



MEMORANDUM

TO: Health Care Colleges Council

FROM: Sharon R. Stewart, Ed.D.
CHS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

RE: Request for changes to the curriculum in the Physician Assistant Studies program

DATE: April 13, 2009

I am attaching the proposal for changes to the Physician Assistant Studies program. This change was recommended for approval by the Department of Clinical Sciences Chair, Dr. Karen Skaff, and the CHS Academic Affairs Committee. I support the proposal.

The purpose of the proposed change is to remove STA 570 as a required course in the program. There are 2 reasons for the requested change: 1) a growing number of applicants have completed the requirement for statistics prior to entering the program; and 2) additional credit hours are needed within the curriculum to address the expanded knowledge requirements in medicine.

Dropping STA 570 as a required course will reduce the total number of hours required for graduation by 4 credits. Instead of including STA 570 as a program requirement, students will be required to take statistics as a prerequisite for program admission. Completion of a semester of introductory statistics that meets or exceeds the content of the UK STA 291 course with a grade of C or better will be required for admission to the program. Information about this change will be included in the University Bulletin, the PAS website, and other important documents. The effective date is for students entering the program in January 2011.

Please contact Gil Boissonneault (323-1100, ext 80557) or Doris Rapp (323-1100, ext 80514) regarding any concerns or questions.

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM**

Program: _____

Department/Division: _____

College: _____ Bulletin pp _____

Degree Title (Old): _____ Major (New): _____

CIP Code: _____ HEGIS Code: _____

Accrediting Agency (if applicable): _____

I. CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1. Number of transfer credits allowed (Graduate School limit: 9 hours or 25% of coursework)	_____	_____
2. Residence requirement (if applicable)	_____	_____
3. Language(s) and/or skill(s) required	_____	_____
4. Termination criteria	_____	_____
5. Plan A requirements*	_____	_____
6. Plan B requirements*	_____	_____
7. Distribution of course levels required (At least one half must be at 600+ level & two thirds must be in organized courses)	_____	_____
8. Required courses (if applicable)	_____	_____
9. Required distribution of courses within program (if applicable)	_____	_____
10. Final examination requirements	_____	_____

* If there is only one plan for the degree, plans involving a thesis (or the equivalent in studio work, etc.) should be discussed under Plan A and those not involving a thesis should be discussed under Plan B.

NOTE: To the extent that proposed changes in 5, 6 or 8 above involve the addition of courses in other programs, please submit correspondence from the other program(s) pertaining to the availability of such courses to your students.

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11. Any other requirements not covered above
Completion of one semester of introductory statistics meeting or exceeding the content in the University of Kentucky course STA 291 "Statistical Methods" with a grade of "C" (2.0/4.0) or better. Decrease total credit hours required for graduation from 97 to 93.

12. **RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S)**
 If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to those requirements.

There are two principal reasons for the requested change: 1) a growing number of applicants have completed this requirement prior to entry into the program, and 2) a need for additional credit hours within the curriculum to address expanded knowledge requirements in medicine.

The additional 4 credit hours derived from moving the statistics requirement from within the MSPAS curriculum to an admission prerequisite will allow modification of other courses within the curriculum in order to expand coverage of important areas of medical knowledge.

The statistics requirement will be changed to a pre-requisite for program application. Indications of this change will be incorporated into the University Bulletin, the PAS website, and other program documents. Completion of one semester of introductory statistics meeting or exceeding the content in the University of Kentucky course STA 291 "Statistical Methods" with a grade of "C" (2.0/4.0) or better will be required for program admission.

The proposed effective date is for students entering the PAS program in January, 2011.

Signatures of Approval:

4/14/09 Karen A. Skoff, Ph.D.
 Date of Approval by Department Faculty

4/13/09 Sharon Stewart
 Date of Approval by College Faculty

[Signature]
 Reported by Department Chair

[Signature]
 Reported by College Dean

 *Date of Approval by Undergraduate Council

 Reported by Undergraduate Council Chair

 *Date of Approval by Graduate Council 5/19/09

 Reported by Graduate Council Chair

 *Date of Approval by Health Care Colleges Council (HCCC)

 Reported by HCCC Chair

 *Date of Approval by Senate Council

 Reported by Senate Council Office

 *Date of Approval by University Senate

 Reported by Senate Council Office

*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate



ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL

From: Boissonneault, Gilbert
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 11:12 AM
To: LaRoche, Adrea S.
Subject: RE: Phone tag and clarification - STA 291

Hello Adrea,

Thank you very much for catching this omission. The intention is that the student is required to complete STA 291 or equivalent with a grade of C or better before admission into the program. Please let me know if there is something that I need to do to clarify this other than inform you. Again, thank you for your keen oversight!

Gil

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From: LaRoche, Adrea S.
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 10:11 AM
To: Boissonneault, Gilbert
Subject: Phone tag and clarification - STA 291

I got your message this morning. I have been trying to reach you because I have a question regarding the MS in Physician Assistant Studies program change proposal that we received in our office. I need to get some clarification and you were listed as a contact. I may be able to explain it here via email though...

This program change proposal is to remove STA 570 as a required course. That part of the proposal is fine. The clarification I need is regarding the role of STA 291. The letter that accompanied the program change form and the form itself seem to differ in regards to 291. The letter from Sharon Stewart states that a grade of C or better in STA 291 (or another introduction to statistics course that is comparable to UK's) will be required for admission into the PA program. However, the program change form doesn't indicate that the course is required for admission. It only states that it is required.

The clarification needed is as follows.

Is this course (STA 291) required before admission to the program? Or is it required to be taken during the program – before graduation?

I will attach the clarification to the program change form so nothing has to be amended on the form itself. I hope that all makes sense. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.