

# PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Undergraduate Credit Required	Bachelor's degree
Entrance Exam	GRE (some schools)
Professional Schooling Required	26-28 months of professional school; Master of Physician Assistant Studies
Local Professional Schools	Arcadia University, Drexel, Temple, Penn State, PCOM, Thomas Jefferson University, Slippery Rock University, LECOM, etc...
Professional Organization Websites	aapa.org (American Academy of Physician Assistants); paeaonline.org (Physician Assistant Education Association)
Major	Students can <b>major in any subject</b> 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, and Chemistry: Chem-Bio.

## REQUIRED AND 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 or contact those schools for a list of entrance requirements.

### PA SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

<b>Biological Sciences with labs (min. 2 courses; 3 suggested)</b>		
BIO 110 General Biology, BIO 215 Botany, BIO 217 Zoology, BIO 220 Cell Physiology		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
<b>Genetics (required by some schools)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
BIO 230		
<b>Microbiology (required by some schools)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
BIO 214		
<b>General Chemistry with lab</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
CHE 103 & CRL 103		
CHE 104 & CRL 104		
<b>Organic Chemistry with lab (1 course required; 2 recommended)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
CHE 231 & CRL 231 (required)		
CHE 232 (Recommended)		
<b>Biochemistry (1 course; recommended)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
CHE 476		
<b>Anatomy and Physiology (2 courses)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
BIO 259		
BIO 269		
<b>Medical Terminology (required by some schools)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
HEA 370		

<b>English Composition (3 to 6 hrs)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
WRT 120		
WRT 2XX		
<b>Calculus and Statistics (please contact school for specific admissions requirement)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
MAT 121		
MAT 145		
<b>Physics with lab (1 course required by some schools, 2 recommended)</b>		
General Physics PHY 130 AND 140 or Physics 170 AND 180		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
PHY 130 or 170 (required)		
PHY 140 or 180 (recommended)		
<b>PSY 100 (Intro Psychology; required), PSY 375 (Abnormal Psych) recommended by some schools</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>

### Sample Course Plan of Pre-PA Requirements

#### Semester 1

CHE 103  
CRL 103  
BIO 110  
WRT 120  
MAT 121

#### Semester 2

CHE 104  
CRL 104  
BIO 215/217  
WRT 2XX  
MAT 145

#### Semester 3

CHE 231  
CRL 231  
PHY 130  
BIO 230  
General/Major Electives

#### Semester 4

BIO 214 or BIO 220  
PSY 100  
General/Major Electives

#### Semester 5

BIO 259  
General/Major Electives

#### Semester 6

BIO 269  
HEA 370  
General/Major Electives

#### Semester 7

General/Major Electives

#### Semester 8

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 477. Biochemistry 2**

**CSD 101. Introduction to Communicative Disorders**

**HEA 109. Health Issues of Women**

**HEA 110. Transcultural Health: Principles and Practice**

**NTD 200. Nutrition and Culture**

**NTD 303. Introductory Principles Human Nutrition**

**PHI 371. Medical Ethics**

**SOC 100. Introduction to Sociology**

\* Does not count as a Biology major elective

### 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](http://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 EXAM

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required for most programs: [ets.org/gre](http://ets.org/gre).

### ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications to PA school require a **personal statement** and **letters of recommendation/evaluation**. The number of required letters varies by school. For the WCU Pre-Medical program, you will need to collect a minimum of 5 letters of recommendation (at least one from a PA) and have them submitted to the pre-med office prior to requesting an interview from the pre-medical committee.



Director, Pre-Medical Program – Dr. Teresa Donze-Reiner

WCU does not discriminate based upon any protected status.

Please see [www.wcupa.edu/admin/social.equity/](http://www.wcupa.edu/admin/social.equity/)

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