or Morehead campuses must simultaneously apply to the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) and the UK Graduate School. Students must satisfy admissions requirements for both the Graduate School and the Physician Assistant Studies Program.

Bachelor's Degree

Completion of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university is required. The UKPAS program does not require a specific degree and the program does not favor one degree over another. All applicants must meet the minimum academic standards for the Graduate School. The Bachelor's Degree must be completed prior to entry into the program. In addition, applicants may have only two outstanding prerequisite requirements at the time of application submission. The program only allows up to one retake per prerequisite course. Applicants must complete all prerequisite courses by the time of scheduled interviews.

*Prerequisite Courses**

A "C" grade or better must be earned in the following prerequisite courses:

General Chemistry 1 with laboratory	1 semester
General Chemistry 2 with laboratory	1 semester
Organic Chemistry with laboratory	1 semester
Psychology	1 semester
Developmental Psychology	1 semester
Microbiology with laboratory	1 semester
General Biology with laboratory	1 semester
Human Physiology	1 semester
Human Anatomy	1 semester
Sociology or Anthropology	1 semester
Medical Terminology	1 semester
Statistics	1 semester

*For more detailed information on prerequisites and course equivalencies, please visit the program website. <http://www.mc.uky.edu/PA/admissions.html>

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

All GRE scores must come from exams taken within the last 5 years. A minimum score is not set by the program or UK's Graduate School. The UKPAS Program accepts ONLY the GRE for our program. We do not accept any substitutes (e.g. the MCAT).

TOEFL Requirements (if applicable)

International applicants or domestic students who attended a high school in which English was not the primary language are required to submit TOEFL iBT scores in addition to the GRE. A minimum combined TOEFL iBT score of 120 is required with a minimum score of 26 in each category: Reading, Listening, Speaking, & Writing.

Patient Care Experience

The UKPAS Program requires patient contact, however a minimum amount of hours is not set. Contact hours may be completed utilizing the following (but not limited to) medical disciplines: CNA, EMT, CMA, Medical Tech., Professional Hospice Volunteer, etc. Medical Scribe is not considered a hands-on clinical patient care experience.

Shadowing

A minimum 50 hours of shadowing a clinical Physician Assistant is required. The UKPAS program prefers applicants shadow PAs in a variety of medical specialties as well as a foundation in a Primary Care/Family Medicine setting.

Letters of Recommendation

Three (3) letters of recommendation are required from people acquainted with the applicant for at least one year and familiar with his/her professional goals. They must be submitted with the CASPA application packet. Letters should come from the following sources:

- Letter 1 - PA or Physician
- Letter 2 - Academic Professor or Advisor
- Letter 3 - Medical (i.e. PA, Physician, supervisor) or Academic

Admissions Essay

The admission essay must be of graduate quality and reflect the applicant's commitment to the mission of the UKPAS Program as well as their interest in being a PA. It should contain approximately 625 words.

Basic Life Support Certification

Applicants must be certified in Basic Life Support for Health Providers through the American Heart Association. Red Cross certifications will not be accepted. The BLS card is expected to be presented at the time of interview.

Technical Standards, Background Checks & Drug Screening

All students matriculating into the UKPA Program are required to meet certain technical standards of the program and College of Health Sciences. Additionally, applicants must pass a background check and drug screen.

Due to the competitive nature and large number of students applying to the program, not all applicants who meet minimum requirements will be invited for an interview.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS--JULY 15 of the application year.

For more information and dates of General Information Sessions please visit our website at www.mc.uky.edu/pa/. If you have questions after visiting our website and attending an information session you may contact:

Julia Berry, Student Affairs Officer
Office of Admissions and Student Affairs College of Health Sciences
900 S. Limestone, Room 205 Charles T. Wethington Building Lexington, KY 40356-0200
859.257.5001
julia.berry@uky.edu

M.S.P.A.S. Program Curriculum Requirements

All students enrolled in the program will take the following courses

Spring

ANA 611	Human Gross Anatomy	(5)
PAS 651	Introduction to PA Profession	(2)
HSM 601	Overview of the Health Care Delivery System	(3)
PGY 412G	Human Physiology	(4)

4-Week Intersession

PAS 610	Research Methods and Epidemiology	(3)
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8-Week Intersession

PAS 678	Seminar in PA Studies I	(2)
PAS 653	Introduction to Human Disease	(3)

Fall

PAS 654	Clinical Lecture Series	(4)
PAS 672	Pharmacology I	(3)
PAS 657	Clinical Laboratory Procedures	(3)
PAS 850	Clinical Methods	(3)
PAS 645	Master's Project I	(1)

Spring

PAS 658	Clinical Lecture Series II	(4)
PAS 673	Pharmacology II	(3)
PAS 655	Psychosocial Factors in Primary Care	(3)
PAS 656	Patient Evaluation and Management	(4)
PAS 646	Master's Project II	(2)

4-Week Intersession

PAS 640	Survey of Geriatric Medicine	(3)
CNU 503	Applied Nutrition	(1)

8-Week Intersession, Begin Clinical Year Program Clerkship Requirements

All students will complete the following clerkship requirements:

PAS 660	Family Medicine Clerkship	(6)
PAS 661	Pediatrics Clerkship	(6)
PAS 662	Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship	(3)

PAS 663	Surgery Clerkship	(6)
PAS 664	Geriatrics Clerkship	(3)
PAS 665	Elective Clerkship	(3)
PAS 665	Selective Clerkship	(3)
PAS 669	Internal Medicine Clerkship	(6)
PAS 670	Emergency Medicine Clerkship	(3)
PAS 671	Psychiatry Clerkship	(3)
PAS 680	Seminar in PA Studies II	(2)

Please note that any course offered in the PA program curriculum must be taken while in the program. The program does not offer advanced placement. No courses will be allowed to transfer into the program (PGY 412G, HSM 601, etc.)

After completing the course work and clerkship requirements with a minimum 3.0 GPA, students who receive passing scores on written and practical final examination will be awarded a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (M.S.P.A.S.) degree. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination. After successful completion of the exam, they are also eligible for state certification/licensure to practice as certified physician assistants.

M.S.P.A.S. for Graduates of Programs in Physician Assistant Studies

PAs applying to the M.S.P.A.S. program and who already hold a baccalaureate degree in Physician Assistant Studies from an accredited Physician Assistant program, must have maintained a 3.0 GPA in their prior PA program coursework and achieved a combined score of 900 on the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE taken within the last five years of the application to the program. To satisfy the M.S.P.A.S. curriculum, these students are required to complete a 24 credit hour core of M.S.P.A.S. courses and a minimum of 9 credit hours in an academic concentration of their choosing for a total of 33 credit hours.

M.S.P.A.S. Program Core Courses

STA 570	Basic Statistical Analysis	(4)
PAS 610	Research Methods and Epidemiology	(3)
HSM 601	Overview of the Health Care Delivery System	(3)
PAS 673	Pharmacology II	(3)
PAS 640	Survey of Geriatric Medicine	(3)
PAS 680	Seminar in PA Studies II	(2)
PAS 646	Master's Project II	(2-6)
PAS 690	Physician Assistant Clerkship	(3-6)

A minimum of nine credit hours of elective courses will be completed with a concentration in gerontology, health care administration, or clinical nutrition.

Elective Courses in Areas of Concentration

Gerontology Concentration

GRN 643	Biomedical Aspects of Aging	(3)
BIO/GRN 612	Biology of Aging	(3)
BSC 770	Psychosocial Issues of Aging and Health	(3)
BSC 772	Women, Health and Aging	(3)
NUR 510	Older Women and Their Health	(3)
BSC 779	Behavioral Factors in Death and Dying	(3)
HSM 510	Organization of Long Term Care Sector	(3)
NFS 680	Nutrition and Aging	(3)

GRN 513 Geriatric Pharmacy (3)

For more information contact the M.S.P.A.S. Program: www.mc.uky.edu/pa/

Graduate Courses

PAS 610	Research Methods and Epidemiology	(3)
PAS 640	Survey of Geriatric Medicine	(3)
PAS 645	Master's Project I	(1)
PAS 646	Master's Project II	(2-6)
PAS 654	Clinical Lecture Series	(4)
PAS 655	Psychosocial Factors in Primary Care	(3)
PAS 658	Clinical Lecture Series II	(4)
PAS 660	Family Medicine Clerkship	(6)
PAS 661	Pediatrics Clerkship	(6)
PAS 663	Surgery Clerkship	(6)
PAS 669	Internal Medicine Clerkship	(6)
PAS 672	Pharmacology I	(3)
PAS 673	Pharmacology II	(3)
PAS 680	Seminar in PA Studies II	(2)
PAS 690	Physician Assistant Clerkship	(3-6)

Course Descriptions

PAS 500 INTEGRATIVE CARE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES. (1-3)

Integrative care involves using the best possible treatments from both complementary/alternative and allopathic medicine, based on the patient's individual needs and condition. The selection of health care providers should be based on good science and this course will introduce students to complementary and alternative health care providers and the practices and beliefs of these practices as well as the scientific evidence in support of these practices. The course integrates successes from both worlds and describe the safest, least invasive, most cost-effective approach while incorporating a holistic understanding of the individual. May be repeated to a maximum of 3 credits (1 credit didactic and up to two credits experiential/research). (Same as AT 500, HS 500, CLS 500, CNU 500, CD 500.)

PAS 610 RESEARCH METHODS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY IN PA STUDIES. (3)

An introductory course designed to introduce students to research applicable to the health care sciences and the field of epidemiology. The course will include a description of the scientific method, research design, measurement techniques, and statistical analysis. Emphasis will be placed on both clinical research and population-based studies. Students will learn how to critically review literature and how to design a research protocol. Prereq: Completion of STA 570, admission to the Physician Assistant Program, or consent of instructor.

PAS 620 HEALTH CARE DELIVERY IN THE 21ST CENTURY. (3)

The PAS 620 course will be an introduction to healthcare delivery of the 21st century. This course will emphasize characteristics of the United States care delivery system, its relationship to the physician assistant profession, and will include instruction on the care system's historical organization, composition and function. Students will gain perspective on models of care, payment, health care quality, patient safety, health information technology, population and global health care as well as team-based care. Prereq: Acceptance into the PAS Program.

PAS 640 SURVEY OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE. (3)

Overview of physician assistant practice with geriatric patients. Emphasis is placed on the practice of geri-

atric medicine including the anatomy and physiology of normal aging; pathology of aging; health care aspects of geriatric management; the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of geriatric problems; and research aspects of geriatric practice. Prereq: Admission to the Physician Assistant graduate program or consent of the instructor.

PAS 645 MASTER'S PROJECT. (1)

A 4-week course designed to introduce students to methods of identifying and analyzing a health care delivery issue that can be studied through a scientific literature search. The analysis of the topic and writing of a research paper will occur during the student's clinical clerkships. Prereq: STA 570, PAS 610, completion of the first year of the Physician Assistant graduate program.

PAS 646 MASTER'S PROJECT 2. (2-6)

This variable credit hour course is designed to allow PA students to complete a Master's Project while under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Students will identify a health care issue topic, conduct appropriate library research on the topic, develop a research paper on the topic, and make an oral presentation of their project at the conclusion of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program. Students will be responsible for developing appropriate audiovisuals, handouts, etc. for the oral presentation. Prereq: Admission to the Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 650 CLINICAL METHODS. (4)

The PAS 650 course is designed to deliver content specific to the principles of obtaining medical histories as well as performing physical examinations. Further, students will be introduced to health care communication in both a lecture as well as laboratory format.

PAS 651 INTRODUCTION TO THE PA PROFESSION. (2)

This course provides an overview of selected health care delivery issues affecting primary care physician assistants. The first half of the semester is devoted to examination of the history and evolution of the PA profession, current PA practice demographics and regulations, principles of quality assurance, risk management, and medical literature evaluation. The second half of the semester is devoted to the study of the ethical dimensions of PA practice. Topics include moral principles and ethical theories, as well as a series of seminar discussions on contemporary ethical issues confronting primary care providers in the 20th and 21st centuries. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 653 INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH AND DISEASE. (3)

An overview of the etiology, distribution, and prevention of basic disease processes. Prereq: Enrollment in Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 654 CLINICAL LECTURE SERIES I. (4)

A study of diseases and disorders seen in primary care physician assistant practice. Emphasis is placed on identifying the etiology, clinical presentation, laboratory and x-ray abnormalities, management, and prevention of diseases/disorders of the cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal, gastrointestinal, hematological, endocrine, and neurological systems. Research aspects of selected diseases is also presented. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Studies Program.

PAS 655 PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE. (3)

This course provides a broad overview of the role of psychosocial factors (behavioral, cultural, and environmental) in the nature, cause, course distribution, prevention, and treatment of illness. It develops the student's communication skills for clinical practice and presents psychosocial theories and research, and is organized into four areas: general behavioral concepts, communications skills, developmental issues, and psychopathology. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 656 PATIENT EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT. (4)

The PAS 656 course is combination of lecture, formal presentations, laboratory practice sessions, and supervised patient care experiences involving patient evaluation and management skills. Prereq: Enrollment in Physician Assistant Program or consent of instructor.

PAS 657 CLINICAL LABORATORY PROCEDURES. (3)

This is a survey laboratory course covering common laboratory procedures performed in the primary care clinical setting. Emphasis will be placed on performing and interpreting basic clinical tests. Lecture, two hours; laboratory, two hours per week. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Studies Program.

PAS 658 CLINICAL LECTURE SERIES II. (4)

A seminar in diseases and disorders seen by primary care physician assistants. Emphasis is placed on student research and presentation of selected diseases/disorders associated with orthopedics, dermatology, emergency medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 660 FAMILY MEDICINE CLERKSHIP. (3)

This is an eight-week clinical course designed to provide physician assistant students with experience in evaluation and treating common problems encountered in Family medicine. Experience is provided at the level of a primary care physician assistant, and emphasis is placed on performing a history and physical exam, selecting and interpreting laboratory exams, establishing a logical differential diagnosis, conducting research on clinical problems, performing selected studies, and establishing a tentative treatment plan. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant program and successful completion of the didactic portion of the curriculum.

PAS 661 PEDIATRIC CLERKSHIP. (3)

This is a four-week clinical course designed to provide physician assistant students with experience in evaluation and treating common problems encountered in pediatrics. Experience is provided at the level of a primary care physician assistant, and emphasis is placed on performing a pediatric history and physical exam, selecting and interpreting laboratory exams, establishing a logical differential diagnosis, conducting research on pediatric problems, performing selected procedures, and establishing a tentative treatment plan. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant program and successful completion of the didactic portion of the PA curriculum.

PAS 662 OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY CLERKSHIP. (3)

This is a four-week course designed to provide physician assistant students with experience in evaluating and treating common problems encountered in obstetrics and gynecology. Experience is provided at the level of a primary care physician assistant, and emphasis is placed on performing a prenatal history and physical exam, assisting in surgery, selecting and interpreting laboratory exams, establishing a logical differential diagnosis, conducting research on clinical problems, performing selected studies, and establishing a tentative treatment plan. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant program and successful completion of the didactic portion of the PA curriculum.

PAS 663 SURGERY CLERKSHIP. (3)

This is a four-week clinical course designed to provide physician assistant students with experience in evaluating and treating surgical problems. Experience is provided at the level of a primary care physician assistant, and emphasis is placed on performing a surgical history and physical exam, assisting in surgery, selecting and interpreting laboratory exams, establishing a logical differential diagnosis, conducting research on surgical problems, and performing selected surgical procedures. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant program and successful completion of the didactic portion of the PA curriculum.

PAS 664 GERIATRIC CLERKSHIP. (3)

A 4-week physician assistant clinical clerkship in geriatric medicine. Objectives involve the development of knowledge and skills in the evaluation, management, and prevention of common geriatric disorders and diseases. Principles of business management, evidence-based medicine, research, and use of ancillary medical services are also covered. Prereq: Admission to the Physician Assistant graduate program, or consent of instructor.

PAS 665 CLINICAL PRACTICUM IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES. (1-6)

This field assignment offers supervised clinical experience appropriate to the PA student's chosen area of practice. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 credits; 40 hours per week. Prereq: Enrollment in Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 669 INTERNAL MEDICINE CLERKSHIP. (6)

This is an eight-week clinical course designed to provide physician assistant students with experience in evaluating and treating common problems encountered in Internal Medicine. Experience is provided at the level of a primary care physician assistant, and emphasis is placed on performing a history and physical exam, selecting and interpreting laboratory exams, establishing a logical differential diagnosis, conducting research on clinical programs, performing selected studies, and establishing a tentative treatment plan. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant program and successful completion of the didactic portion of the PA curriculum.

PAS 670 EMERGENCY MEDICINE CLERKSHIP. (3)

This is a four-week clinical course designed to provide physician assistant students with experience in evaluating and treating problems encountered in emergency medicine. Experience is provided at the level of a primary care physician assistant, and emphasis is placed on performing a history and physical exam, selecting and interpreting laboratory exams, establishing a logical differential diagnosis, performing selected studies, and establishing a tentative treatment plan. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant program and successful completion of the didactic portion of the curriculum.

PAS 671 PSYCHIATRIC CLERKSHIP. (3)

This is a four-week clinical course designed to provide physician assistant students with experience evaluating and treating common problems encountered in psychiatry. Experience is provided at the level of a primary care physician assistant, and emphasis is placed on performing a history and physical exam, mental status exam, selecting and interpreting laboratory exams, establishing a logical differential diagnosis, and establishing a tentative treatment plan. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant program and successful completion of the didactic portion of the PA curriculum.

PAS 672 PHARMACOLOGY I. (3)

This course is designed to prepare students for the pharmacological requirements of practice as a primary care physician assistant. Emphasis is placed on a description of drug categories, prescription writing, drug abbreviations and equivalents, principles of drug research, and the laws on ethics of drug use in primary care medicine. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 673 PHARMACOLOGY II. (3)

This course is designed to prepare students for the pharmacological requirements of practice as a primary care physician assistant. Emphasis is placed on utilizing specific drugs and drug combinations for specific diseases, and performing literature reviews on current pharmacological problems. A research paper and presentation is required addressing a specific pharmacological problem that occurs in primary care physician assistant practice. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 678 HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION. (2)

This course is designed to focus on health promotion and disease prevention in primary care medical practice. The course reflects concerns expressed in Healthy People 2010 which call for an increased emphasis on preventive medicine and reflects the need for additional disease education for physician assistant students. The course will address topics such as immunizations, genetic counseling, complementary and alternative medicine, and health and wellness. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant Program.

PAS 680 SEMINAR IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES. (2)

A study of selected topics and contemporary issues regarding physician assistant practice. Emphasis will be placed on review of selected clinical medicine topics, research in primary care, principles of managed care, job searches and interviewing skill. Prereq: Enrollment in the Physician Assistant program and successful completion of the didactic portion of the PA curriculum.

PAS 690 PA CLERKSHIP. (3-6)

This variable credit, 1 to 2 month course is intended to allow MPAS students with a prior baccalaureate degree in PA studies to engage in clinical work relevant to their chosen area of concentration. Course objectives will be developed to include acquiring knowledge in clinical knowledge and library research. It is expected that students will use this course to develop and implement their final Master's Project. Students will be responsible for developing appropriate audiovisuals, handouts, and other presentation materials. Prereq: Completion of PAS 645, admission to the Physician Assistant Program, or consent of instructor.