



## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Required Courses: The requirements are **highly** variable from school to school. The following courses are a sample of what are typical requirements. **Before applying to your chosen school, check the requirements.**

1 year of General Chemistry	Chem 151/151L/152/152L
Human Anatomy and Physiology <sup>1</sup>	Bio 122/123
Microbiology (with lab)	Bio 342
1 semester of Psychology	Psyc 101
1 semester of Sociology	Soci 101
College Algebra or Statistics	(this requirement can vary)
1 year of English	USD GE Requirement

<sup>1</sup> Several schools require Human Anatomy and Human Physiology. Other schools may require Statistics.

### Experience:

Currently most programs require extensive experience in patient care. But, there are also programs that state "Clinical experience with patient care is desired but not required." Some programs are tailored to train those persons already in a health care field to be a PA. Others are designed to take in naive trainees and turn out accomplished PAs.

### Working Conditions:

Many Physical Therapists practice in hospitals, clinics, and private offices with specially-equipped facilities, although some PTs treat patients in hospital rooms, homes, or schools. Most full-time PTs work a 40-hour week, which may include some evenings and weekends. This job can be physically demanding, because therapists often have to stoop, kneel, crouch, lift, and stand for long periods. In addition, physical therapists move heavy equipment and lift patients or help them turn, stand, or walk.

Earnings: Median annual earnings of physician assistants are \$64,670.

WEB Resources: <http://www.aapa.org> American Academy of Physician Assistants