

Pre-Physician Assistant Planning Guide

Course preparation varies by program. This list is a summary of the most common requirements.

Course	UW–Madison Options	Required for Schools
General Chemistry	Chem 103–104 or Chem 109	Yes
Organic Chemistry w/lab	Chem 341–342 or 343–345 & 344*	Required by some
Introductory Biology	Biology/Zoology/Botany 151–152 or Zoology 101–102 + Add'l Bioscience (Microbio, Genetics, Kines, Cell Bio, Immunology) or Biocore	Yes
Introductory Microbiology	101–102 or 303–304	Yes
Anatomy	328; some programs require 329 lab	Yes
Physiology	335 or 435	Yes
Introductory Statistics	may be taken in major department	Yes
Introductory Psychology	Psych 202	Yes
Introductory Biochemistry	Biochem 501 or 507	Required by some
English, Literature or Communications	Many options available on campus	(6) credits required by many schools
Medical Terminology	A course off campus	Required by some schools

Note: Other subjects to consider include Sociology, Nutrition, and Genetics.

* The two semester organic chemistry sequence is not required for PA programs, but is required for some academic majors at UW–Madison.

Step 1: Questions to ask early in your academic career:

1. What experience(s) have influenced your interest in physician assistant training?
2. What are the skills you associate with a good health care provider? How can you begin developing those skills?
3. What are your goals and expectations for a major?

Step 2: Questions to consider in the middle of your academic career:

1. How can you gain the patient care hours required by physician assistant programs?
2. What are your goals and expectations for a volunteer/work experience in a health care setting?
4. When do you want to apply? Would your application be stronger if you work before applying?

Step 3: Things to do the year you plan to apply

1. Get letters of recommendation from faculty, research advisors and employers who know you well
2. Prepare for and take the GRE
3. Write your personal statement and experience statements
4. Familiarize yourself with the centralized application (CASPA)
5. Do mock interviews



LOCATION

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PHONE

Please call us to schedule an appointment
608-263-6614

EMAIL

Contact us with quick questions
questions@prehealth.wisc.edu

WEB

Explore our website for more information about course requirements, volunteer opportunities, research, and summer programs
www.prehealth.wisc.edu

DROP-IN ADVISING

Check out our website for more information about drop-in times and locations



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