

Pre-Physician Assistant Studies

<http://www.pacificu.edu/pa>

Admission to the School of Physician Assistant Studies is highly competitive. The applicant must complete the prerequisite courses listed below by December 31st of the year prior to enrollment in the professional program and have a minimum of 1000 hours of experience in direct patient care prior to application to the program. In addition, the PA program utilizes computer-based learning throughout the program; therefore, each student is required to have a laptop computer and possess basic word processing skills.

The Physician Assistant Program Admissions Committee considers the following factors in the selection process:

- Strength and breadth of academic record
- Type and depth of prior health- care experience
- Strength of letters of evaluation
- Content of application forms and care with which they have been completed
- Quality of writing ability as demonstrated by personal narratives
- Understanding of Physician Assistant profession
- Type of community activities
- Demonstration of cultural awareness
- Strength of on-campus personal interview
- Program compatibility

For additional information (other than prerequisites) about the Physician Assistant Program consult, the graduate catalog or website: www.pacificu.edu/pa

Grade Point Averages

The Science BCP (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) GPA as calculated by the Central Application Service for Physician Assistant programs (CASPA) and the last 45 semester credit GPA must be above a 3.00 to be considered for admissions. It is recommended that both GPA's be above a 3.4 in order to be considered competitive.

Prerequisite Courses

All prerequisite course work must be completed by December 31 of the year prior to entry. A transcript showing a bachelor's degree needs to be submitted before classes start in late May, with the exception of Bachelor Degree Completion Option students.

Applicants must complete all prerequisite courses with a "C" or better. Anatomy and Physiology must be completed within seven (7) years of matriculation into the program.

- Biological Sciences – 11+ semester hours (3 courses*)
Anatomy and Physiology sequence
HBIO 230 Anatomy and Physiology I with lab

HBIO 231 Human Physiology II with lab

Microbiology or Bacteriology

Biol 308 Microbiology with lab

- Chemistry – 11+ semester hours
(3 courses*)

Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry (one of the following courses, no lab)

Chem 300 Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry
with lab

Chem 400 Advanced Organic Chemistry with lab

Chem 380 Biochemistry

Year long series of General Chemistry with labs (may additional Organic or
Biochemistry Courses may be substituted)

Chem 220 General Chemistry I

Chem 230 General Chemistry II

Or any course listed above

- Statistics – 3-4 semester hours (one course)

Course must be taken in the department of psychology, sociology, statistics or math.

Math 207 General Elementary Statistics

Psy 350 Behavioral Statistics

Soc 301 Social Statistics

- Psychology or Sociology – 4 semester hours (one course)

Any course in psychology or sociology

Soc 101 Intro to Sociology

Psy 150 Intro to Psychology

*Courses taken to fulfill the science prerequisites must be those for science majors.

While not required, to meet the foreign language requirement, Spanish is strongly encouraged.

Clinical Experience

Pacific University's School of Physician Assistant Studies requires a minimum of 1,000 hours of Patient Care Experience at the time of CASPA submission. The experiences may come from paid work or volunteer hours. Experiences are documented through CASPA and we do not project hours for the future. We will review each applicant's hours on a case by case basis and it will be dependent on how an applicant describes them on CASPA.

Experiences that are **typically accepted** primarily include: checking vital signs, collecting patient histories, minor procedures or treatments, administering medications, etc.

Experiences that are **typically not accepted** primarily include: administration duties, billing, insurance, patient transport, lifeguarding, care of family members, companionship, working with animals, etc.

Please check our website for a list of examples.

If you have questions regarding your hours, please contact Leah Baldwin at leahbaldwin@pacificu.edu.

Hawaii Outreach Initiative

Applicable to applicants from Hawaii only

Pacific University has a long standing history with students from Hawai'i and would like to extend that relationship to our [School of Physician Assistant \(PA\) Studies](#). We are committed to addressing the physician assistant workforce issues in Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i Outreach Initiative is both an admissions advantage as well as a clinical rotation advantage in the state of Hawai'i. In order to show our commitment to Hawai'i, we will extend invitations to interview to the top five scoring Hawai'i Outreach applicants each year. While this does not guarantee admission, it is an acknowledgment of our dedication to applicants from Hawai'i and their needs.

In order to qualify for the Hawai'i Outreach Initiative, a prospective student must have a strong connection to Hawai'i and have active plans to return to the islands to practice as a PA. The strong connection may be shown by one or more of the following: current address, permanent address, high school diploma, college diploma, driver's license, or Native Hawaiian ancestry.

If students from Hawai'i are admitted to the program they will complete their didactic phase in Hillsboro, Oregon, with the rest of the incoming class. Students in the Hawai'i Outreach Initiative will have preference for the available clinical rotations in Hawai'i. Pacific University continually seeks out rotation sites in Hawai'i which will provide students with quality experiences and networking opportunities.

There is no separate application for the Hawai'i Outreach Initiative. Students are initially identified through their application materials and their stated commitment, on the Supplemental Application, to return to Hawai'i following graduation to work as a PA. Please [contact Graduate Admissions](#) if you have any questions.

Veterans Outreach Initiative

The Pacific University's [School of Physician Assistant Studies](#) has a longstanding history of supporting veterans to become physician assistants. The school has two programs to assist veterans to become PAs at Pacific, the Veterans Outreach Initiative and the Bachelor's Degree Completion Option.

The Veterans Outreach Initiative is an admissions advantage. The top seven veteran applicants, who meet all minimum criteria required by the School of Physician Assistant Studies, will be granted an on-campus interview. While this does not guarantee admission, it is an acknowledgment of our dedication to veterans and their needs.

We provide a master's level curriculum; however, it is possible to gain admission without a prior bachelor's degree. The Bachelor's Degree Completion Option was initially designed for veterans and is now an option for all students. The school acknowledges veterans' non-traditional route to the PA profession and is excited to offer the option for those who will benefit from this additional opportunity.

There is no separate application for the Veterans Outreach Initiative or Bachelor's Degree Completion Program. Students are initially identified through their CASPA and Supplemental Application. Please contact Graduate Admissions if you have any questions.

Sample of 4-Year Curriculum of PA Prerequisites

Freshman

Fall

Math 125	4
First Year Seminar	4
Chem 220	4
Elective	3-4

15-16

Winter

Elective	2-3
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2-3

Spring

Biol 200 or 201	4
Chem 230	4
Elective	6-8

14-16

Sophomore

Fall

Biol 200 or 201	4
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Engw 201	4	
Foreign Language	4	
Psych 150	4	
<hr/>		16
Winter		
Elective	2-3	
<hr/>		2-3
Spring		
Math 207 (Statistics)	4	
Foreign Language	4	
Elective (optional).....	6	
<hr/>		18
Junior		
Fall		
Biol 308.....	4	
HBIO 230.....	4	
Electives	6-8	
<hr/>		14-16
Winter		
Elective	2-3	
<hr/>		2-3
Spring		
Chem 300 and lab	4	
HBIO 231	4	
Electives	6-8	
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Senior		
Fall		
Electives	16	
<hr/>		16
Spring		
Electives	16	
<hr/>		16

Note:

Biol 200 and 201 are prerequisites for Biol 308

Math 122 is a prerequisite for Math 207 and Chem 220

Math 125 is a prerequisite for Chem 230