

Physician Assistant

The courses listed below are recommended or required by many PA programs. Ultimate authority on prerequisites is the professional school; therefore students are encouraged to obtain the latest information from the programs of most interest to them.

Biology:

BIOL 198	Principles of Biology	4	___
BIOL 441/442	Human Body	4/4	___
BIOL 450	Genetics	4	___
BIOL 455	Microbiology	4	___

Chemistry:

CHM 210	Chemistry I	4	___
CHM 230	Chemistry II	4	___
CHM 350	General Organic Chemistry *	3	___
CHM 351	General O-Chem Lab*	2	___

**some schools require O-Chem I & II. Check with the specific school to which you plan to apply regarding their prerequisites.*

BIOCH 521	Biochemistry	3	___
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Others:

STAT 325	Statistics	3	___
PSYCH 110	General Psychology	3	___
PSYCH 505	Abnormal Psychology	3	___
PSYCH 520	Life Span Personality Dev.	3	___
ENGL 100	Expository Writing I	3	___
ENGL 200	Expository Writing II	3	___

Other Recommended Courses:

CLSCS 105	Latin & Greek for Scientists (Medical Terminology)	2	___
GERON 315	Intro to Gerontology	3	___
PHILO 365	Medical Ethics	3	___
SOCIO 211	Intro to Sociology	3	___

*med term and med ethics required by some schools

Application Process:

Most PA programs use the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). CASPA allows applicants to complete one online application and designate multiple programs to receive it. CASPA verifies the materials for authenticity. www.caspaonline.org

KSU Pre-PA club: A great way to get involved on campus, learn more about the PA profession, and meet fellow students who share similar professional interests.

Minimum Admission Requirements:

Admissions committee's base decisions upon an applicant's overall grade point average, science grade point average, types and quality of health care experience, personal references, an interview, scores on admission exams like the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and CASPer, and the applicants essay on why they want to become a physician assistant. This process is highly competitive. The grade point average for competitive candidates is 3.5 and the science grade point average is 3.4. PA programs require a Bachelor's degree as part of their admissions standards. Students can choose any major, but must fulfill the prerequisites for the PA school to which they choose to apply.

Direct Paid Patient Care Experience: is required or highly recommended. Some programs require as many as 1000 hours. Examples of direct experience include nurse, health educator, paramedic, EMT, respiratory therapist, etc. or experience as a medical/nursing assistant, clinic aide, orderly, patient care attendant, home health aide, etc. The most common is certified nurse's aide.

Shadowing: Shadowing is extremely important, especially shadowing PAs who work in primary care settings such as family practice and internal medicine. Some schools now require this as part of the application process. It is recommended a student shadow at least 40 hours in at least three different health care settings.

Things to remember:

1. Journal your shadowing experiences.
2. Document the number of hours you accrue for direct patient care experience.
3. It is never too early to begin that personal statement!

Pre-Physician Assistant

According to U.S. News & World Report (2013), physician assistant is one of the Top 15 Best Jobs in America. Physician assistants (PAs) provide healthcare services under the supervision of physicians. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive healthcare services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of the healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and X-rays, make diagnoses, and prescribe medications. They also treat minor injuries by suturing, splinting, and casting. PAs record progress notes, instruct and counsel patients, and order or carry out therapy.

PAs may be the principal care providers in rural or inner city clinics, where a physician is present for only 1 or 2 days each week. In such cases, the PA confers with the supervising physician and other medical professionals as needed or as required by law. PAs also may make house calls or go to hospitals and nursing homes to check on patients and report back to the physician. They are trained to function in a variety of settings such as private offices, clinics, hospitals, emergency departments, health maintenance organizations, neighborhood health centers, armed services, and federal and state agencies (explorehealthcareers.com).

In 47 States and the District of Columbia, PAs may prescribe medications. They also may have managerial duties. Some order medical and laboratory supplies and equipment and may supervise technicians and assistants.

Helpful Websites:

3 local PA Programs:

KSU (Kansas State University) - <https://www.hhs.k-state.edu/pa/>

WSU (Wichita State University) - <http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=pa>

UMKC (University of Missouri- Kansas City) - <http://med.umkc.edu/pa/>

Physician Assistant Education Association: <http://www.paeaonline.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/200/pid/200> provides an online directory which lists contact information, admissions deadlines, entrance requirements, credentials awarded, tuition fees, financial aid, clinical affiliations, and other information for each of the over 150 accredited PA programs across the country. Links to each program's website are included. The directory also contains an online search feature that allows users to locate unique aspects of the programs. Access for a one-year subscription is \$35.

Explore Health Careers: www.explorehealthcareers.org

K-State Undergraduate Catalog: <http://catalog.k-state.edu/>

K-State Transfer Equivalency: http://www.k-state.edu/admit/tran_info.html

K-State Alternative Breaks: <http://www.k-state.edu/leadership/programs/altbreaks/>

Secondary Major/Gerontology: <http://www.he.k-state.edu/aging/programs/ugrad/secondary-major.php> Riley

County United Way Volunteer Directory: http://unitedwayrc.org/media/Volunteer_Directory.pdf

HandsOn K-State: <http://handson.k-state.edu>

Flint Hills Volunteer Center: <https://www.flinthillsvolunteercenter.com/>

Pre-Physician Assistant Contact:
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