## Pre-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 340** Human Body 8 ___
- **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 ___

### 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:
- **LATIN 105** Latin & Greek for Scientists (Medical Terminology) 1 ___
- **GERON 315** Intro to Gerontology 3 ___
- **PHILO 365** Medical Ethics 3 ___
- **SOCIO 211** Intro to Sociology 3 ___

### 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](http://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, shadowing experience, an interview, scores on admission exams like the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and the applicants personal statement. **This process is highly competitive.** The average grade point average for competitive candidates is 3.5 and the science grade point average is 3.4. Most 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 Patient Care Experience:
Direct, paid experience in health care is either 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. Start shadowing PA’s and accrue direct patient care experience as soon as possible.
2. Journal your shadowing experiences.
3. Document the number of hours you accrue for direct patient care experience.
4. It is never too early to begin your 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.

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**Local PA programs:**
WSU (Wichita State University) - [http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=pa](http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=pa)
UMKC (University of Missouri- Kansas City) - [http://med.umkc.edu/pa/](http://med.umkc.edu/pa/)

**American Academy of Physician Assistants:** [http://www.aapa.org/](http://www.aapa.org/)
**Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants:** [http://kansaspa.com/](http://kansaspa.com/)
**PA Focus:** [http://pafocus.org/](http://pafocus.org/)
**Physician Assistant Education Association:** [http://www.paeaonline.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/200/pid/200](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.

**Explore Health Careers:** [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)
**K-State Undergraduate Catalog:** [http://catalog.k-state.edu/](http://catalog.k-state.edu/)
**K-State Transfer Equivalency:** [http://www.k-state.edu/admit/tran_info.html](http://www.k-state.edu/admit/tran_info.html)
**K-State Alternative Breaks:** [http://www.k-state.edu/leadership/programs/altbreaks/](http://www.k-state.edu/leadership/programs/altbreaks/)
**Secondary Major/Gerontology:** [http://www.he.k-state.edu/aging/programs/ugrad/secondary-major.php](http://www.he.k-state.edu/aging/programs/ugrad/secondary-major.php)
**HandsOn K-State:** [http://handson.k-state.edu](http://handson.k-state.edu)

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