

Physician Assistant (P.A.)

Degree	<p>Most UF students will enter a Physician Assistant program that offers a Master's Degrees or a Master's Option, and it is recommended that you complete a Master's level program in order to be well prepared for future changes in licensing requirements.</p> <p>In addition to the national exam, Physician Assistants must be supervised by a physician in order to practice, and this physician must sign the application for their state license.</p>
Prerequisite Courses	<p>The following are UF courses required for many physician assistant programs. Requirements vary widely from school to school, so it is your responsibility to check requirements of individual programs. We recommend using the PAEA Program Directory to check pre-requisite courses.</p> <p>General Chemistry: CHM2045/L and CHM2046/L or CHM2051;OR CHM2047/L (CHM2054L may be substituted for CHM2045L and CHM2046L)</p> <p>General Biology: BSC2010/L and BSC2011/L (BSC2044L may be substituted for BSC2010L and BSC2011L)</p> <p>Microbiology: MCB3020/L or MCB3023/L (note you must take CHM2210 or CHM2200 as a prerequisite to this course)</p> <p>Anatomy and Physiology: APK2100C and APK2105C</p> <p>Math: STA2023</p> <p>Health and Medical Terminology: HSC3537</p> <p>Recommended:</p> <p>English: Two semesters of any English department course. Examples are</p>

	<p>ENC1101, ENC1102, ENC3254, LIT2110)</p> <p>Organic Chemistry: CHM2210 or CHM2212 and CHM2211 or CHM2213 and CHM2211L (CHM3217, CHM3218, and CHM2211L may substitute)</p> <p>Biochemistry: BCH4024 or CHM3218</p> <p>Genetics: PCB3063 or AGR3303C</p> <p>Public Speaking: SPC2608</p> <p>Psychology: PSY2012 and one upper-division psychology course</p>
<p>Major</p>	<p>You may choose ANY major and go on to physician assistant programs.</p> <p>Physician Assistant programs do not have a preference for any particular major. Choose a major based on your own personal interests and strengths. It doesn't need to be a science major; majors in the social sciences or humanities are just fine as long as you take the prerequisite courses. We recommend that non-science majors take a few additional science courses beyond the prerequisites.</p>
<p>Application Services</p>	<p>CASPA: Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants</p> <p>Most, but not all, programs participate in CASPA.</p>
<p>Admissions Test</p>	<p>GRE General Test: Graduate Record Exam</p> <p>The sections of the GRE are:</p>

	<p>-Verbal Reasoning</p> <p>-Quantitative Reasoning</p> <p>-Analytical Writing</p> <p>(Not all PA programs require the GRE; to see whether or not a specific program requires the test, you may check the Participating Schools link on CASPA.)</p>
<p>Timing of Application</p>	<p>PA programs have varying application cycles. Some programs begin in the summer while others begin in the Fall or Spring.</p> <p>CASPA starts accepting applications in Mid-April each year, for the following year's entering class.</p>
<p>Reference Guide for School Selection</p>	<p>For information on PA programs, use the links found on CASPA's Participating Programs menu.</p>
<p>Number of schools to apply to</p>	<p>Most students apply to around 4-8 schools.</p> <p>For guidance on choosing schools, watch our workshop on Choosing Schools, use the references above, and visit individual school websites.</p>
<p>Letters of Recommendation</p>	<p>We recommend 2-4 individual letters for most programs (this varies by school, check individual school requirements):</p> <p>-One to two letters from a non-relative, practicing P.A. whom you have shadowed</p>

	<p>or worked with</p> <p>-One to two letters from a non-relative, practicing physician whom you have shadowed or worked with</p> <p>-One letter from a science professor who has taught you in a lecture course</p>
<p>Personal Attributes and Experiences</p>	<p>Most PA programs require a significant number of hands-on patient contact hours (500-2,000). Because of this many pre-PA students spend 1-3 years working in a clinical setting after graduating from UF. Typically some type of certification such as a CNA, EMT, or Medical Assisting certificate is needed prior to gaining hand-on experience.</p> <p>Pre-PA students should also engage in extracurricular activities that develop and demonstrate the personal attributes that are valued in PA's. Students are encouraged to participate in meaningful volunteering and shadowing, community service, research, and leadership experiences that will help them gain an understanding of the profession and their future patients. See our Prepare section to learn more.</p>
<p>Florida Programs</p>	<p>The programs in Florida are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry University • Miami-Dade College • Keiser University - Ft. Lauderdale • Nova Southeastern University - Ft. Lauderdale • Nova Southeastern University - Orlando • Nova Southeastern University - Jacksonville • Nova Southeastern University - Southwest Florida Ft. Myers • South University - Tampa • University of Florida

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants• American Academy of Physician Assistants• Association of Post-graduate PA Programs
Suggested Timelines	Sample timeline for pre-PA students.