



## Pre-Requisite Information

*Please note that it is the responsibility of the student to research individual physician assistant admission requirements. Additional science courses may be required or recommended. Your academic advisor can discuss courses required for your major.*

<b>Biological Sciences</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Strongly Recommended</b>
General Biology (2 sem)	MCB 150 & MCB 151 IB 150 & IB 151	✓	
Anatomy & Physiology (2 sem)	MCB 244 & MCB 245 MCB 246 & MCB 247	✓	
Microbiology	MCB 100 & MCB 101 or MCB 300 & MCB 301	✓	
<b>Physical Sciences</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Strongly Recommended</b>
General Chemistry (2 sem)	CHEM 102 & CHEM 103 CHEM 104 & CHEM 105	✓	
Organic Chemistry I	CHEM 232 & CHEM 233	✓	
Biochemistry	MCB 354 or MCB 450	✓	
<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Strongly Recommended</b>
Statistics	STAT 100 or equivalent	✓	
<b>Behavioral Sciences &amp; Communication</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Strongly Recommended</b>
Psychology	PSYC 100		✓
Sociology	SOC 100		✓
Medical Terminology	CLCV 102 or KIN 199		✓
Communication (2 sem)	Composition I Advanced Composition	✓	



## EXPERIENCES FOR PA SCHOOL

*Physician Assistant schools look for a variety of experiences, but emphasize direct patient care. This is not an exhaustive list of the opportunities. Students can pursue many things to enhance their future application. It is important to have quality experiences over quantity!*

### Clinical Experience

- Healthcare Work Certification: CNA, EMT, CMA  
*(examples of direct patient care)*
- Hospital/Clinic Volunteering
- Medical Scribe

### Community Service

- Social Justice
- Get out in your campus community

### Leadership

- Training & Development
- Executive Board Position

### Research

- Undergraduate Research
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
- Research during gap year



# YOUR TIMELINE

*This is a suggested timeline only. Every student has their own path to PA school. If choosing a gap year, it allows students to enhance their academics and professional/personal experiences. We do find applicants are more successful when taking a gap year to enhance patient care experience.*

## Fall

MCB 150/MCB 151  
CHEM 102/103

Attend Quad Day, Pre-Health Kick-Off  
Find RSOs to join (don't join too many!)

## Spring

IB 150/ IB 151  
CHEM 104/105

Volunteering  
Look into research opps  
Summer planning

## Fall

CHEM 232  
MCB 100 & MCB 101  
STAT 100

Continue activities and/or find new ones

## Spring

CHEM 233  
MCB 354 or 450

Summer planning-internships, healthcare certifications (patient care)  
Study Abroad

## Fall

MCB 244 & MCB 245  
PSYC 100

Patient Care experience  
Leadership experience  
GRE or PA-CAT Prep

## Spring

MCB 246 & MCB 247  
SOC 100

GRE or PA-CAT Prep or Take GRE or PA-CAT  
Plan for application cycle-if not planning gap year

## Fall

CLCV 102 or KIN 199

GRE or PA-CAT Prep (if haven't applied)  
PA School Interviews

## Spring

Any additional coursework

Take GRE or PA-CAT (if applying upcoming cycle)  
PA School Interviews/Decision on Offers  
Consider reapplying



# YOUR TIMELINE

*Print this document to fill in your coursework and experiences.*

Fall

Spring

Fall

Spring

Fall

Spring

Fall

Spring

# TIMELINE OF APPLYING

## ARE YOU READY?

### *First step...*

Determine if you are ready to apply based on your academics (GPA, completed pre-reqs), test score, experiences and letters of rec. Do you feel like you are competitive for the programs you want to apply to?



## APPLICATION OPENS

### *Know your dates...*

The application to PA school opens the the end of April every year. Applicants can submit CASPA when they feel they are ready to.



## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO APPLY?

### *Plan ahead...*

It is important to know that you typically do not need letters of recommendation or your test scores to submit your application. The basic parts are: biographical info, coursework, personal statement, work/activities, who your letter writers are and admission test date.



## VERIFICATION

### *Start the process...*

CASPA will have your primary application go through a process called verification. This is where the CASPA "verifies" what you have entered in for coursework and that it matches your transcripts. They will also calculate the various GPAs PA schools use to evaluate applicants. This process can take 2 days or up to 4 weeks. Apply early!



# TIMELINE OF APPLYING

## SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

*Check your email...*

Once your application is submitted and verified, you can work on secondary applications or supplemental questions. Many programs will have questions embedded in CASPA or send you a separate application (secondary). It is recommended to return these applications within 2-3 weeks of receiving. Many applicants will pre-write their secondary essays.



## WAITING GAME

*No news, is good news...*

One of the most anxious times for pre-health applicants is waiting to hear back from programs on interviews. Depending how long you have waited, you can submit an update with significant information. Otherwise, know that if you haven't been denied, then you still have an opportunity!



## INTERVIEWS

*Again...check your email!*

Being invited for an interview means that you have met what they are looking for on paper. This is your opportunity to talk to individuals at the programs about why you are passionate about the field and that specific school. Do your research! Come prepared with your own questions! And don't forget to practice with a mock interview!



## ADMISSION OFFERS

*Be ready*

PA programs may send admission offers within a couple of weeks of interviewing. Programs usually send out decisions in batches. It is possible to receive multiple offers, but also be denied or waitlisted.

yes



# TIMELINE OF APPLYING

## DECISION TIME

### *Understand your options*

If you have received an admission offer, be mindful of due dates for deposits to hold your seat. Plus, applicants need to be aware of decision deadlines. Read carefully any information programs have sent you!

If you did not receive any offers, make sure you think about a plan B and what you need to do to reapply.



## START SCHOOL

### *Woohoo!!*

Congratulations! You have accepted an offer to a PA school and are ready to start your journey to become a physician assistant!



## HOW DO I GET HELP?

### *The Career Center*

Throughout the application process, the Pre-Health Advisors are available to assist applicants...alumni too! We can discuss competitiveness, review personal statements, work/activity sections, secondary essays, school list, conduct mock interviews and walk you through the decision process. Don't hesitate to contact us, if you need help!



# RESOURCES



[PAEA Pre-PA Students](#)



[AAPA Become a PA](#)



[PA Program Directory](#)



[5 Tips for Getting into PA School](#)



[CASPA \(Centralized Application Service\)](#)



[Health Profession Advising](#)



[Personal Statement Reviews](#)



[Mock Interviews](#)