

Physician Assistant (PA) School: Prerequisite Coursework

Mapping Your Coursework and Preparation

We recommend that you first go to your college's advisement center for an outline of classes required for your major. The Preprofessional Advisement Center will then be able to assist you in planning out specific prerequisite courses and other pre-PA preparation in conjunction with your required classes.

Below is a *sample* of BYU coursework that could potentially fulfill prerequisites for PA schools; however, *prerequisites vary dramatically between schools*. To ensure you are planning the correct pre-requisites, consider selecting 6-10 tentative schools and follow their prerequisites lists, normally found on each school's website. Also, talk to the pre-PA advisor in the Preprofessional Advisement Center who can help you make sure you are on the right track.

Sample Courses That Often Fulfill Prerequisite Coursework

*Remember, this list is a *sample* and may not be adequate for every school. Consult with your selected schools for actual requirements and better accuracy. Pay close attention to lab requirements and specific credit hours required.

General Chemistry

CHEM 105	General College Chemistry I	4 credits
CHEM 106	General College Chemistry II	3 credits
CHEM 107	General College Chemistry Lab	1 credit

(OR CHEM 111, 112, & 113 if required by your major)

Organic Chemistry

CHEM 351	Organic Chemistry I	3 credits
CHEM 352	Organic Chemistry II	3 credits
CHEM 353	Organic Chemistry Lab	2 credits

(OR CHEM 354 if required by your major)

Biochemistry

CHEM 481	Biochemistry	3 credits
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General Biology

PDBIO 120	Science of Biology	2 credits
<i>(**may not fulfill all requirements as it is only 2 credits and has no lab)</i>		
BIO 130	Biology (includes lab)	4 credits
MMBIO 240	Molecular Biology	3 credits
MMBIO 241	Molecular Biology Lab	1 credit

Anatomy

PD BIO 220	Human Anatomy (includes lab)	3 credits
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*(**may not fulfill all requirements as it is only 3 credits instead of 4)*

Physiology

PD BIO 305	Physiology	4 credits
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(OR PDBIO 362 if required by your major)

PD BIO 363	Advanced Physiology Lab	1 credit
<i>Genetics</i>		
PWS 340	Genetics	3 credits
<i>Microbiology</i>		
MMBIO 221	General Microbiology	3 credits
MMBIO 222	General Microbiology Lab	1 credit
<i>Psychology</i>		
PSYCH 111	General Psychology	3 credits
PSYCH 220	Human Development: Lifespan	3 credits
PSYCH 342	Abnormal Psychology	3 credits
<i>Medical Terminology</i>		
LAT 123	Premedical Latin and Greek	2 credits
NURS 102	Nursing and Medical Terminology	2 credits

Additional Helpful Courses

STDEV 170	Introduction to Health Professions	1 credit
STDEV 274	Preview to Physician Assistant (Winter only)	1 credit

Resources

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- Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) Program Directory – <http://directory.paeonline.org/>
 - American Academy of Physician Assistants – www.aapa.org
 - CASPA online application – portal.caspaonline.org
 - Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. – <http://arc-pa.org/>
 - BYU Allied Health Club (Pre-PA Club) – <http://alliedhealthclub.byu.edu>

Application Process

Between 80 and 90 percent of PA schools utilize CASPA, a centralized application service. Through CASPA, you can apply to any number of participating PA programs by completing a single application. After you complete this one application, CASPA will verify your application for accuracy, calculate your GPA, and send your materials to the programs you designate.

CASPA opens mid to late April. Because most schools utilize rolling admissions (which means they interview and select qualified students as soon as students submit their applications), it is helpful to apply in April or May to increase your statistical probability of admission. It is not helpful, however, to submit your application before you have a well-written personal statement and application. Be sure you are fully ready to apply before submitting your application.

Often, schools will accept some unfinished prerequisite coursework if you will complete it before you matriculate. Consult with schools directly to understand their policy on when prerequisites must be completed.