Pre-Physician Assistant Students

Physician Assistants (PAs) provide physical exams, order and administer tests, make diagnoses, and treat illnesses under the supervision of a licensed physician. Most PA programs require a bachelor's degree with at least two years of college courses in basic and behavioral sciences, a strong GPA, and a significant number of direct patient care experience prior to admission. Some programs also require applicants to complete the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

PA programs vary on educational prerequisites, GPA requirements, required number of patient care hours, and testing requirements. It is recommended that students obtain their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Certification the summer prior to the sophomore year, in order to complete the required number of patient care hours.

Application Process: To apply, students must complete the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) in the spring of the Junior year. Prior to the application process, students should research the required prerequisite coursework, residential restrictions, application requirements, and deadlines for each school of interest. If the GRE is required, students should plan to complete the GRE during the spring of their junior year.

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<th>Prerequisite Coursework</th>
<th>Drake Course</th>
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| Biological Sciences                              | BIO 012: General/Pre-Professional Biology I and Lab (Fall)  
BIO 013: General/Pre-Professional Biology II and Lab (Spring) |
| Inorganic Chemistry                              | CHEM 001/003: General Chemistry I and Lab (Fall) 
CHEM 002/004: General Chemistry II and Lab (Spring) |
| Composition                                      | First Year Seminar (Fall)  
Written Communication AOI (Fall, Spring) |
| Mathematics                                      | MATH 050: Calculus I (Fall, Spring)  
STAT 060: Statistics for the Life Sciences (Fall, Spring) |
| Speech                                           | SCSR 073: Public Speaking (Fall, Spring) |
| Organic Chemistry                                | CHEM 097/098: Organic Chemistry I and Lab (Fall) |
| Recommended Courses (mostly General Elective & Professional Elective) | BIO 095: Microbiology (S)  
BIO 105: Intro to Genetics (F, S, Su)  
CHEM 108/110: Organic II & Lab (S)  
HSCI 095: Medical Terminology (F, S)  
HSCI 125: Physiology & Lab (S)  
HSCI 140: Patient Assessment (F)  
HSCI 141: Human Anatomy (S)  
PHAR 130: Biochemistry (F)  
PHAR 132: Pathophysiology (S)  
PSY 001: Intro to Psychology (F, S)  
PSY 076: Abnormal Psychology (S) |

ADDITIONAL PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM RESOURCES
CASPA – https://portal.casponline.org/
GRE – http://www.ets.org/gre