

TO: Senate Council

Contact: Dr. Karen Badger, Associate Dean (kbadger@uky.edu); 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 program requests an exemption from Reading Days in the University Senate approved academic calendar in perpetuity for clinical year PAS students enrolled in the courses below on either the Lexington or Morehead campus. This request is made to allow for curriculum delivery and student assessment/examination.

The PAS courses within which students enroll during the clinical year are as follows:

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

The PAS Clinical Year during which these courses are taught consists of a 12-month schedule of four-week clinical rotations per cohort that repeats annually:

- Orientation to the clinical year- scheduled for one week in June
- Four-week rotations 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 rotations beginning the first Monday in January (or the first Tuesday in January 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 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 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 rotations require provision of comparable experiences across placements and follow a set structure. Each rotation 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. This required assessment could fall on day(s) designated as Reading Days in the Senate approved academic calendar that do not allow for any required activities.

In order to provide comparable experiences across all rotations and complete assessment requirements as scheduled, the program requests an exemption from Reading Days in the University Senate approved Academic Calendar to accommodate times when the two-day assessment/examination time period coincides with the 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 "end of rotation" exams scheduled at the conclusion of each clinical year semester with no other examinations occurring. Therefore, we request an exemption from 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 in perpetuity. This request was approved by PAS faculty vote on 6/2/2022. ***The proposed nonstandard calendar regarding Reading Days described above 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.

UK Physician Assistant Rotation (Clinical Year) Schedule

Remaining Rotation block date of Class of 2023

Rotation 5	October 24 - November 18, 2022
Rotation 6	November 21 - December 16, 2022 <i>*Reading days: Dec 08,09</i>
Rotation 7	January 2 - January 27, 2023
Rotation 8	January 30 - February 24, 2023
Rotation 9	February 27 - March 24, 2023
Rotation 10	March 27 - April 21, 2023
Rotation 11	April 24 - May 19, 2023 <i>*Reading days: April 27,28</i>
Rotation 12	May 22 - June 16, 2023

2023: Class of 2024

Orientation	June 26 – 30
Rotation 1	July 3 – 28
Rotation 2	July 31 – August 25
Rotation 3	August 28 – September 22
Rotation 4	September 25 – October 20
Rotation 5	October 23 – November 17
Rotation 6	November 20 – December 15 <i>*Reading days: Dec 07,08</i>

Winter break

2024

Rotation 7	January 2 - 26
Rotation 8	January 29 – February 23
Rotation 9	February 26 – March 22
Rotation 10	March 25 – April 19
Rotation 11	April 22 – May 17 <i>*Reading days: April 25,26</i>
Rotation 12	May 20 – June 14

**Indicates reading days for which PAS seeks waiver*

Calendar Holidays

July 4th
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Winter break
New Years Day
MLK Jr Day
Memorial Day
Juneteenth