

Physician Assistant

Pre-Professional Advising
(907) 474-6396

Physician assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and in most states can write prescriptions.

Becoming a PA typically requires a master's degree, and a bachelor's degree is usually required to be admitted to a program. Some schools offer degree completion programs that allow students to finish a bachelor's degree while working toward the Master's of Physician Assisting. Becoming a certified PA will take at least 5-6 years from the start of college.

Admission to PA school is competitive, so take advantage of any course work or experience that may give you an added edge. Most schools require or strongly recommend health care experience as a prerequisite. To be considered for admission, students should take the Graduate Record Exam and complete a curriculum that includes general chemistry (CHEM 105X, 106X), general biology (BIOL 105X, 106X), anatomy and physiology (BIOL 111X, 112X), microbiology (BIOL 342), entry-level, developmental and abnormal psychology (PSY 101, 240, 345), as well as English (111X, 211X or 213X). Careful planning is necessary because course requirements differ among schools.

Students considering a career as a physician's assistant can learn more at www.uaf.edu/advising/degree/preprof/physasst.html and should see an advisor in the Academic Advising Center.

Baccalaureate Core Requirements

All degrees (e.g. B.A., B.S., etc.) require additional courses.
Refer to specific degree and program requirements.

COMMUNICATION (9)

Complete the following:

ENGL 111X (3) _____
ENGL 190H may be substituted.

Complete one of the following:

ENGL 211X OR ENGL 213X (3) _____

Complete one of the following:

COMM 131X OR COMM 141X (3) _____

PERSPECTIVES ON THE HUMAN CONDITION (18)

Complete all of the following four courses:

ANTH 100X/SOC 100X (3) _____
ECON 100X OR PS 100X (3) _____
HIST 100X (3) _____
ENGL/FL 200X (3) _____

Complete one of the following three courses:

ART/MUS/THR 200X, HUM 201X OR ANS 202X (3) _____

Complete one of the following six courses:

BA 323X, COMM 300X, JUST 300X, NRM 303X,
PS 300X OR PHIL 322X (3) _____

OR complete 12 credits from the above courses PLUS

- two semester-length courses in a single Alaska Native language or other non-English language OR
- three semester-length courses (9 credits) in American Sign Language taken at the university level.

MATHEMATICS (3)

Complete one of the following:

MATH 107X, MATH 161X OR MATH 103X (3-4) _____
** No credit may be earned for more than one of MATH 107X or 161X.*

OR complete one of the following:*

MATH 200X, MATH 201X, MATH 202X,
MATH 262X OR MATH 272X (4) _____
**Or any math course having one of these as a prerequisite*

NATURAL SCIENCES (8)

Complete any two (4-credit) courses:

ATM 101X (4) _____
BIOL 100X (4) _____
BIOL 103X (4) _____
BIOL 104X (4) _____
BIOL 105X (4) _____
BIOL 106X (4) _____
BIOL 111X (4) _____
BIOL 112X (4) _____
CHEM 100X (4) _____
CHEM 103X (4) _____
CHEM 104X (4) _____
CHEM 105X (4) _____
CHEM 106X (4) _____
GEOG 205X (4) _____
GEOS 100X (4) _____
GEOS 101X (4) _____
GEOS 112X (4) _____
GEOS 120X (4) _____
GEOS 125X (4) _____
MSL 111X (4) _____
PHYS 102X (4) _____
PHYS 103X (4) _____
PHYS 104X (4) _____
PHYS 115X (4) _____
PHYS 116X (4) _____
PHYS 175X (4) _____
PHYS 211X (4) _____
PHYS 212X (4) _____
PHYS 213X (4) _____

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESEARCH (0-1)

Successful completion of library skills competency test OR

LS 100X or 101X prior to junior standing (0-1) _____

UPPER-DIVISION WRITING AND ORAL COMMUNICATION (0)

Complete the following:

Two writing intensive courses designated (W) (0) _____
One oral communication intensive course designated (O) (0) _____
OR two oral communication intensive courses designated (O/2), at the upper-division level (see degree and/or major requirements) (0) _____

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED.....38-39