

**TO:** Senate Council

**Contact:** Dr. Karen Badger, Associate Dean ([kbadger@uky.edu](mailto:kbadger@uky.edu)); Dr. Scott Black, PAS Department Chair ([wsblac0@uky.edu](mailto:wsblac0@uky.edu))

**Submitted:** October 1, 2020

**RE: Request for modification of Academic Calendar for Spring 2021: MS in Physician Assistant Studies (PAS)**

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We request approval to modify the Spring 2021 semester to through 1/04/2021 to 5/21/2021 for the following courses:

PAS 660	FAMILY MED CLERKSHIP
PAS 661	PEDIATRIC CLERKSHIP
PAS 662	OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY CLERKSHIP
PAS 663	SURGERY CLERKSHIP
PAS 665	CLI PRACTICUM IN PHYSICIAN ASST STUDIES
PAS 669	INTERNAL MED CLERKSHIP
PAS 670	EMERGENCY MEDICINE CLERKSHIP
PAS 671	PSYCHIATRY CLERKSHIP
PAS 680	SEM IN PA STUDIES II

This is a one-time request for modification of the University Senate revised and approved Academic Calendar in response to COVID-19 circumstances for these courses offered on either main (Lexington) or the Morehead campus. This nonstandard calendar will allow the delivery of PAS curriculum as it has in previous academic years, consistent with the program proposal vetted by University Senate for approval dated July 25, 2000

(<file:///C:/Users/kbadger/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/ANF7NWDF/MSPAS%20Program%20Proposal%2007%2025%2000.pdf> p. 6, Background paragraph: see also Graduate Bulletin: PAS) to meet accreditation requirements and progress towards degree.

**Rationale:** The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) provides standards for PAS education that includes didactic and clinical training. ARC-PA requires PAS students to complete its program's clinical training requirements. For this program, all students must complete 12 four-week clinical rotations 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 is rigorous for PAS students and the curriculum lock-step as skill and knowledge are developed sequentially. Rotations have been arranged and built into the Spring 2021 semester across the semester and academic year according to the usual program calendar (see attachment). These circumstances do not permit a later start date and the resulting disruption of the clinical clerkship rotations required to meet accreditation requirements. The courses listed above are those that fulfill clinical requirements for which a Spring 2021 nonstandard calendar is requested. The *Playbook* recognizes the importance of accreditation required experiential learning and the need for on-time completion. PAS students enrolled in these courses will be able to fulfill their accreditation required clinical education and complete their rotations as planned with timely progression to degree with the approval of this non-standard calendar.

***The proposed nonstandard calendar for Spring 2021 semester does not and does not have the potential to violate SR 5.2.2, specifically in relation to student load.***

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let us know if you are in need of additional information.