



Pre-Physician Assistant Advising Sheet

Physician assistants are trained to perform under the supervision of a physician many clinical procedures traditionally performed by a physician. They are educated as generalists in medicine, and their education and credentialing are based on primary care foundation, which gives them flexibility to be employed in all areas of medicine. Most PA programs award a Master’s degree and the average length is 27 months. PAs are required to complete hours in basic sciences, pharmacology, behavioral sciences, and clinical medicine. They also need to complete a clinical rotation with an emphasis on primary care in various types of facilities. All states require that PA’s graduate from an accredited PA program and are required to pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

Common Pre-Physician Assistant Prerequisite Courses			
Biology	One year of general biology w/lab	BIO 1210/L, BIO 1220/L	
Chemistry	One year of general inorganic chemistry w/lab	CHM 1210/L, CHM 1220/L	
Organic Chemistry	One year of organic chemistry w/lab	CHM 3140/L, CHM 3150/L	
Genetics	One semester is generally required	BIO 2400	
Mathematics	Some will accept one semester of calculus while others require statistics as well	MAT 1200 OR MAT 1140	STA 1200 OR STA 1300
English	One year is required for most PA schools	ENG 1103, ENG 2105	
Microbiology	One semester is strongly recommended, yet required by other PA schools	BIO 2060	
Anatomy	One semester strongly recommended or required	BIO 2340	
Physiology	One semester is required for most PA schools	BIO 2350, BIO 4240, BIO 4460	
Humanities and Social Sciences	PA schools typically require a course in General PSY and/or Development PSY, Sociology, Anthropology and/or Public Speaking.	PSY 2201, PSY 3305, SOC 2201 ANT 1010, COM 1101/2201	

Resources

- American Academy for Physicians Assistants (AAPA): <https://www.aapa.org/>
- Physician Assistant Education Association: <https://paeaonline.org/>
- CASPA: <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
- CASPA participating schools:
https://help.liaisonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_CASPA_Application/Getting_Started_with_Your_CASPA_Application/3_CASPA_Participating_Programs_and_Eligibility
- National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA): <https://www.nccpa.net/>