

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 Websites	aapa.org (American Academy of Physician Assistants); 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 Biology, BIO 215 Botany, BIO 217 Zoology, BIO 220 Cell Physiology		
Course	Term	Grade
Genetics (required by some schools)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIO 230		
Microbiology (required by some schools)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIO 214		
General Chemistry with lab		
Course	Term	Grade
CHE 103 & CRL 103		
CHE 104 & CRL 104		
Organic Chemistry with lab (1 course required; 2 recommended)		
Course	Term	Grade
CHE 231 & CRL 231 (required)		
CHE 232 (Recommended)		
Biochemistry (recommended)		
Course	Term	Grade
CHE 476		
Anatomy and Physiology		
Course	Term	Grade
BIO 259		
BIO 269		
Medical Terminology (required by some schools)		
Course	Term	Grade
HEA 370		

English Composition (3 to 6 hrs)		
Course	Term	Grade
WRT 120		
WRT 2XX		
Statistics and Calculus (contact school for specific admissions requirement)		
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 admissions requirement)		
Course	Term	Grade

Sample Course Plan of Pre-PA Requirements

<u>Semester 1</u> CHE 103 CRL 103 BIO 110 WRT 120 MAT 121	<u>Semester 2</u> CHE 104 CRL 104 BIO 215/217 WRT 2XX MAT 145
<u>Semester 3</u> CHE 231 CRL 231 PHY 100 or 130 BIO 230 General/Major Electives	<u>Semester 4</u> BIO 214 or BIO 220 PSY 100 General/Major Electives
<u>Semester 5</u> BIO 259 General/Major Electives	<u>Semester 6</u> BIO 269 HEA 370 General/Major Electives
<u>Semester 7</u> General/Major Electives	<u>Semester 8</u> 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.



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/

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