



University of Kentucky
College of Pharmacy
Office of Academic Programs

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jennifer Bird-Pollan, PhD, JD

FROM: Penni Black, PhD
Associate Professor & Director of Professional Studies

DATE: March 25, 2020

RE: Temporary Major Program Change Request
Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree program

We request a one-time, major change that will result in an alteration in hours required for the PharmD graduation for our class of 2021 who begin 4th year experiential rotations on May 11, 2020. We have approval from our faculty to go forward with the plan as outlined below.

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) requires pharmacy students to complete 1440 Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) hours prior to graduation to demonstrate practice-readiness. The University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy's (UKCOP) current APPE curriculum requires seven, six-week APPE rotations or 1680 hours, which exceeds the minimum required by ACPE. Due to the COVID-19 crisis resulting in health systems and pharmacies limiting student/learner access and the possibility that all students may be required to suspend clinical activities by government or University-order, the UKCOP Class of 2021 may be unable to finish seven total experiences to meet the UKCOP credit hour requirements for graduation. This one-time request is to reduce the UKCOP APPE curricular requirement from seven APPE rotations to six APPE rotations by eliminating one elective APPE rotation (6 credit hours). The result would be a total of 1440 hours of completed APPEs, which still meets ACPE minimum requirements and provides the requisite number of hours required for licensure.

We are finding most of our benchmark institutions (also accredited by SACS) are moving in the same direction. The PharmD program hour count before the proposed change is 162 and with this change, 156.

Please direct any questions to me or our Director of External Studies (Holly Divine, holly.divine@uky.edu).

Thanks for your collective help on this pressing issue.

cc: Frank Romanelli, PharmD, MPH
Holly Divine, Pharm.D