PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Undergraduate Credit Required	Bachelor's degree
Entrance Exam	GRE (some schools) or PA-CAT (some schools)
Professional Schooling Required	24-28 months of professional school; Master of Physician Assistant Studies
Local Professional Schools	West Chester University, Arcadia University, Drexel University, Lock Haven
	University, Penn State, PCOM, Salus, Slippery Rock University, Temple, Thomas
	Jefferson University, University of the Sciences, etc
Professional Organization	aapa.org (American Academy of Physician Assistants);
Websites	paeaonline.org (Physician Assistant Education Association)
Major	Students can major in any subject 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, Chemistry: Chem-Bio, and
	some Health Sciences majors

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.

COMMON PA SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Biological Sciences with labs (min. 2 courses; 3 suggested)					
BIO 110 General Biol	ogy, BIO 215 l	Botany, BIO			
217 Zoology, BIO 220	217 Zoology, BIO 220 Cell Physiology				
Course	Term	Grade			
Genetics (required b					
Course	Term	Grade			
BIO 230					
Microbiology (require					
Course	Term	Grade			
BIO 214					
General Chemistry		0			
Course	Term	Grade			
CHE 103 & CRL 103 CHE 104 & CRL 104					
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Organic Chemistry (2 recommended)	with iab (1 co	urse requirea;			
Course	Term	Grade			
CHE 231 & CRL 231					
(required)					
CHE 232					
(Recommended)					
Biochemistry (recon					
Course	Term	Grade			
CHE 476					
Anatomy and Physic					
Course	Term	Grade			
BIO 259					
BIO 269					
Medical Terminolog	y (required by	some schools)			
Course	Term	Grade			
HEA 370					

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English Compos	ition (3 to 6 r	nrs)		
Course	Term	Grade		
WRT 120				
WRT 2XX				
Statistics and Ca	l culus (conta	act school for		
specific admission	is requiremen	it)		
Course	Term	Grade		
MAT 121				
MAT 145				
General Physics (recommended)				
Course	Term	Grade		
PHY 100 or 130				
Social Sciences and Humanities including,				
but not limited to, PSY 100, PSY 210, PSY				
375, History, Anthropology, Ethics, SOC 100,				
etc 6 to 9 credit hours (contact school for				
specific admission		,		
Course	Term	Grade		

Sample Course Plan o	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 100 or 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

* Does not count as a Biology major elective

BEYOND ACADEMICS

- Pre-PA students should obtain 500+ hours of work experience consisting of direct patient care in a
 medical setting (total hours vary by school). All students are STRONGLY encouraged to shadow
 medical professionals, volunteering with health providers, get involved with research and pursue
 internships.
- 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.
- Involvement with clubs such as Pre-Medical Student Association, Pre-PA Club, and Minorities in Medicine will help students to learn more about the medical profession.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

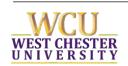
Most physician assistant programs participate in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications can be completed at caspa.liaisoncas.com. Schools will then contact you to verify receipt of your application and inform you of any additional materials they require to complete your application.

ENTRANCE EXAMS

The **Graduate Record Exam (GRE)** is required for some programs: ets.org/gre. The **Physician Assistant College Admission Test (PA-CAT)** is a specialized test that is designed to measure applicant knowledge and application in key prerequisite science subjects typically required for PA school. https://www.pa-cat.com/ Please contact your schools of choice to learn of specific admission test requirements.

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.



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