



Pre-Physician Assistant Planning Guide

Explore

A qualified Physician Assistant (PA) school applicant must have a general understanding of the profession, demonstrate interest in and awareness of medical and social issues, and exhibit cross-cultural competency. You will gain this experience both in the classroom and through extracurricular activities.

Since PA schools do not give preference for any particular major, you should major in a field that aligns your interests, passions, and abilities. UW Tacoma has an interdisciplinary curriculum that will give you a broad base of knowledge and allow you to make connections between disciplines which is essential to being a successful physician assistant. Throughout your time on campus, your academic advisor can help ensure you take the appropriate pre-requisite courses as part of your academic experience.

Prepare

An excellent PA school applicant will have a strong cumulative grade point average and within the pre-requisite courses. It is also important to have a competitive GRE score. Outside of the classroom, PA schools will look for significant amount of time shadowing professionals, relevant volunteer experience, and leadership skills. Clinical experience requirements can range from 250-2,000 hours.

Below are the most commonly required pre-requisites for PA school. You should still review each school's admission requirements to ensure you meet all preparatory coursework and other application requirements.

Mathematics	Chemistry	Biology	Social Science	English
TMATH 110	TCHEM 142	TBIOL 120	TPSYCH 101	TCORE 101
	TCHEM 152	TBIOL 130		OR
	TCHEM 162	TBIOL 140		TWRT 121
				OR
	TCHEM 251	TBIOL 301		ENGL 131
	TCHEM 405	TBIOL 302		TWRT
				OR
		TBIOL 305		TLIT
		Human Anatomy with lab		

Suggested Timeline

Freshman Year

- Meet with your pre-major advisor early. They will help you begin to timeline out your PA school pre-requisites.
- Consider joining a pre-health Registered Student Organization (RSO)
- Begin developing relationships with your faculty for future letters of recommendation
- Solidify summer volunteer or leadership experience within the medical field

Sophomore Year

- Check in with your pre-major advisor
- Continue involvement with an RSO
- Pursue meaningful clinical experiences
- Begin researching PA schools and GRE information

Junior Year

- Meet with your major advisor
- Seek leadership experience in an RSO
- Continue meaningful clinical experiences
- Finalize your list of 10-15 PA schools
- Familiarize yourself with application to PA schools (CASPA)
- Request recommendation letters
- If you are not taking a gap year
 - Take the GRE by mid-February
 - Begin applying to PA schools beginning mid-April

Senior Year- After Graduation

- Meet with your major advisor and apply for graduation
- If you are taking a gap year
 - Take the GRE by mid-February
 - Begin applying to PA schools beginning mid-April
- Prepare for campus visits and interviews
- Receive acceptances!
- Notify schools you will not be attending
- Apply for financial aid as early as possible



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