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S438

Physician Assistant program admission requirements vary *greatly* by school. You are encouraged to research the prerequisites for your desired schools. In general, most schools will expect applicants to take GRE and to complete the following courses. To find school-specific requirements, visit school websites.

Minimum Requirements for PA School

- 2 semesters of Biology*
- 3 semesters of Chemistry (1-Inorganic, 1-Organic, 1-Biochemistry)
- 2 semesters of Anatomy & Physiology
- 1 semester of Statistics
- Direct or Hands-on Patient Care (between 200 and 2000 hours, varies by school)

*Most institutions WILL NOT accept Microbiology or Anatomy and Physiology towards the two semesters of general biology. Those courses are often separate requirements and cannot double-counted.

Coursework Guide

Biology

BIOL 113/115	General Biology (113)/ Advanced General Biology (115)
BIOL 218	Principles of Zoology
BIOL 221	Microbiology
BIOL 231	Anatomy & Physiology I
BIOL 232	Anatomy & Physiology II

Notes: BIOL218 typically counts as the second semester of general biology. BIOL221 is typically a recommended course for most schools, but some programs do require it.

Chemistry

CHEM 111/113/115	Introductory Chemistry/Principles of Chemistry: Inorganic
CHEM 112/224	Introductory Chemistry: Organic/Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 345	Biochemistry with Lab

Notes: Enrollment in CHEM 111/113/115 is dependent on placement exam score or department recommendation. Students taking CHEM 224, instead of 112, should also take CHEM 225 (Organic Chemistry II). CHEM 224 and 225 are required for the Biology, Biochemistry, and Chemistry majors. This sequence also fulfills the prereqs for PA school.

Math

MATH 118 Introductory Statistics

Note: Some programs may also require a semester of College Precalculus or higher calculus course.

Psychology

PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychological Science

Sociology

SOCI 241 or SOCI 101 Health, Illness, and Society or Introduction to Sociology

General Timeline

This timeline is an example of how you *may* wish to take courses. Timing of these courses may change due to your major/minor requirements, placement exam results, academic performance, and planned PA school entrance year. In addition to these courses, you must take classes required by Simmons and your major(s)/minor(s). Develop an academic plan with your advisors based on the courses above that is tailored to your needs. The sample timeline below does not include language or specific major requirements. Visit Simmons' bulletin to view the descriptions and availability of each course: <http://courses.simmons.edu>. Refer to the Simmons Course Catalog to find PLAN and major requirements, course prerequisites, course descriptions.

This schedule is designed to prepare students to start a Physician Assistant program in the September of their graduation year. In this case, the GRE exam should be taken in the calendar year prior to which you plan to enter graduate school (for example, if you are applying in 2020 for entrance in Fall 2021, you should take the exam in Spring 2020). If students plan to take a gap year, there may be more flexibility in this schedule.

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	Boston Course (BOS 101) Simmons Explore (SIM 101, 1 cr.) Inorganic Chemistry (CHEM 111/113/115) Biology I (BIOL 113/115)	Leadership Course (LDR 101) Organic Chemistry (CHEM 112) or CHEM 224 & 225 in Sophomore Year Zoology (Biology II) (BIOL 218)	Exposure to Medicine Community Service
Year 2 PLAN Requirements: Learning Community • 2 courses, 3 cr. each • 1 integrated seminar, 2 cr. Simmons: Experience, spring, 1 cr.	Anatomy & Physiology I (BIOL 231)	Anatomy & Physiology II (BIOL 232)	Continue Service Research Begin Patient Care hours (volunteer or paid position)
Year 3 PLAN Requirements for years 3 & 4: 3D- Design Across Diverse Disciplines Capstone Simmons: Excel, 1 cr.	Additional Course Requirements GRE Preparation	Microbiology (BIOL 221) Take GRE	Submit CASPA Application* Continue Patient Care hours (volunteer or paid position)
Year 4	Additional Course Requirements School Interviews	Additional Course Requirements School Interviews	Take a break before PA school begins
Additional Coursework: Take in any term once you have met the prerequisites.	PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychological Science MATH 118: Introduction to Statistics (QL) CHEM 223 or CHEM 245: Biochemistry SOCI 241: Health, Illness and Society (SH) (Recommended) Language, 2 courses in the same language Remaining Global Cultural (GC), Aesthetic, Literary, & Artistic (ALA), and Social Historical (SH) Key Content Areas • The QL and SCI requirements will be fulfilled with the above Pre-Health courses.		

*Most Physician Assistant programs use the CASPA (Central Application System for Physician Assistants). The CASPA application typically opens on April 1st, and then applications are due between July and November of the year before you wish to matriculate (i.e. apps are due between July and November 2020 for programs that start in 2021). Part of the process is that CASPA applications need to be verified by CASPA. Pay close attention to application dates on individual institution websites to see if the materials just need to be submitted by that date, or if the application needs to be verified by that date. The verification process takes time, so CASPA recommends having materials submitted at least four weeks before the verification due date.