



Physician Assistant

Physician Assistants (PAs) practice medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. They should not be confused with medical assistants, who perform routine clinical and clerical tasks. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive healthcare services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of a healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients order and interpret laboratory tests and x rays and make diagnoses. Learn more at <https://www.aapa.org/>

Required Courses: check individual schools.

General Biology - Bio 240, 240L, 242, 242L
General Chemistry - Chem 151, 151L, 152, 152L
Microbiology – Bio 214 or Bio 342
Anatomy and Physiology – Bio 212, Bio 213
English – FYW 150 + Upper Division Writing “W” course
Statistics – Math 120, Psych 260 or Bio 301
Psychology – Psychology 101

Some schools require:

Genetics – Bio 300
Organic Chemistry - Chem 301, 301L
Soc 101 or Anthro 102
Spanish

Some schools recommend:

Medical terminology
Nutrition

These courses will satisfy the requirements for most Physician Assistant schools. Make sure that you check for additional requirements at your selected schools. Most schools want you to have completed the required courses prior to the time of application. Community college coursework is accepted.

GRE: The GRE is required by some programs. Some programs will accept the MCAT.

Clinical: Most PA programs require 500 – 2,000 hours of direct patient care experience. Check individual programs for clinical requirements.

Resources

PA School Finder - https://directory.paeaonline.org/?_ga=2.114290050.48209848.1582069111-56405090.1582069111

Physician Assistant Application (CASPA) - <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/>

USD does not have a Physician Assistant Program. We share this information with students and alumni who may be interested in becoming Physician Assistants.

