

Physician Assistant

Interested in becoming a physician assistant? Learn about the prerequisites for admissions to PA programs.

Physician Assistant programs average 26 months in length.



Required Courses

1 year Biological Sciences	BIO 012/012L and BIO 013/013L
1 year Inorganic Chemistry	CHEM 001/003 and CHEM 002/004
1 semester Organic Chemistry	CHEM 107/109
1 year Composition and Speech	First Year Seminar and SCSR 073
1 semester Statistics	STAT 060
Upper Level Biology	Physiology, Microbiology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Parasitology

**Also recommended: Organic Chemistry II, Biochemistry, Medical Terminology, Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and Developmental Psychology

The 411 on PA Programs

Physician Assistants (PAs) provide physical exams, order and administer tests, make diagnoses, and treat illnesses under the supervision of a licensed physician.

Physician Assistant programs vary on educational prerequisites, GPA requirements, required number of patient care hours, and testing requirements. Most PA programs require students to complete a bachelor's degree with at least two years of college courses in basic and behavioral sciences, maintain a certain GPA, and have direct patient care experience prior to admission. Some programs require applicants to complete the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). Most PA programs offer a Master's degree upon graduation.

Because admissions requirements for each school differ, students interested in becoming a Physician Assistant should research programs of interest and complete the appropriate admissions requirements. If the GRE is required, students should plan to complete the GRE during the spring of their junior year or summer before senior year.

To apply, students must complete the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) in the summer/fall of their senior year.

Drake
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

For additional resources on PA Programs visit:

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

CASPA – <http://www.portal.caspaonline.org/#>

GRE – <http://www.ets.org>