

Full PA Requirements Checklist



Before you are able to penetrate the physician assistance industry, you should know of physician assistant prerequisites. There are certain requirements you have to complete in order to become a physician assistant. Check out this post to learn of the qualifications and requirements you have to complete to enter a physician assistant program.

General Physician Assistant School Requirements

- All prerequisite courses shall be completed before the start of a school year.
- College seniors may apply as long as they will be able to obtain the baccalaureate degree before the starting date of the physician assistant program.
- For applicants coming outside the US, they should be able to complete a minimum of one year of either graduate or undergraduate study at any of the US colleges or universities before applying for a physician assistant program.
- An applicant should have a completed baccalaureate degree from any of the accredited schools or institutions, as certified by the Commission on Colleges of a regional accrediting organization.
- In general, students are required to accomplish subjects as **physician assistant prerequisites** as follows:
 - Three semester hours or four quarter hours of anatomy
 - Three semester hours or four quarter hours of physiology
 - Combined subjects may be accepted if the total credits a student will get will be a minimum of six (6) semester hours or eight (8) quarter hours.
 - Preferred but not required: Physiology and human anatomy labs
 - Three semester hours or four quarter hours of microbiology
 - Three semester hours or four quarter hours of one biology choice course
 - Three semester hours or four quarter hours of a second biology choice course

*Subject PA requirements may vary from one school to another, but this is a general list required in most PA schools.

In order to accomplish the prerequisite biology course, most PA programs suggest courses in cell biology, genetics, embryology, molecular biology, immunology and histology.

And while none of the following subjects is required specifically, they may be able to provide an applicant a good foundation in the field of medicine.

- Five quarter hours or four semester hours of a chemistry choice course with lab
- Five quarter hours or four semester hours of another chemistry choice course
- Three quarter hours of statistics

These PA school prerequisites should be completed, usually by the end of the Fall Semester and should be accomplished with C grade or higher but not C minus. And then, the courses, which are only awarded by an exam, are not acceptable toward any of prerequisite course.

Additional PA School Prerequisites

- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for all candidates, including for those who already have their doctoral or master's degree.
- Personal statement, which length or topic depends on the school of choice
- Experience is also required. In fact, you will need to have 1,000 hours, at an average, of patient care with hands-on patient contact.

There you have the basic requirements you will need if you want to enter a PA school. Nevertheless, varying schools may also have differing physician assistant prerequisites and those written above are a general overview and reference on what you can expect to prepare for most of these PA schools.