

PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT

Recommended Coursework

Most schools require human anatomy and human physiology (which are not offered at USD); some schools make accept Evolution of Vertebrate Structure (Biology 320) and Vertebrate Physiology (Biology 478, 478L) instead. The lab is required for both of these courses. Many schools recommend statistics as well. Any courses in the life sciences will help to prepare you for a physician's assistant program. Most schools require a minimum GPA of 2.5, but some will require a higher GPA in your core classes. More competitive schools will not admit students with a GPA less than 3.0. Check each program you are applying to for specific requirements.

1 year of General Chemistry	Chem 151/151L/152/152L
Human Anatomy and Physiology ¹	
Microbiology (with lab)	Bio 342
1 semester of Psychology	Psyc 101
1 semester of Sociology	Soci 101
College Algebra	
1 year of English	USD GE Requirement

Admissions Testing

Some programs require students to take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) for admittance into a master's program. For more information on the GRE's, visit www.gre.org.

Extracurricular Activities

Most schools require incoming students to have clinical experience, whether paid or unpaid. Some schools specified the number of hours required, however it does not necessarily need to be in a physician's office. Clinical experience may include any of the following experiences: nursing, paramedic, EMT, nurse aid, home health aid, nutrition, etc.

Useful Websites

American Academy of Physicians Assistants (www.aapa.org)
Association of Physician Assistants Programs (www.apap.org)
Physician Assistant Programs (<http://www.aapa.org/pgmlist.php3>)
Student Academy of the American Academy of Physicians Assistants (saaapa.aapa.org)
Central Application Service for Physicians Assistants (<https://secure.caspaonline.org>)