University of Kentucky Physician Assistant
Pre-Requisite Course Requirements and Admission Check sheet

This document assists interested applicants in mapping out their admissions requirements for the UKPA Program. All requirements and criteria are as stated in the University of Kentucky Graduate Bulletin and the UKPA website.

<mark>**Check our website for any updates on informational sessions and admissions requirements.**</mark>

I. Applicant Notes:

Campus of Interest: ☐ Lexington   ☐ Morehead

Accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **University of Kentucky Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by the University of Kentucky. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA *Standards*.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the *Standards*. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be **2027 March**. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation *Standards* and ARC-PA policy.

II. **Course Work Requirements:** Must have at least a "C" grade or better. Up to 2 outstanding pre-requisites may be accepted at time of application, however, must be completed by August 2024 (2024-2025 Admission Cycle). Bachelor's degree must be completed by December 2024 (2024-2025 Cycle). Graduate GPAs higher than undergrad GPAs will be substituted if at least 20 hours of graduate credit has been completed from a graduate program curriculum.

Courses must be equivalent to the UK course number. Equivalencies may be checked here.

Course	Requirement	UK Equivalencies	Taken	Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points
General Chemistry I	1 Semester + lab	CHE 105/111 or CHE 109 & CHE 110 with CHE 111				
General Chemistry II	1 Semester + lab	CHE 107/113				
Organic Chemistry	1 semester + lab	CHE 230/231 or CHE 232/233				
Human Anatomy **OR** Human Anatomy/Phys. 1	1 semester (3 hrs) **OR** 1 semester (4 hrs)	ANA 209 or ANA 109				
Human Physiology **OR** Human Anatomy/Phys. 2	1 semester (3 hrs) **OR** 1 semester (4 hrs)	PGY 206 or ANA 110				
General Animal Bio.	1 semester + lab	BIO 148, 150, or 152w/151 or 155 lab				
Microbiology	1 semester + lab	BIO 208/209 or BIO 308/309				
Statistics	1 semester	STA 296 (formerly 291), PSY 216, or BST 230 or 330				
Psychology	1 semester	PSY 100				
Developmental Psy.	1 semester	PSY 223				
Anthropology **OR** Sociology	1 semester **OR** 1 semester	ANT 160 **OR** SOC 101, SOC 255, or HHS 453				
Medical Terminology	1 semester	CLA 131				
Totals:						

Cumulative GPA: _____   Prerequisite (Key) GPA: _____   Graduate GPA: _____   Last 60 Credit GPA: _____   Science GPA: _____

III. Standardized Exams:

     a. The GRE is no longer required by the UKPA Program.

     b. International applicants are required to take the TOEFL iBT exam. The minimum score requirement is 26 in the reading, writing, speaking, and listening categories.

IV. Patient Contact: Prior health care experience is required and deemed beneficial to students entering the program. Hours completed may be in the following medical disciplines such as CNA, EMT, CMA, Medical Tech., Scribe, etc. **Direct Patient Care is defined as taking vitals, bandaging, patient care procedures, injections, blood pressure checks, bed pan duty, phlebotomy, adult daily living, physical examinations, and any other care in which the person "laid hands on the patient".**

<p align="center">Patient Contact and Shadowing hours are documented on the CASPA application.</p>

V. Patient Contact:

Date	Where	Patient Contact Hours	Description of Duties
Patient Contact Total Hours			

VI. Shadowing: Although PA shadowing is not a UKPA requirement, it is still strongly recommended to remain a competitive applicant. Applicants are expected to have a clear understanding of the profession to articulate their understanding in the application and interview about the profession. A foundation in primary care PA shadowing is great as well as shadowing other specialties. While shadowing is an excellent means for one to immerse themselves in the profession, there are other ways for exposure such as working clinically around PAs, having a PA mentor, and Pre-PA type courses such as UK's PAS 120 are considered valued experiences.

Date	Where	Shadowing Hours	Preceptor
Shadowing Total Hours			

VII. Leadership Experience: Leadership experience is becoming increasingly important to be a competitive applicant for the UKPA program as we are looking for applicants who align with our program mission. We value leadership in forms such as a club officer, student athlete, ambassador, manager at a place of employment, etc.

Position	Organization	Hours	Description

VIII. **Volunteer Experience:** Like leadership experience, volunteering is also very important to be a competitive applicant for the UKPA Program.

Position	Organization	Hours	Description

IX. Electronic Recommendations/Evaluations: Three letters of recommendation are required to be submitted through the CASPA application system only. Do not submit references on the UK Graduate Application. CASPA allows up to 5 evaluations. If you have more than 5 evaluations, please have the additional emailed or mailed directly to Julia Berry. If you are a non-traditional applicant and unable to get an academic evaluation, please notify Julia Berry for committee approval.

    a.   **Physician Assistant, MD or DO**   ☐   **Who?_____**

    b.   **Academic Professor or Advisor**   ☐   **Who?_____**

    c.   **Medical or Academic**   ☐   **Who?_____**

X. Additional factors considered: Extracurricular involvement, diverse experiences such as study abroad, medical missions, rural engagement, research experience, and teaching experience.

XI. Admission Essay: An admissions essay must be submitted with the CASPA application. Essays are subject to change each cycle.

    a.   **CASPA Essay**   ☐ Please explain why you are interested in becoming a PA. (5000 characters)

    b.   **Campus Essay**   ☐ This essay will ask why you chose the campus. (2000 characters)

    c.   **Underserved Populations Essay**   ☐ This essay question asks applicants to write about serving underserved populations. (2000 characters)

    d.   **Program Mission Essay**   ☐ This essay will have applicants write about meeting our mission (2000 characters)

XII. Completed Applications:

a. **CASPA Application:** Applicants must complete a CASPA application, and **ALL official transcripts and recommendations must be sent** to CASPA. <mark>To be considered a "complete" application you must have submitted and paid as well as CASPA must receive ALL official transcripts and ALL recommendations by July 15th.</mark> The CASPA has an application fee which varies by date of submission and number of designations   This may be found on the CASPA website.

   CASPA Completed   ☐

XIII. Important Information

a. **April**
   i. CASPA application opens mid/late April (April 25,2024).

b. **August**
   i. All outstanding prerequisite courses must be completed by August 2024 (summer semester term).
   ii. Interviews are conducted in the first or second week of August. Please check our website for dates.
      - Reapplicant Interview Day – July 30, 2024
      - Morehead Campus Interview Day – August 2, 2024
      - Lexington Campus Interview Week – August 5-9, 2024
   iii. Applicants are notified of acceptance.

c. **October**
   i. Accepted applicants will complete the UK Graduate School application (cost = $125) to be accepted by UK. Instructions will be sent from the program.

d. **November**
   i. New Student Orientation

e. **December**
   i. If applicable, your undergraduate degree must be completed before matriculating in January.

f. **January**
   i. The UKPA program begins the first week of January.

XIV.   2023-2024 Admissions Cycle – Accepted Class of 2026 Statistics & Demographics*

Academic Factor	Mean
Cumulative UGRAD GPA	3.66
Prerequisite (Key) GPA	3.72
CASPA Science GPA	3.58
Last 60 Credits GPA	3.79
GRE Verbal	49%
GRE Quantitative	38%
GRE Analytical	56%

Non-Academic Factor	Median
Patient Contact Hours	1918
Shadowing Hours	55
Teaching Hours	0
Research Hours	0
Leadership Hours	439
Volunteer Hours	161

Cohort Demographics			
Females	82%	Diversity	13%
Males	18%	Previous Applicants	13%
Out-of-State	33%	First Generation	21%
Non-Traditional	21%		

*These statistics and demographics will be updated in January after the cohort officially matriculates. Check the UKPA website for updates.

XV. UKPA Tuition Information: Please review the tuition spreadsheet linked on our program website. Tuition is subject change each academic year.

XVI. Program Curriculum: The UKPA Program has a lockstep curriculum that may also be found on the website. The first year and half of the program is the didactic portion, with the first semester kicking off Gross Anatomy, Physiology, Intro. to the Profession, etc. In the following Fall and Spring semesters, students will complete courses in patient and disease management, research methods, pharmacology, procedures, diagnosing, etc. The Graduate Program is a non-thesis research program, in which student groups will conduct a two-semester long research project and poster presentation to faculty. The final year of the curriculum is the clinical rotation portion in which students complete 4-week rotations in the areas of Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Surgery, and Psychiatry. Students also may complete three elective rotations. Rotations are completed throughout the state of Kentucky, and three out of state rotations are allowed. The UKPA Program is one of the few programs that offer international clinical rotations sites in Kenya, Swaziland, and England.

XVII. Campuses: The UKPA Program has two campus locations (Morehead & Lexington) which connect using the ITV/Zoom capabilities. (Faculty may be lecturing at either facility.) Any hands-on lab is conducted in person by a faculty member. Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the campus they are interested in attending.

XVIII. Compliance & Behavioral Standards: Due to the nature of health professions, College of Health Sciences students are held to a high standard of professional behavior & conduct. As healthcare professionals in training, we expect students to be familiar with and adhere to the policies listed on this website. All students are required to have full background checks and a ten-panel drug screening. Additionally, there will be clinical sites that require an updated COVID vaccination. The program and college work with a company called CastleBranch to meet these requirements. Students will be required to submit proof of immunization and other program specific requirements prior to matriculating in January.

Remember!! Check our website regularly for any updates or changes that may occur to the application process of the University of Kentucky Physician Assistant Program.

http://www.uky.edu/healthsciences/academic-programs/physician-assistant-studies

Informational Session Dates – RSVP is required per our website

Helpful Websites:

UKPA Program: http://www.uky.edu/healthsciences/academic-programs/physician-assistant-studies

Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants (KAPA): www.kentuckypa.org; offers a Pre-PA membership ($50)

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA): http://www.paeaonline.org/

PA Focus: http://pafocus.org/