



## Physician Assistant Program Prerequisites

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_  
ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

PA schools vary in terms of their prerequisites for admission. This checklist is comprehensive and should keep all your doors open. However, we strongly suggest you compile your own checklist to meet the requirements of the specific schools that interest you. Students generally apply to 5 to 10 schools. Some PA programs may require these courses. \* Recommended.

COURSE	COMP	GRADE	COURSE	COMP	GRADE
BIOL 106 Introductory Biology: Organismal			BIOL 315 Gross and Microanatomy		
BIOL 107 Introductory Biology: Cell			BIOL 353 Advanced Human Physiology		
BIOL 220 Medical Terminology			STAT 212 Intro to Statistical Methods		
CHEM 105 Principles of Chemistry I			ENGL 101 College Composition		
CHEM 106 Principles of Chemistry II			ENGL 402 Profess./Technical Writing (some may accept ENGL 201 Writing & Research)		
CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry I			PSYCH 105 Intro to Psychology		
BIOL/MBIOS 301 General Genetics*			PHIL 365 Biomedical Ethics*		
MBIOS 303 Introductory Biochemistry			Additional Psychology/Human Development/Sociology or Anthropology* (Examples: PSYCH 333, PSYCH 361/HD 101/SOC 101 or ANTH 101)		
MBIOS 304 General Microbiology Lab			Additional Upper Division BIOL/CHEM or MBIOS* (Examples: BIOL 333/ CHEM 348 or MBIOS 440)		
MBIOS 305 General Microbiology			MATH 106 College Algebra & 108 Trigonometry or Calculus I (MATH 140/171)		
PHYS 101 & 102-General Physics I & II					

Cumulative GPA's	F 20__				
	S 20__				

### PA admissions committees will consider:

**Completion of prerequisite courses:** if applying to multiple schools, use the list above. Otherwise, check each school's websites. Some programs specify that prereqs must: 1) be completed with a B- or better grade per course, 2) must be completed within the last 5-7 years, and 3) should be taken at the upper division level when appropriate for the nature of the course (consult with HPSC advisor). Some programs will not accept AP courses for the science & math prerequisites. CLEP, DANTES, and DSST credits are not accepted by all programs.

**GPA:** Most specify a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to apply, but 3.5 + is average for admission. Check each school's websites for their minimums. Remember: competitive applicants do more than the "minimum."

**GRE Scores:** Some schools require. This test is made up of 3 sections: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing scored between 130-170 for each of the first two sections. Analytical writing is scored on a 0-6 scale.

**Letters of Evaluation:** Number of letters varies, but 3 is typical. For example: 1-2 from science professors, 1-2 from clinician(s) who can reference your patient skills, and 1 from a person who knows you well (supervisor). Check each school to which you are applying for their requirements. Some programs specify that one letter should be from a PA or a nurse practitioner or physician.

**Experience:** Evidence of compassion and empathy for the sick, elderly, injured, or disabled, which may include **between 1,000 – 4,000 paid hours of direct, hands-on clinical patient care** experience. (A small number of programs require fewer hours.) Check each school for specific requirements. Time spent shadowing physician assistants and physicians vary. Provide evidence of leadership experience and volunteerism.

**Personal statement:** Why are you the best candidate? Incorporate: why you want to be a PA, steps you have taken to accomplish this goal, provide background information, explain special situations, and describe where you see yourself in the future.

**Personal interview:** Evaluation of students may include several 30-60 minute personal interviews used to assess the applicant's maturity, motivation, communication skills, knowledge of the profession, and desire to contribute to society through medicine.