Physician Assistant (P.A.)

Although the coursework listed below will meet the requirements for most physician assistant schools, there is some variability among school policies. You must verify the prerequisites for each of the schools that interest you. Be aware that not all physician assistant schools will accept AP or IB credit to meet program prerequisites. If students know what schools they plan to apply to they should contact these schools to find out their policy. Since most students don’t know what schools they will apply to when planning their schedules, many students choose to retake the science prerequisites at CU, or take the honors version of the course. The decision should be made on an individual basis and it is recommended that students speak with an advisor when making this choice. PA programs also differ in their acceptance of science credits from accredited community colleges, but they will often accept a prerequisite science course if an additional science course is taken at the upper division level. For example, Anatomy & Physiology is a two-semester, lower division course sequence offered at most community colleges, and it will often (but not always) be accepted if additional upper division coursework in biology is completed at a four-year university. If you do choose to take a prerequisite science course at a community college, it should be a course labeled “GT” for “Guaranteed Transfer” to a four-year school. Most PA schools require a C or above in all prerequisites.

**MATH**

Many PA programs require statistics, some require an additional math course

Statistics:
- One of the following statistics courses: PSYC 3101 (4), IPHY 2800 (4), or MATH 2510 (3)

Additional math courses:
- College Algebra: MATH 1011 (3)
- College Trigonometry: MATH 1021 (2)
- Precalculus: MATH 1150 (4)
- Calculus 1: MATH 1300 (5) -OR-
  Calculus, Stochastics, and Modeling: MATH 1310 (5)

The MATH 1310 version of Calc 1 is also known as “Calculus with Biological Applications.”

**CHEMISTRY**

Recommended but optional: Introductory Chemistry
- CHEM 1021 (4 - lecture and lab are combined)

General Chemistry 1, with lab
Math prerequisite: College Algebra or Precalculus
- Lecture: CHEM 1113 (4)
- Lab: CHEM 1114 (1)

General Chemistry 2, with lab
- Lecture: CHEM 1133 (4)
- Lab: CHEM 1134 (1)

Organic Chemistry 1, with lab
Required by some PA programs, usually no lab needed
- Lecture: CHEM 3311 (4)
- Lab: CHEM 3321 (1)

One semester of Biochemistry
Required or recommended by most PA programs (no lab needed)
Choose one (either is fine):
- CHEM 4611 (3) -OR-
- CHEM 4711 (4)

**ENGLISH WRITING**

Some PA schools specifically require one 3 credit course

**PSYCHOLOGY**

Many PA schools require General Psychology and one other Psychology course

General Psychology:
- PSYC 1001 (3)

Other recommended psychology courses:
- Developmental Psychology PSYC 3684 (3)
- Abnormal Psychology PSYC 4303 (3)
Many PA schools require or at least recommend Anatomy and Physiology

**Biology Option 1**
- General Biology 1, with lab
  - Lecture: EBIO 1210 (3)
  - Lab: EBIO 1230 (1)
- General Biology 2, with lab
  - Lecture: EBIO 1220 (3)
  - Lab: EBIO 1240 (1)

**Many PA schools require genetics**

- A Genetics lecture course
  - Choose one:
    - EBIO 2070 (4) - OR - MCDB 2150 (3)

**Biology Option 2**

**Intro to Cellular and Molecular Bio, with lab**
- Lecture: MCD 1150 (3)
- Lab: MCD 1151 or MCD 1161 or MCD 1171

**MCDB Genetics, with lab**
- Lecture: MCD 2150 (3)
- Lab: MCD 2151 or MCD 2161 or MCD 2171

**Many PA schools require or at least recommend Anatomy and Physiology**

**Human Anatomy, with lab**
- Lecture: IPHY 3410 (3)
- Lab: IPHY 3415 (2)

**Human Physiology, with lab**
- For non-IPHY majors:
  - IPHY 3430 (3)
  - IPHY 3435 (2)

**Additional Courses that may be required or recommended depending on the PA school**

- General Physics: PHYS 2010 (5) (algebra-based) - OR - 1110 (4) (calculus-based)
- Cell Biology: MCDB 3135 (3)
- Microbiology: EBIO 3400 (4)
- Immunology: IPHY 4600 (3) (for IPHY majors only) or MCDB 4300 (3) (MCDB 3135 & 3145 are prerequisites)