



Pre-Health Profession Program

Physician Assistant (PA) Graduate Program Admissions

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained health care professionals who practice medicine under the supervision of a physician as part of a health care team. Physician assistants practice in a wide variety of medical and surgical specialties and in a diversity of settings. The scope of a PA's practice is reflective of their education and experience, in accordance with state laws and regulations. A graduate degree, usually at the master's degree level, is required to become a physician assistant. Physician Assistants can become nationally certified by taking the *Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE)*, that is administered by the *National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)*. PAs must also pass a state licensure exam in order to practice and must recertify every 10 years as well as complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years.

Admission to most Physician Assistant graduate program requires the following:

- Bachelors degree from an accredited College/University
- Appropriate pre-requisite coursework
- Shadowing &/or patient contact experience
- Minimum GPA 3.0-3.5 (accepted students usually have higher GPAs)
- Satisfactory GRE scores (acceptable scores vary by institution)
- Personal Statement
- College academic transcripts
- Recommendations (physician/PA, professor, medical or academic).

Application for PA programs is primarily through a centralized application service – CASPA (Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants). All applicants are required to take the GRE (graduate record exam). International applicants are required to submit TOEFL scores in addition to GRE scores.

Professional Society Information & Links

American Academy of Physician Assistants

www.aapa.org

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)

<http://paeaonline.org>

PAEA Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)

<http://paeaonline.org/caspa/>

<http://pafocus.org>

CASPA Fee Waiver / Fee Assistance Program

<http://pafocus.org>

Click on "CASPA Instructions and FAQ" link. On the CASPA Help Page, click on the "Instructions and FAQ" link. Under the heading "Application Section: Managing Your PA Programs," click on the "CASPA Fee Assistance Program" link.



Pre-Health Profession Program

Pre-Physician Assistant Admission Course Prerequisites

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Recommended BC Courses</i>
Inorganic Chemistry (+ lab)	CHM 131: Accelerated General Chemistry CHM 311: Quantitative Analysis
Organic Chemistry (+ lab)	CHM 221: Organic Chemistry I CHM 222: Organic Chemistry II
Biology (+lab)	BIO 110: Modern Biology BIO222: Microbiology
Anatomy & Physiology* (+ lab)	BIO101/102: Anatomy & Physiology I & II OR BIO 220: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy & BIO323: Principles of Physiology
Statistics	ECO 250: Applied Statistics
Medical Terminology	(on-line)
Psychology (1-2 terms)	PSY 100: General Psychology PSY 214: Ethology (Developmental) PSY 211: Abnormal Psychology
Sociology** (1 term)	SOC 100: Sociology of Everyday Life SOC 220: Cultural Anthropology
Genetics** (1 term)	BIO 330: Genetics
English Composition**	Satisfied by BC General Education Courses GSTR 110 & GSTR 210
Shadowing experience	Contact Internship Office (15 -100 hours; varies by institution)
Health care / Clinical experience (paid or volunteer)***	100 – 1500 hours; depends on institution

*Some institutions will accept either anatomy & physiology combination; others will accept only two terms on human anatomy and physiology (BIO101/102). Be sure to check the specific pre-requisite requirements of each school to which you are applying.

**Required by some but not all programs.

***See page 3 for list of acceptable health care / clinical experiences



Pre-Health Profession Program

Physician Assistant Admissions: Acceptable Clinical Experiences

- Shadowing of PA, NP, MD/DO
- Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic
- Military Medic/Clinical Specialist
- Corpsman
- Surgical Technician
- Radiological Technician
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Laboratory Technician with phlebotomy experience
- Phlebotomist
- Athletic Trainer
- Scribe
- Nursing (CNA, LPN, RN, CMA)
- Orderly
- Certified Physical/Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Home health with verification of job duties
- Medical Interpreter
- Child Life Specialist
- Dietician

Physician Assistant Admissions: Unacceptable Clinical Experiences

- Veterinarian Assistant
- Physician Office Secretary
- Massage Therapist
- Chiropractic
- Acupuncture
- Aesthetician
- Pharmacy Technician
- Dental Hygienist/Assistant
- Patient Transport
- Health Fitness Specialist