

Common Prerequisites: Physician Assistant

A few prerequisite tips:

- **The course prerequisites for admission vary among PA education programs.** We have provided a list of the most common prerequisites below. Verify school-specific prerequisites by visiting their websites or by using the CASPA School Directory.
- **Science prerequisite “expiration dates”:** Some PA programs require applicants to have completed their science prerequisites within 5-10 years prior to enrollment.
- **AP/IB Credit:** Not all PA schools will accept AP or IB credit to meet program prerequisites. Thus, if you have AP or IB credit for any of the prerequisites, you may want to retake the courses during college (especially at the honors level, when possible).
- **Community college courses, online courses:** 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. Before enrolling in an *online* college course, contact your selected PA programs in advance to determine if distance or online courses are accepted.
- **Most PA schools set a minimum grade for prerequisites, typically either B or above, or C or above.**

MATH

- ☐ **One semester of statistics typically is required.**
Choose one of the following courses:
PSYC 2111 (4), IPHY 2800 (4), IPHY 3280 (4).
[MATH 2510 (3) is another option, but we do not recommend that version if you are planning to take Physiology Lab]
- ☐ **Some PA programs require an additional elective math course. All pre-PA students should take Precalculus to prepare for chemistry and physics.**
 - ☐ Precalculus: MATH 1150 (4)
(This course covers both algebra and trigonometry in a single semester)

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 lecture
Early enrollment available to non-degree students.
Required by some PA programs; lab is rarely required
☐ Lecture: CHEM 3311 (4)
☐ Lab: CHEM 3321 (1)



One semester of Biochemistry
Required or recommended by most PA programs
☐ BCHM 4611 (3)
Prerequisite: 0 Chem 1 Lecture

Biology Option 1

- Intro to Cellular and Molecular Bio lecture**
- MCDB 1150 (3)



- MCDB Genetics lecture**
- MCDB 2150 (3)



2 credit hours of first-year biology labs:
Choose one:

- MCDB 1151 (1) and MCDB 2151 (1)
- MCDB 1161 (2)
- MCDB 1171 (2)
- MCDB 1181 (2, same as IPHY 1181)
- MCDB 2171 (2)



Human Anatomy*

- Lecture: IPHY 3410 (3)
- Lab: IPHY 3415 (2)



Human Physiology*

(Lab may or may not be required)

- Lecture: IPHY 3430 (4)
- Lab: IPHY 3435 (2)

Biology Option 2

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



- EBIO Genetics**
- EBIO 2070 (4)



Human Anatomy*

- Lecture: IPHY 3410 (3)
- Lab: IPHY 3415 (2)



Human Physiology*

(Lab may or may not be required)

- Lecture: IPHY 3430 (4)
- Lab: IPHY 3435 (2)

* *Anatomy and Physiology: Early enrollment is available to non-degree pre-health students.*

PSYCHOLOGY

Many PA schools require General Psychology and one other Psychology course

- General Psychology: PSYC 1001 (3)
 - Elective Psychology course
- Recommended options:
- Developmental Psychology: PSYC 3684 (3)
 - Abnormal Psychology: PSYC 3303 (3)

MICROBIOLOGY

- Lecture: EBIO 3400 (3)
- (Lab may be required):* EBIO 3410 (1)

ENGLISH WRITING

- 3 to 6 credit hours of WRTG courses

Additional Recommended/Required Courses

Why are we listing these?

- The courses listed below are commonly recommended or required.
- Check with each of your schools of interest to determine if you need to take any of these specific courses.
- The strongest applicants to PA programs have typically completed at least two additional science courses beyond the prerequisites. You may want to consider these or other elective science courses in your coursework plan.

PHYSICS 1

We recommend algebra-based physics:

- PHYS 2010 (5, lecture and lab combined course)

Or you may choose to take calculus-based physics instead:

- PHYS 1110 (4, lecture only)
(math corequisite: Calculus 1)

IMMUNOLOGY

(If you are not an IPHY or MCDB major, you can take Immunology in summer or need to ask for permission from the IPHY department to take it in the school year)

Choose one:

- IPHY 4600 (4) -OR-
- MCDB 4300 (3)

CELL BIOLOGY

- MCDB 3145 (3)

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

- IPHY 2400 (summer only)
Or can be taken online through schools such as Colorado State University or University of New England