



To: Senate Council

Contact: Dr. Virginia Valentin, PAS Department Chair (virginia.valentin@uky.edu)

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RE: Request for modification of Academic Calendar for Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters in perpetuity for the MS in Physician Assistant Studies (PAS)

Request: The department requests an exemption from Prep and Reading Days in the University Senate approved academic calendar through June 2026 for the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program students enrolled in the supervised clinical practice experience courses listed below. This request is made to allow for curriculum delivery and student assessment/examination.

The PAS Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences Courses within which students enroll are as follows:

PAS 660	Family Medicine Clerkship
PAS 661	Pediatric Clerkship
PAS 662	Obstetrics & Gynecology Clerkship
PAS 663	Surgery Clerkship
PAS 665	Clinical Practicum in Physician Assistant Studies
PAS 669	Internal Medicine Clerkship
PAS 670	Emergency Medicine Clerkship
PAS 671	Psychiatry Clerkship
PAS 680	Seminar in PA Studies II

The PAS Clinical Year during which these courses are taught consists of a 12-month schedule of four-week supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs) per cohort that repeats annually.

- Orientation to the clinical year- scheduled for one week in June
- Four-week SCPEs beginning the first Monday in July (or first Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) through December (no later than the end of finals week)
- Four-week SCPEs beginning the first Monday in January (or first Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) through June

Rationale: The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) provides standards for PAS education that includes didactic and clinical training. For this program, all students must complete 12 four-week SCPEs prior to graduation and demonstrate mastery of core competencies. They are able to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination upon successful completion of the program. The semester’s schedule for PAS students is dense and the curriculum lock-step as skill and knowledge are developed sequentially. Rotations are built into the last year of the student’s program- the clinical year- in four- week blocks. These SCPEs require provision of comparable experiences across placements and follow a set structure. Each SCPE concludes with assessment of student competencies scheduled in the last two days of the four-week block, which could include a national standardized exam, skill checks, and a summative program examination. These required assessments could fall on day(s) designated as Prep or Reading Days in the Senate approved academic calendar that do not allow for any required activities.

In order to provide comparable experiences across all SCPEs and complete assessment requirements as scheduled, the program requests an exemption from Prep and Reading Days in the University Senate approved Academic Calendar to accommodate times when the two-day assessment/examination time period coincides with the Prep or Reading Day schedule. The courses listed above are those that fulfill clinical requirements in which these students will be enrolled. The students enrolled in the clinical year are exclusively in PAS courses and have only these nationally standardized “end of rotation” exams scheduled at the conclusion of each SCPE with no other examinations occurring.

Therefore, we request an exemption from Prep and Reading Days for students enrolled in clinical courses during their clinical year so that this curriculum may be delivered without disruption as described above. Because this is a standardized curriculum construction we request the exemption for all semesters through June 2026. This request was approved by PAS faculty vote on 6/2/2022. ***The proposed nonstandard calendar regarding Prep and Reading Days described above does not and does not have the potential to violate SR 5.2.2, specifically in relation to student load.***

UK Physician Assistant Rotation (Clinical Year) Schedule

Supervised Clinical Practice Experience Four-week block dates of Class of 2025

Orientation: 6/24/24 – 6/28/24

	Dates
SCPE 1	7/1/24 – 7/26/24
SCPE 2	7/29/24 – 8/23/24
	Summer Prep Days 8/5/24 – 8/7/24 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
SCPE 3	8/26/24 – 9/20/24
SCPE 4	9/23/24 – 10/18/24
SCPE 5	10/21/24 – 11/15/24
SCPE 6	11/18/24 – 12/13/24
	Fall Prep Days 12/2/24 – 12/4/24 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
	Reading Days 12/5/24 – 12/6/24 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
SCPE 7	1/6/25 – 1/31/25
	Winter Prep Days 1/7/25 – 1/9/25 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
SCPE 8	2/3/25 – 2/28/25
SCPE 9	3/3/25 – 3/28/25
SCPE 10	3/31/25 – 4/25/25
	Spring Prep Days 4/21/25 – 4/23/25 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)

	Reading Days 4/24/25 – 4/25/25 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
SCPE 11	4/28/25 – 5/23/25
SCPE 12	5/26/25 – 6/20/25

Supervised Clinical Practice Experience Four-week block dates of Class of 2026

Orientation: 6/30/25 – 7/3/25

	Dates
SCPE 1	7/7/25 – 8/1/25
SCPE 2	8/4/25 – 8/28/25
	Summer Prep Days 8/4/25 – 8/6/25 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
SCPE 3	9/1/25 – 9/26/25
SCPE 4	9/29/25 – 10/24/25
SCPE 5	10/27/25 – 11/21/25
SCPE 6	11/24/25 – 12/19/25
	Fall Prep Days 12/3/25 – 12/5/25 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
	Reading Days 12/6/25 – 12/7/25 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
SCPE 7	1/5/26 – 1/30/26
	Winter Prep Days 1/6/26 – 1/8/26 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
SCPE 8	2/2/26 – 2/27/26
SCPE 9	3/2/26 – 3/27/26
SCPE 10	3/30/26 – 4/24/26
	Spring Prep Days 4/23/26 – 4/25/26 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
	Reading Days 4/26/26 – 4/27/26 (Waiver requested from Senate Council)
SCPE 11	4/27/26 – 5/22/26
SCPE 12	5/25/26 – 6/19/26

The Federal Holidays we will observe annually are:

Labor Day

Election Day (In appropriate years)

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King, Jr Day

Memorial Day

Juneteenth

Independence Day