

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Undergraduate Credit Required	Bachelor's degree
Entrance Exam	GRE (some schools)
Professional Schooling Required	26-28 months of professional school; Master of Physician Assistant Studies
Local Professional Schools	UNMC; Union College; College of St. Mary
Professional Organization Websites	aapa.org (American Academy of Physician Assistants); paeaonline.org (Physician Assistant Education Association)

REQUIRED AND SUGGESTED ELECTIVES FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED UNL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The following coursework recommendations fulfill the entrance requirements for UNMC & Union College's Physician Assistant Programs. For information on transferring to College of St. Mary's program, contact them directly. Students who are considering other programs are encouraged to contact those schools directly for a list of entrance requirements.

AP/IB credit: UNMC's program will not accept AP or CLEP credit toward prerequisite requirements; Union College may consider AP or CLEP credit on a case by case basis.

Math Requirement: Some required science courses, like chemistry, require math as a prerequisite. See your pre-health advisor for math placement information.

REQUIRED COURSES

Biological Sciences with lab – 4 hours (UNMC) or 8 hours (Union)		
LIFE 120/120L, LIFE 121/121L (BIOS 101/101L and 103/103L if taken prior to Fall 2013) (BIOS 102 OK for Union if taken prior to Fall 2013)		
Course	Term	Grade
Human Anatomy with lab – 1 course		
BIOS 214 (Union college prefers an additional anatomy course at a 3-400 level: BIOS 388)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOS		
Human Physiology with lab – 4 hours		
BIOS 213/213L (Union college prefers an additional physiology course at a 3-400 level: BIOS 422/422L, BIOS 440, or ASCI 443)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOS		
Microbiology with lab – 1 course		
BIOS 111/111L or 312/314 (Union College strongly prefers BIOS 312/314)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOS		
General Chemistry with lab – 1 sequence		
CHEM 109 and 110 or 113, 114, and 221		
Course	Term	Grade
CHEM		
CHEM		

Organic Chemistry with lab – 4-8 hours		
CHEM 251/253 or CHEM 261/263, CHEM 252/254 or CHEM 262/264, or CHEM 255/257 (UNMC strongly recommends a two semester Organic Chemistry Sequence) (Union college will accept either 4 or 8 hours)		
Course	Term	Grade
CHEM		
CHEM		
Biochemistry (with lab recommended) – 1 course		
BIOC 321/321L or BIOC 431/433 (Union College & UNMC will accept 3 hours BIOC for this requirement.)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOC		
General Psychology or other psychology elective* – 1 course		
PSYC 181 *If AP Psychology credit has been earned, UNMC requires an additional psychology elective		
Course	Term	Grade
PSYC 181		
Life Span/Developmental Psychology - 3 hours		
PSYC 289		
Course	Term	Grade
PSYC		
Abnormal Psychology – 3 hours (UNMC only)		
PSYC 380 (also recommended for Union College)		
Course	Term	Grade
PSYC 380		

Statistics – 3 hours		
STAT 218, EDPS 459, ECON 215, PSYC 350		
Course	Term	Grade
English – 2 courses (UNMC only)		
ENGL 101, 150, 151, 254, or 354		
Course	Term	Grade
ENGL		
ENGL		
Emergency Health Care or CPR certification – 1 course (Union only)		
FITN 160		
Course	Term	Grade
FITN 160		
Medical Terminology – 1 course		
CLAS 116		
Course	Term	Grade
CLAS 116		

Upper Level Course Preferences (Union College)
 Union college prefers that students take 2-3 upper level (300/400 level) biological science courses including upper-level microbiology, biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology (see suggested electives). Completing 2-3 of these courses before application is strongly preferred, specifically microbiology and biochemistry.

EXTRA CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT & ACTIVITIES

Pursuing physician assistant school requires more than just coursework. Your extracurricular activities, employment, and healthcare experiences like shadowing and volunteering will contribute greatly to your success in this field. See your pre-health advisor in the Explore Center to plan extracurricular activities that will prepare you for this program.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

- Application: Both UNMC and Union College Physician Assistant Programs participate in a centralized application service called the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications and recommendation forms may be obtained from portal.caspaonline.org.
- Entrance Exam: The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required for some programs: gre.org.
- Additional admission requirements: **Union College’s PA program requires documentation of at least 3 months (480 hours) of work experience consisting of direct patient care in a medical setting.** For most PA programs, letters of recommendation and interviews will also be required.

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Suggested Sequence of Required & Recommended Science Courses*	
Semester 1 Biological Sciences I with lab Math	Semester 2 General Chemistry I Biological Sciences II with lab
Semester 3 General Chemistry II with lab	Semester 4 Organic Chemistry I with lab Human Physiology with lab
Semester 5 Organic Chemistry II with lab or BIOC 321/321L Microbiology with lab	Semester 6 Biochemistry with lab (if not taken) Human Anatomy with lab
** Take the GRE during Semester 6 or before Semester 7 (or 12-16 months before you intend to start PA school.)	
Semester 7 & Semester 8 Recommended Science Elective coursework: Upper division anatomy or physiology, Genetics, Immunology, Pathophysiology, or other suggested electives.	

*Sequence may vary from above depending on declared major requirements

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

- **Math:** 101 (or higher)
- **Anatomy:** 300/400 level
- **Physiology:** 300/400 level
- **Genetics:** BIOS 206
- **Immunology:** BIOS 443
- **Molecular Biology:** BIOS 303
- **Metabolism/Biological Information:** BIOS 432
- **Pathophysiology**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org

**University of Nebraska Medical Center
 College of Allied Health Professions**
 Office of Student Affairs
 (402) 559-6673
cahpadmissions@unmc.edu
unmc.edu/alliedhealth

Union College Physician Assistant Program
 (402) 486-2527
paprog@ucollege.edu



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