

University of Lynchburg PA Medicine Admissions Response to Covid19

The University of Lynchburg PA Medicine program requires all prerequisite coursework to be completed with a letter (A, B, C, D) or numerical (4.0, 3.0, 2.0, 1.0) grade. Prerequisite courses completed with Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit are *historically* not accepted. Due to the unique challenges presented to academic institutions and PA program applicants during the Covid-19 outbreak, certain exceptions may apply for the 2020-2021 application cycle. These exceptions will be granted by permission of the department only if they are a direct result of Covid-19 related institutional closures and remote learning contingencies.

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak, the UL PA Medicine program offers the following policies as guidance for applicants:

- As many institutions have adopted a temporary Pass (P)/Fail (F) grading option, the UL PA will accept satisfactory completion (Pass/"P") as satisfying the program's academic prerequisite requirements for courses ~~completed~~ between March 1, 2020 and September 1, 2020.
 - Applicants who were required* to complete a prerequisite course as Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit during the approved time period may apply for consideration of their coursework.
 - Supporting documentation must be submitted with all requests for prerequisite course consideration (see procedure for applying below).
 - Supporting documentation includes: a) unofficial transcript, b) proof of COVID-19 related policy requiring Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit at institution, and c) course syllabus.
 - Courses with grades reported as Failing (F) or as Incomplete (I), or those taken as Pass/Fail and Credit/No credit prior to the spring semester, will not be considered as fulfilling prerequisites.
- Courses required to transition to an online format during the spring 2020 semester, including those with laboratory components, will be accepted.
 - If a prerequisite course with a required lab was taken during the spring 2020 semester and the lab component was removed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will still accept that prerequisite course if completed with a grade of "C" or higher.
- Standing degree requirements as posted in admission materials/application requirements will not change.
- The GPA requirements for program admission will not change. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all courses; a minimum science GPA of 3.0 and a minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
- The final calculation of GPAs will not be impacted by those grades in which candidates were awarded P/F grades.

- We understand that some universities have closed, and applicants may not have the ability to obtain an official transcript to submit with their application. CASPA is providing an “Unofficial Transcript Hardship Form” for applicants to complete if they are unable to provide an official transcript to CASPA at the time of application. We will only accept unofficial transcripts that have been vetted by CASPA.
- UL PA Medicine recognizes that paid, voluntary, or observational health care experiences may have been disrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. UL PA Medicine requires a minimum of 500 hours of direct patient care and 8 hours of shadowing a PA prior to matriculation into the program. If your direct patient contact experience(s) has been interrupted due to the pandemic, and you feel meeting this requirement will be an obstacle, please contact UL PA admissions at pa@lynchburg.edu. These situations will be considered and evaluated on a case by case basis.

Procedure for Applying for Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit Course Exception:

- Complete the [[COVID-19 Course Request \(CCR\)](#)] form online at [link].
- Only one course request is allowed per CCR form.
- Multiple course requests require submission of multiple CCR forms.
- Include required supporting documentation through the CCR.*
 - Please note that UL PA Medicine still requires unofficial transcripts to be vetted by CASPA.
- The program director or designee will review each request and respond with Approve or Decline.
- All decisions are final and cannot be appealed.
- Save response emails for your records.

**Required documentation includes all of the following: unofficial transcript, course syllabus, proof of COVID-19 related policy requiring Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit at institution.*

Note: Candidates with questions not addressed by this notice may contact the University of Lynchburg PA Medicine Program by email at pa@lynchburg.edu.