

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

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| Undergraduate Credit Required | Bachelor's degree |
| Entrance Exam | GRE (some schools) or PA-CAT (some schools) |
| Professional Schooling Required | 26-28 months of professional school; Master of Physician Assistant Studies |
| Local Professional Schools | West Chester University, Arcadia, DeSales, Drexel, Duquesne University, Lock Haven, Thomas Jefferson University, Penn State, PCOM, Slippery Rock, Temple, University of Pittsburgh, Widener, etc... |
| Professional Organization Websites | aapa.org (American Academy of Physician Assistants); paeaonline.org (Physician Assistant Education Association) |
| Major | Students can major in any subject at WCU for Pre-PA. The most common majors that align with Pre-PA school pre-requisites are Biology: Cell and Molecular Biology, Biology: Integrative Concentration, Chemistry: Chem-Bio, Exercise Science, or Sports Medicine |

REQUIRED AND/OR SUGGESTED ELECTIVES FOR WCU UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The following course recommendations are general requirements for PA programs. For the specific requirements of your school of choice and whether AP/IB credit is accepted, please refer to that school's admissions website.

| Biological Sciences with labs (8 credit hrs) | | |
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| BIO 110 General Biology I, BIO 111 General Biology II, BIO 211 Cell Biology | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
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| Genetics (required by some schools) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| BIO 210 Genetics | | |
| Microbiology (1 course; 4 credit hrs) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| BIO 214 General Microbiology (Preferred) | | |
| BIO 204 Introductory Microbiology (Accepted) | | |
| General Chemistry with lab (8 credit hrs) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| CHE 103 & CRL 103 | | |
| CHE 104 & CRL 104 | | |
| Organic Chemistry (1 course with lab required) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| CHE 231 & CRL 231 | | |
| Biochemistry (recommended) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| CHE 310 or CHE 476 | | |
| Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| BIO 259 | | |
| BIO 269 | | |
| Medical Terminology (required by some schools) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| HEA 370 | | |

| English Composition (6 credit hrs) | | |
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| Course | Term | Grade |
| WRT 120 Writing 1 | | |
| WRT 2XX Critical Writing | | |
| Calculus and Statistics (please contact school for specific admissions requirement) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| MAT 121 Statistics (required) | | |
| MAT 145 Calculus (recommended) | | |
| General Physics (recommended) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
| PHY 100 or PHY 130 | | |
| Social Sciences including, but not limited to, PSY 100, PSY 210, PSY 375, History, Anthropology, SOC 100, etc... 6 to 9 credit hours (contact school for specific admissions requirement) | | |
| Course | Term | Grade |
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Sample Course Plan of Pre-PA Requirements

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| <u>Semester 1</u> CHE 103 CRL 103 BIO 110 WRT 120 MAT 121 | <u>Semester 2</u> CHE 104 CRL 104 BIO 111 WRT 2XX MAT 145 |
| <u>Semester 3</u> CHE 231 CRL 231 PHY 100 or 130 BIO 210 General/Major Electives | <u>Semester 4</u> BIO 214 PSY 100 BIO 211 General/Major Electives |
| <u>Semester 5</u> BIO 259 General/Major Electives | <u>Semester 6</u> BIO 269 HEA 370 General/Major Electives |
| <u>Semester 7</u> General/Major Electives | <u>Semester 8</u> General/Major Electives |

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

BIO 357. Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
BIO 367. Drug Interactions
BIO 440. Human Genetics
BIO 448. Animal Development
BIO 465. Immunology
BIO 468. Comparative Vertebrate Physiology
BIO 469. Human Physiology
CHE 232. Organic Chemistry 2
CSD 101. Introduction to Communicative Disorders
HEA 109. Health Issues of Women
HEA 110. Transcultural Health: Principles and Practice
HEA 210. Introduction to Allied Health
NTD 200. Nutrition and Culture
NTD 303. Introductory Principles Human Nutrition
PHI 371. Medical Ethics

BEYOND ACADEMICS

Pre-PA students are encouraged to participate in experiences such as leadership roles, volunteer work, research, and shadowing, which will help prepare them for PA school and the medical profession. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment to and knowledge of the profession. All students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to **shadow medical professionals, volunteering with health providers**, get involved with research and pursue internships. Pre-PA students should obtain **500+ hours of work experience** consisting of direct patient care in a medical setting (total hours vary by school). Additionally, involvement with clubs such as Pre-Med Club, Pre-PA Club, and Minorities in Medicine, will help students to learn more about the medical profession. Activities beyond the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Most physician assistant programs participate in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications can be completed at caspa.liaisoncas.com. Schools will then contact you to verify receipt of your application and inform you of any additional materials they require to complete your application.

ENTRANCE EXAMS

The **Graduate Record Exam (GRE)** is required for some programs: ets.org/gre. The **Physician Assistant College Admission Test (PA-CAT)** is a specialized test that is designed to measure applicant knowledge and application in key prerequisite science subjects typically required for PA school. <https://www.pa-cat.com/>
Please review your schools of choice to learn of specific admission test requirements.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications to PA school require a **personal statement** and **letters of recommendation/evaluation**. The number of required letters varies by school, but generally students need at least 3 separate letters. Students will need to collect a minimum of 3 letters of recommendation and have them submitted to the Pre-med office prior to requesting an interview from the Pre-medical committee with the goal of receiving a Committee letter. The Committee letter will only count as one letter for the CASPA application. It will be the student's responsibility to request two additional letters independent of the committee letter.

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