

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)
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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)