

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 significant health care experience (anywhere from 500-2000 of “hands-on hours”), competitive scores on the GRE and/or PA-CAT along with the CASPER test, 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
- COM 219 Speech Communication

Chemistry

- CHM 110/L General Chem. I w/Lab
- CHM 111/L General Chem. II w/Lab
- CHM 210/L Organic Chem. I w/Lab
- CHM 211/L Organic Chem. II w/Lab
- CHM 310/L Biochemistry w/Lab

Math**

- MA 220 Quantitative Methods II (calculus)
- MA 222 or Business Statistics or
- PSY 312/L Research Analysis in Psychology and Laboratory

Biology

- BIO 120/L Foundations of Biology I w/Lab
- BIO 121/L Foundations of Biology II w/Lab
- BIO 215/L Genetics 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
- BIO 405/L Molecular and Cell Biology w/Lab

Physics

- PS 113/L Introductory Physics I w/Lab
- PS 117/L Introductory Physics II w/Lab

****Note: not all PA programs require calculus – check entry requirements at your destination schools.**