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### Requirements for Physician Assistant Studies Programs

#### Choosing a Major:

- See an Advisor
- MUST have a minimum of a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a regionally accredited college or university
- Commonly chosen majors include biology, chemistry, and psychology.

#### Qualities of Physician Assistant School Applicants:

1. A high GPA in science and non-science courses- a competitive GPA is above a 3.5.
2. Competitive GRE scores (above 152)
3. Active in medical volunteer/work experience/extracurricular events.
4. Has significant clinical experience – shadowing & volunteer work will enhance your application. Hands-on experience is preferred and is required for certain programs.
5. Great letters of recommendation.
6. Have a strong, working relationship with the Pre-Health Advising Office!

### Common Pre-requisites for Admission to PA Schools:

Biology

BSC 1010, 1010L (General Biology I & Lab)

BSC 1011, 1011L (General Biology II & Lab)

General Chemistry

CHM 1045, 1045L (General Chemistry I & Lab)

CHM 1046, 1046L (General Chemistry II & Lab)

Organic Chemistry

CHM 2210, 2210L (Organic Chemistry I & Lab)

CHM 2211, 2211L (Organic Chemistry II & Lab)

Mathematics (6 credit hours, one must include statistics)

1. MAC 1114 (Trigonometry) **OR** MAC1147 (Trig. & Pre-Calculus) **OR** MAC 2233 (Business Calculus) **OR** MAC 2311 (Calculus I)

2. STA 2023 (Statistics for Business and Economics) **OR** STA 2122 (Introduction to Statistics) **OR** STA 3111 (Statistics I)

**Pre-PA Students Must Also Take:**

PCB 3063 (Genetics)

MCB 3020, 3020L (General Microbiology & Lab)

PCB 3702, 3702L (Intermediate Human Physiology & Lab)

ZOO 3731, 3731L (Human Anatomy & Lab)

HSC 3537 (Medical Terminology)

\* All science prerequisite lecture courses must have been completed no more than seven years prior to matriculation

Requirements for physician assistant programs may **vary** (i.e., math courses, social sciences). Students should consult specific websites for information on requirements for desired schools.

#### **AP Credits**

- Not all professional schools will accept AP credit for science courses (for a list, ask a pre-health advisor)
- Contact the school(s) you are interested in to find out if they accept AP credits
- If a school accepts AP credits, they will usually require additional courses taken in that subject area

#### **GPA Calculation**

- CASPA will calculate a science GPA and a non-science GPA.
- AP credits are **NOT** computed into your GPA.
- ALL post-secondary coursework will be used to compute your GPA for admission.
  - ✓ Dual-enrollment and transfer courses **DO** count toward your GPA for admission.
- CASPA **DOES NOT** use “forgiveness” policies in calculating your GPA.
- DR grades do not count in your GPA. However, avoid DR grades. Professional schools expect students to carry a consistent, full-time course load (15-18 credits)

#### **Application Cycle**

- The application cycle opens mid-April and runs through March of the following year (application due date may be earlier than March and varies by program).
- Students are strongly encouraged to **APPLY EARLY!**

#### **Professional Experience**

- Experience may involve physician/patient observation (typically students have >120 hours)
- Many programs require hands-on patient contact. Examples of this include taking vitals, drawing blood, providing personal hygiene care, working as a radiology technician, working as a nurse or EMT.
- Students must demonstrate a knowledge of their chosen profession when applying to professional school
  - **NOTE:** Many otherwise well-qualified applicants are not accepted because they lack sufficient experience and or knowledge of their chosen profession

#### **\*\*Academic Advising\*\***

All lower-division, Pre-Health students must see an advisor in their Major Department in addition to an advisor in the Office of Pre-Health Professions Advising prior to registration each semester!