



Pre-Pathologist Assistant (PathA) Preparation

Pathologists' assistants (PathAs) provide anatomic pathology services under the direction and supervision of a pathologist. These allied health professionals utilize a variety of manual and automated techniques to process, dissect, stain, etc. tissue samples from patients. Individuals assess the condition of patients for sample procurement, examination, diagnosis, and treatment. Job duties may include coordination of autopsy protocols perform postmortem examinations. They must pass a national certifying examination (American Society for Clinical Pathology, or ASCP) which is open only to graduates of accredited PathA programs. Visit [American Association of Pathologists' Assistants www.pathassist.org](http://www.pathassist.org)

The preferred PathA degree is at the Masters-level degree based on a curriculum involving both classroom instruction and clinical rotations, usually requiring 1 to 2 years for degree completion. Therefore, most students entering a PathA program have already completed a baccalaureate degree, usually in the sciences. The average entrant has competitive scores on the GRE, and has a minimum grade point average of 3.00/4.00. Attributes such as demonstrated caring attitude toward others, communication skills, emotional stability under stress and problem-solving ability are important selection factors.

There are currently 8 NAACLS accredited PathA programs in America (listed below). It is very important when you begin your program to identify which programs you plan to apply and plot out their requirements accordingly.

GENERAL MATH / SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Chemistry		Biology	
CHM 110/L	General Chem. I w/Lab	BIO 120/L	Foundations of Biology I w/Lab
CHM 111/L	General Chem. II w/Lab	BIO 121/L	Foundations of Biology II w/Lab
CHM 210/L	Organic Chem. I w/Lab	BIO 215/L	Genetics w/Lab
CHM 211/L or CHM 310/L	Organic Chem. II w/Lab or Biochemistry w/Lab	BIO 216/L	Microbiology w/Lab
		BIO 305/L	Human Anatomy & Phys. I w/Lab
		BIO 306/L	Human Anatomy & Phys. II w/Lab
Math		BIO 405/L	Molecular and Cell Biology w/Lab
MA **	General Education Math		
MA 222 or PSY 312/L	Business Statistics or Research Analysis in Psychology and Laboratory	Physics	
		PS 103/L	Technical Physics I w/Lab
		PS 104/L	Technical Physics II w/ Lab

****Note: Math requirements vary – check entry requirements at your destination schools.**

Degree Granting Institutions:

1. **Indiana University** <https://medicine.iu.edu/departments/pathology/education-programs/graduate-degrees/masters/pathologists-assistant/>
2. **University of Maryland** <http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/pathology/Pathologists-Assistant-Program/>
3. **Wayne State University** <http://cphs.wayne.edu/pathologists-assistant/admissions-requirements.php>
4. **Rosalind Franklin University** <https://www.rosalindfranklin.edu/academics/college-of-health-professions/degree-programs/pathologists-assistant-ms/application-requirements/>
5. **Duke University** <https://pathology.duke.edu/education/pathologists-assistant-program/admissions-application>
6. **Drexel University** <http://drexel.edu/medicine/academics/graduate-school/pathologists-assistant-patha/>
7. **West Virginia University** <https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/pa/admission-process/>
8. **Quinnipiac University** <https://www.qu.edu/schools/health-sciences/programs/mhs-pathologists-assistant.html>