



Pre-PA

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Physician Assistants (PAs) work in hospitals and physicians' offices. They practice medicine on teams with other healthcare professionals, and can specialize in almost as many areas as physicians.

A **master's degree** is required in order to become a PA. These programs are generally **2-3 years long**, and students receive their Master of Physician Assistant (MPA), Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPSAS), or Master of Health Professions or Physician Assistant Certificate.

Applicants are required to have a bachelor's degree before matriculating to programs, though some programs require a bachelor's degree before submission of an application (meaning students cannot apply until after they graduate). A specific undergraduate major is generally not required.

What do I need to do to apply?

- Complete the prerequisite courses (listed to the right) with a grade of "C" or better in each course
- Maintain a minimum overall GPA and science GPA of 3.0
- Accumulate direct patient care hours (at least 1,000 is recommended, as well as shadowing a PA)
- Some programs require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

Students should note that application requirements tend to vary widely across PA programs, and should keep track of the requirements for schools that they are interested in via spreadsheet or detailed notes.

Prerequisite Course	Credits
Biology (with lab).....	4
Anatomy and Physiology (with lab).....	8
Microbiology (with lab).....	4
Chemistry (with lab).....	4-8
General Psychology.....	3
Abnormal Psychology.....	3
English Composition.....	6
Statistics.....	3
Medical Terminology.....	3

Prerequisites often vary widely from program to program. While these are some common prerequisites, students should use PAEA's program directory, most recent curriculum survey report, or contact programs directly to determine the best courses to take for admission.

