

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Undergraduate Credit Required	Bachelor's degree
Entrance Exam	GRE (some schools)
Professional Schooling Required	28-33 months of professional school; Master of Physician Assistant Studies
Local Professional Schools	UNMC; Union College; Creighton University; 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 Physician Assistant programs at UNMC, Union College, College of St. Mary, and Creighton University (provisionally accredited program). Students who are considering other programs are encouraged to contact those schools directly for a list of entrance requirements.

AP/IB credit: UNMC, Creighton, and College of St. Mary will not accept AP, IB, or CLEP credit toward prerequisite requirements; Union College may consider such credit on a case-by-case basis but expect students to take upper level science in addition to what is required.

Biological Sciences with lab – 4 hours (UNMC) or 8 hours (Union)		
LIFE 120/120L, LIFE 121/121L (LIFE 121/121L required prerequisite for BIOS 312/314)		
Course	Term	Grade
Human Anatomy with lab – 1 course		
BIOS 214		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOS		
Human Physiology with lab – 4 hours		
BIOS 213/213L		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOS		
Microbiology with lab – 1 course		
BIOS 111 or 312/314 (312/314 preferred at many PA schools)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOS		
General Chemistry with lab – 1 sequence		
CHEM 109A/109L and 110A/110L or 113A/113L, 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 (UNMC & Creighton strongly recommend a two semester Organic Chemistry Sequence)		
Course	Term	Grade
CHEM		
CHEM		

Biochemistry (with lab recommended) – 1 course		
BIOC 401/401L or BIOC 431/433 (Union College, UNMC, & Creighton will accept 3 hours BIOC for this requirement.)		
Course	Term	Grade
BIOC		
General Psychology** – 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 (UNMC, Union, & CSM) - 3 hours		
PSYC 289 (CSM will accept PSYC 289 or CYAF 160)		
Course	Term	Grade
PSYC 289		
Abnormal Psychology – 3 hours (UNMC & Creighton; recommended for Union)		
PSYC 380		
Course	Term	Grade
PSYC 380		
Statistics – 3 hours		
STAT 218, EDPS 459, ECON 215, PSYC 350		
Courses	Term	Grade

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Medical Terminology – 1 course		
CLAS 116		
Course	Term	Grade
Upper Level Biological Sciences (3xx or 4xx level) – 1 course (College of St. Mary only)		
BIOS 3xx or 4xx		
Course	Term	Grade
English Composition/Writing– 2 courses (UNMC only)		
1) English Composition (ENGL 150, 151, 254 or 354) or any ENGL AND		
2) English Composition, any ENGL, or a writing intensive course		
Course	Term	Grade
ENGL		

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 401/401L 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.	

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

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

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: Physician Assistant Programs the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications can be completed at caspa.liaisoncas.com.
- Entrance Exam: The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required for some programs: ets.org/gre.
- Additional admission requirements: **480 (Union), 250 (Creighton), or more (other schools) hours of work experience consisting of direct patient care in a medical setting are required. Some PA programs require up to 2,000 hour of patient contact.**

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

Creighton University Physician Assistant Program

Geri Horton
 402-280-4530
gerihorton@creighton.edu

Union College Physician Assistant Program

(402) 486-2527
paprog@ucollege.edu

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