

## Pre-Physician Assistant Preparation

Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine under the supervision of licensed physicians, and they are qualified to perform approximately 80% of duties commonly carried out by primary care physicians. PAs practice in almost all health care settings and in many medical and surgical specialties. They must pass a national certifying examination which is open only to graduates of accredited PA programs. The PA degree is at the Masters-level based on a curriculum involving both classroom instruction and clinical rotations. Therefore, most students entering a PA program have already completed a baccalaureate degree, usually in the sciences. The average entrant has had approximately four years of health care experience, competitive scores on the GRE, and a grade point average of >3.40/4.00.

### You can get healthcare experience by being a (not an exhaustive list):

- Medical assistant
- Emergency medical technician (EMT)
- Medic or medical corpsman
- Lab assistant/phlebotomist
- Registered nurse
- Emergency room technician
- Surgical tech
- Certified nursing assistant (CNA)

Below are the requirements to be considered for PA school admission. As long as the requirements are met, **identifying an undergraduate major is based completely on the student's interests and goals – AEROSPACE PHYSIOLOGY major fulfills the below criteria as well as the experiential component that most schools require.** PA schools do not favor any particular major.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Coursework in humanities and social sciences (especially psychology and sociology) as well as medical terminology are often required.

#### **English**

COM 122	English Composition
COM219	Speech Communication

#### **Chemistry**

CHM 105/L	General Chem. I w/Lab
CHM 106/L	General Chem. II w/Lab
CHM 200/L	Organic Chem. I w/Lab
CHM 201/L	Organic Chem. II w/Lab
CHM 300/L	Biochemistry w/Lab

#### **Math**

MA 112	College Math for Aviat. II (calculus)
MA 222	Business Statistics

#### **Biology**

BIO 104/L	Foundations of Biology I
BIO 105/L	Foundations of Biology II
BIO 200	Genetics
BIO 201	Microbiology
BIO 301	Human Anatomy and Physiol. I
BIO 302	Human Anatomy and Physiol. II
BIO 400	Molecular and Cell Biology

#### **Physics**

PS 103	Technical Physics I
PS 104	Technical Physics II
PS 115L	Technical Physics I Lab
PS 116L	Technical Physics II Lab