

Pre-Physician Assistant Planning Guide

Prerequisite courses vary from school to school. It's very important that you check the websites of schools you want to apply to in order to make sure you're taking the courses they require. The courses in this table are a summary of the most common requirements.

Prerequisite Courses	Options at UW–Madison	Required by programs?
General Chemistry	Two options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry 103 (lecture + lab) and Chemistry 104 (lecture + lab) Chemistry 109 (lecture + lab) 	Most require two semesters with lab. Some require one semester with lab.
Biology	Three options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoology 101 (lecture), Zoology 102 (lab), and an additional bioscience with lab Biology 151 (lecture + lab) and Biology 152 (lecture + lab) Biocore (4 semesters of lecture + lab) 	Most programs require two semesters with lab.
Organic Chemistry	Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry 341 (lecture) and Chemistry 342 (lab) Chemistry 343 (lecture), Chemistry 345 (lecture), and Chemistry 344 (lab) 	Most require one semester (some with lab). Less than 10 programs require two semesters.
Biochemistry	Two options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biochemistry 501 (lecture) Biochemistry 507-508 (lectures) 	Many require one semester. A few require two.
Microbiology	Two options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microbiology 101 (lecture) and Microbiology 102 (lab) Microbiology 303 (lecture) and Microbiology 304 (lab) 	Most require one semester with lab. Some require one semester without lab. Some do not require Microbio.
Anatomy	Two possible required courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anatomy 328 (lecture) Anatomy 329 (lab) 	Most require one semester. Many require lab.
Physiology	Two options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physiology 335 (lecture + lab) Physiology 435 (lecture + lab) 	Most require one semester. Many require lab.
Statistics	Three options: (choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics 371 (lecture) Statistics 301 (lecture) Statistics in your major (e.g., Psychology 210) 	Most require one semester of statistics.
Psychology / Human Development	Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychology 202 (Introductory Psychology) or Psychology 281 (Honors) Abnormal Psychology (Psychology 509) Child Development (HDFS 362 or Psych 560 or Ed Psych 320) Adult Development (HDFS 363 or Psych 564) 	Most require an introductory psychology course. Others require one or more of the additional options.
English, Literature, Communication	Many options on campus.	Many programs require 3-6 credits of English composition or literature courses.

Other courses required by PA programs may include: Physics, Spanish, Nutrition, Ethics, Genetics, and Social Science courses.

Resources

Learning resources available on UW campus

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater University Tutoring Services (GUTS) Peer Learning Association (PLA) Chemistry Learning Center (CLC) Physics Learning Center (PLC) Math Lab Statistics Lab Writing Center | http://guts.wisc.edu
https://win.wisc.edu/organization/pla
https://www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/clc
https://www.physics.wisc.edu/plc
https://www.math.wisc.edu/undergraduate/mathlab
https://www.stat.wisc.edu/courses/Tutorial_Schedule
http://www.writing.wisc.edu |
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Professional organizations

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Academy for Physician Assistants Physician Assistant Education Association | https://www.aapa.org
http://www.paeaonline.org |
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