



Physician Assistant

What is a Physician Assistant? A physician assistant (PA) or physician associate is a healthcare professional who practices medicine as a part of a healthcare team with supervising physicians and other providers.

According to data from May 2024 on bls.gov the median annual PA is \$133,260, however this can vary depending upon specialty, practice setting, geographic location, and years of experience.

Applicants may elect to major in any chosen field; however, there are certain required courses which must be completed prior to admission to PA school – see second page.

How do I apply? The first opportunity to apply is the summer prior to your senior year for entrance to the summer or fall after you graduate.

- Register for and score competitively on the GRE
- Obtain relevant volunteer experience with a Physician/Physician Assistant
- Complete and submit the application for the school of your choice through CASPA

Selection Criteria:

- Grades – the average accepted GPR is 3.5. Competitive applicants typically have higher averages.
- Volunteer/Work experience – applicants who gain admission typically have spent time volunteering, working, and/or shadowing in environments that provide exposure to **patient contact** and to the physician assistant career.
- Letters of Recommendations
- Interview

Texas Program Start dates

Program	Starts	Prerequisite deadline
South/ UTSW	Spring (Jan)/ Summer (May)	By date application is submitted
UMHB	Spring (Jan)	August 31
UTHealth-SA/ UTRGV	Summer (May)/ Fall (Aug)	September 1
West Coast University	Spring (Jan)	October 1
UNT	Fall (Aug)	December 31
Baylor COM/ Austin College/ UTMB	Summer (June)/ Summer (June)/ Summer (July)	May of enrollment year
Franklin Pierce/Texas Tech/ HSU	Spring (March)/ Summer (May)/ Fall (Aug)	Prior to starting

- ❖ Austin College requires prerequisite coursework must be completed by the end of the fall semester prior to matriculation if graduated. If pending graduation, prerequisites must be completed by the end of the spring semester before matriculation.
- ❖ Texas Tech requires that you not have more than 9 hours of prerequisites in progress at the time of application.

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Texas PA School Prerequisites		Baylor	Hardin Simmons	Texas Tech	UMHB	UNT	UT Health SA	UTMB	UTRGV	UTSW	FPU	Austin College	South University	WCU
Biology I&II (8)	BIOL 111/112		✓						✓		✓(4 hours)		✓	
A&P I & II (8)	BIOL 319/320 or (1)VIBS 305/VTPP 423	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Microbiology (4-5)	BIOL 351, VTPB 405 or VTPB 425/426	✓	✓	✓	✓(BIOL 206)	✓	✓(BIOL 206)	✓ (or Bacteriology)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Genetics (3)	GENE 301, 302, or 320	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
General Chemistry I&II w Lab (8)	CHEM 101/111 & 102/112 or CHEM 119/120	✓	4 hours		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
OCHEM I w Lab (4)	CHEM 227/237 or 257	✓	✓	✓ (or BICH)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (or BICH)	✓	✓ (or BICH)	✓	✓ (or BICH)	✓
Biochemistry (3)	BICH 303, 409, or 410							✓						✓
Psychology (3)	PBSI 107		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Sociology (3)	SOCI 205	3 hours	✓ (or 3 more hours of psyc)					3 hours				3 hours		
Statistics (3)	STAT 301, 302, or 303	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓(STAT 201)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Medical Terminology	HLTH 354							✓(1 hour)			✓(1 hour)	✓(1 hour)		
English (3)		✓	✓											

- (1) VIBS 305 is not accepted at UT Southwestern or UT Health San Antonio. Double check with other programs as many are looking for Human Anatomy/Physiology.
- (2) FPU recommends psychology, genetics, immunology, nutrition, and cell biology
- (3) South University BIOL 112 can be substituted with Cell Biology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, or Immunology
- (4) BICH 303 does not require OCHEM II
- (5) PHLT Statistics: UMHB and UTSW accepts PHLT 316 or PHLT 314 and 315, UTRGV accepts PHLT 316 but prefers traditional stats, and UTHSCSA does not accept PHLT Stats
- (6) Many programs do not accept AP/CLEP credit to meet prerequisite requirements.

Note: All prerequisites and information are subject to change at any time without notice. It is the responsibility of the applicant to remain up-to-date on all requirements.