

Advisors: Dr. Jason Ashley, Dr. Judd Case, Dr. Luis Matos

Physician Assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. Common duties are taking medical histories and performing physical examinations; ordering and interpreting lab tests; diagnosing and treating illnesses; assisting in surgery; prescribing medication; and counseling patients about preventative care. Upon graduation, PAs take a national certification examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. PAs work in all areas of medicine, with most working in general or family practice.

Physician assistant program admission requirements vary, and students are encouraged to do their own research using [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org) and [www.paeaonline.org](http://www.paeaonline.org). Most programs offer a master's degree and require a bachelor's degree for admission. Common prerequisites include a year of general biology, a year of human anatomy and physiology, microbiology, and a year of general chemistry, with some requiring organic chemistry and biochemistry. Most require statistics and psychology, and some require physics. All PA programs also require applicants to have previous experience in health care, especially in direct patient care.

**Required Biology Core Courses: 25 credits**

BIOL 171 Biology I	(5)
BIOL 172 Biology II	(5)
BIOL 173 Biology III	(5)
BIOL 270 Biological Investigation	(3)
BIOL 310 Fundamentals of Genetics	(5)
BIOL 490 Department Senior Capstone	(5)

**Select one of the following courses: 5 credits**

BIOL 301 Microbiology	(5)
BIOL 302 Botany	(5)
BIOL 303 Invertebrate Zoology	(5)
BIOL 304 Vertebrate Zoology	(5)

**Select one of the following courses: 4-5 credits**

BIOL 423 Evolution	(5)
BIOL 440 Ecology	(4)

**Select one of the following courses: 5 credits**

BIOL 436 Cell Biology	(5)
BIOL 438 Molecular Biology	(5)

**Select one of the following courses (4-5 credits)**

BIOL 334 Human Anatomy & Physiology III for Biology Majors	(5)
BIOL 351 Principles of Animal Physiology	(4)
BIOL 352 Principles of Plant Physiology	(4)
BIOL 353 Principles of Microbial Physiology	(4)

**Required Supporting Courses: 20 credits**

CHEM 171 General Chemistry	(4)
CHEM 171L General Chemistry Lab	(1)
CHEM 172 General Chemistry	(4)
CHEM 172L General Chemistry Lab	(1)
CHEM 173 General Chemistry	(4)
CHEM 173L General Chemistry Lab	(1)
MATH 161 Calculus I <i>or</i>	
MATH 380 Elementary Probability and Statistics <i>or</i>	
BIOL 380 Data Analysis for Biologists	(5)

**ELECTIVE COURSES:** 36 credits of upper division electives with advisor's approval. At least 21 of these credits must be biology.

BIOL 332 Human Anatomy & Physiology I for Biology Majors	(5)
BIOL 333 Human Anatomy & Physiology II for Biology Majors	(5)
BIOL 318 Biology of Women	(3)
BIOL 343 Biology of Aging	(3)
BIOL 420 Epidemiology	(5)
BIOL 421 Medical Bacteriology	(5)
BIOL 430 Immunology	(5)
BIOL 432 Virology	(5)
BIOL 477 Embryology	(5)
BIOL 473 Neurobiology	(5)
CHEM 351 Organic Chemistry	(4)
CHEM 352 Organic Chemistry	(4)
CHEM 480 Biochemistry	(5)

**Biology ETS Field Exam required for graduation.**

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