

Many physician assistant schools require the following courses before being considered for admittance. These are general recommendations, as specific requirements may vary significantly by school. These courses must be completed with a minimum grade of 'C', higher preferred. Requirements are subject to change each year. Be sure to research schools of interest for current prerequisites.

**BIOL 120/121** Biological Concepts I (4)

**BIOL 122/123** Biological Concepts II

**BIOL 131** Human Anatomy & Physiology (4)  
and **BIOL 231** Adv. Human A&P (4)

**BIOL 226/227** Microbial Biology & Diversity (4)  
or **BIOL 207/208** General Microbiology (4)

**CHEM 120/121** College Chemistry I (5)

**CHEM 222/223** College Chemistry II (5)

**CHEM 340/341** Organic Chemistry I (5)

**MATH 183** Introductory Statistics (3)

or **BIOL 382** Introductory Biostatistics (3)

**PSYS 100** Introduction to Psychology (3)

**PSYS 220** Developmental Psychology (3)

**SOCL 100** Introductory Sociology (3)

**AH 290** Medical Terminology (2)

Some schools recommend/require:

**BIOL 327** Genetics | **ENG 100** English Writing  
**BIOL/CHEM 446/447** Biochemistry I

Other courses that will assist with your first 2 years in PA school include: Molecular and Cell Biology, Histology, Immunology.

Note: Some schools do not accept AP credit. **In consultation with your advisor(s), it is vital to research all programs of interest to ensure all prerequisite courses and experience requirements are met before matriculation.**

## What should my major be?

You can major in anything you want to prepare for physician assistant school as long as you fulfill the prerequisites for your professional school of interest. A major in the sciences is not required. However, having a strong background in the sciences will certainly help you as you pursue pre-PA, as it gives you a good foundation to build upon. "Pre-PA" is not a major, but is an 'advisement' that can be declared alongside your major in order to receive specialized advising towards your goal of attending PA school.

## Application Checklist - Start Now!

- **ADVISING** | Meet with a pre-health advisor ASAP to map out your plan toward PA school admission. Plan to meet with your pre-health advisor consistently throughout your journey.
- **RESEARCH** | Determine which physician assistant schools you are interested in. A good place to start is the PAEA website, where you can find information on several PA programs and their timelines.
- **PREREQUISITES** | Research each school to understand and begin work as soon as possible on their application requirements including courses, GPA, shadowing, patient care, etc.
- **TIMELINE** | Know the application start date and deadlines for each school you are interested in. Some schools have rolling admissions. The CASPA app. opens in April (some schools don't use CASPA).
- **EXPERIENCE** | Start early with gaining many hours of direct patient care and shadowing. Research and strive to exceed the number of hours each program of interest requires.
- **INVOLVEMENT** | Be involved in meaningful activities such as research, community service, work, and extracurriculars that are meaningful and unique. Well-rounded applicants are more competitive.
- **RECOMMENDATIONS** | Determine what types and how many references your schools of interest prefer and begin building relationships with potential letter writers/ committee members.
- **GRE** | Study for the GRE at least 3 months prior to attempting the test. Register 60-90 days prior to taking it and take it at least 6-8 weeks prior to application start date. Some schools don't require GRE.
- **PERSONAL STATEMENT** | Start to write your personal essay prior to the application in a word document. Be sure to edit it carefully and have others review and edit as well.