

Last Update:
July 2016

Physician Assistant (PA) Prerequisite Guide

This resource represents the recommended coursework for PA school preparation. Individual schools may expect additional coursework.

AP and proficiency credits are not always accepted by PA programs to fulfill prerequisite requirements

Prerequisite Area	MINIMUM RECOMMENDATION	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Course Number(s)
Communication		
Written	2 Lectures	Composition I (GenEd), Advanced Composition (GenEd)
Biological Sciences		
General Biology	2 Lectures/2 Labs	MCB 150/MCB 151*, IB 150/IB 151*
Anatomy & Physiology	2 Lectures/2 Labs	MCB 244/MCB 245, MCB 246/MCB 247
Microbiology	1 Lecture/1 Lab	MCB 100/MCB 101 OR MCB 300/MCB 301
Physical Sciences		
General Chemistry	2 Lectures/2 Labs	CHEM 102/CHEM 103, CHEM 104/CHEM 105
Organic Chemistry	1 Lectures/1 Lab	CHEM 232/CHEM 233
Biochemistry	1 Lecture	MCB 354 OR MCB 450
Mathematics/Statistics		
Statistics	1 Lecture	STAT 100/MATH 161 (or equivalent)
Humanities		
	Varies by program	May include: history, philosophy, religion, literature
Social/Behavioral Sciences		
	Varies by program	May include: economics, sociology, psychology, anthropology, political science

Graduate Records Examination (GRE)

For exam information visit: www.ets.org/gre

*Students who choose to take upper level biology labs do not need to take MCB 151 and/or IB 151

For more information visit: www.paeonline.org

Preparation Timeline

Directions:

1. Write the academic years of your preparation.
2. Write in prerequisite courses AND out-of-classroom preparation activities you plan to complete each term.
3. Write in when you plan to take your admissions test and apply to health professional school.
4. Review timeline periodically by your academic advisor & a health professions advisor at The Career Center and make revisions as needed.

Keep In Mind:

Plan to take, on average, 2-3 science courses (6-8 credit hours) per semester. During your first semester on campus, it's okay to take only 1 science course.

Plan for more than one term in advance. Check that courses will be offered the semester that you want to take them.

Note that AP and community college credits are not always accepted by health professional programs.

Plan to take most of your prerequisite courses at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign during the fall or spring semester.

Out-of-classroom preparation (volunteering, shadowing, research, etc.) should happen throughout the academic year—not just during breaks and summers.

Plan to take most prerequisite courses before you apply or take your admissions test.

The application process can take more than a year. Since most health professions begin the application process in the summer, plan to take to take your admissions test (MCAT, DAT, OAT, PCAT, etc.) by the spring. *For example: If you want to enter professional school fall 2018, you would take the admissions test spring 2017 and apply summer 2017.*

Academic Year	Fall	Spring	Summer