

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

A **physician assistant** is trained in such tasks as screening patients, taking histories, performing physical exams, developmental exams for children, giving electrocardiograms and blood transfusions, managing emergencies, casting, and splinting. Physicians willing to accept responsibility may assign more complicated therapeutic procedures to the physician assistant who has demonstrated ability. The PA may also be responsible for keeping all patient records and patient follow up. This is the fastest growing career in health professions.

Summarized from the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook 2004-2005. See www.bls.gov/oco/ocos081.htm.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES *HARDING UNIVERSITY (SEARCY, AR)

Requirements and Prerequisites	Equivalent FHU Classes	Hours
General Chemistry I & II & Labs	CHE121/121L & 122/122L	8
Organic Chemistry I or Biochemistry I	CHE321 or 331	3
Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II	BIO211 & 212	8
Psychology	PSY210 or 310	3
Psychology Elective	PSY218, 310 [^] , 418	3
Microbiology	BIO215	4
Medical Terminology+	BIO115	1
Mathematics	MAT101, 122 or 235**	3
Upper Level Biology	BIO333, 318, 335, or 431	3

*It would be to your advantage to take more science courses than the minimum required, such as additional chemistry courses, genetics, or immunology. It is also recommended that applicants take additional English and mathematics because of the need for strong analytical and communication skills. *CLEP examination credit may not be used to meet any of the listed prerequisites, unless a comparable number of credits in advanced courses in the discipline have been completed. AP credit may be used to satisfy prerequisite coursework provided that the AP credit is accepted by the applicant's institution and is posted on the applicant's official transcript.*

** Business Statistics is not accepted

[^]PSY310 can only be used one time.

IS A DEGREE REQUIRED? YES NO

A baccalaureate degree, which includes prerequisite courses for the program, must be completed prior to enrollment with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale for the prerequisites. Experience has shown that generally a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.00 must be presented for the applicant to be competitive. Must have at least a C on all prerequisites. Only 1 course may be left incomplete during the spring prior to admission.

IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?

Experience in direct medical patient care will add support to the application and is strongly recommended, as will demonstrated involvement in humanitarian service. Direct patient care experience may be either paid or voluntary. Time spent “shadowing” a physician assistant will also be considered. At least 200 patient contact hours are required. The applicant should have enough to recognize the physical and psychological demands of dealing with patients and to appreciate the challenges of being a healthcare professional. With more applications coming in, to be competitive an applicant will need additional hours beyond what is required. (Harding will count working as a medical scribe as contact hours.) Shadowing a PA specifically is highly advised. At least 10 hours of shadowing is recommended, but more is beneficial.

ADMISSION EXAM: GRE

Taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is also required. It must be completed by November 1 before you are admitted in the fall. No minimal score was given, but the typical PA student usually has a GRE score at or above the 40th percentile in each area.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications are available through CASPA (Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistant) at www.caspaonline.org The application cycle opens in April with the deadline being November 1.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES
LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY (NASHVILLE, TN)**

Requirements and Prerequisites	Equivalent FHU Classes	Hours
General Chemistry I & II & Labs or Organic Chemistry I & II & Labs	CHE121/121L & 122/122L or CHE321 & 322	8
Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II	BIO211 & 212	8
Biology Courses	BIO205, BIO333, BIO422, BIO335, BIO312, BIO431, BIO215, BIO318	8
Psychology	PSY210 or 310	3
Mathematics	MAT235	3

*It would be to your advantage to take more science courses than the minimum required, such as additional chemistry courses, genetics, or immunology. It is also recommended that applicants take additional English and mathematics because of the need for strong analytical and communication skills. *AP credit may be used to satisfy prerequisite coursework provided that the AP credit is accepted by the applicant's institution and is posted on the applicant's official transcript.*

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for both the cumulative GPA and the BCP GPA. Additionally, all applicants will be expected to have earned a 'C' or above in all prerequisite courses.

IS A DEGREE REQUIRED? YES NO

A baccalaureate degree, which includes prerequisite courses for the program, must be completed prior to enrollment with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale for the prerequisites. Experience has shown that generally a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.00 must be presented for the applicant to be competitive. Must have at least a C on all prerequisites.

IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?

We require all applicants to be exposed to the PA profession by shadowing a practicing physician assistant. We do not have a set minimum number of hours. We prefer you seek quality interactions with a practicing PA rather than just accumulating higher quantity hours. We will ask you about your shadowing experience during the interview process.

Lipscomb does require all applicants have patient contact hours. However, there is no set minimum required number of hours. We are more interested in the type of experience and how that experience helps you understand patient care and the healthcare team. We prefer to see quality patient interactions, rather than an arbitrary number of hours. We will ask you about your patient contact experience during the interview process. Patient contact hours in high numbers are seriously recommended to be competitive.

ADMISSION EXAM: NONE Taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is NOT required.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications are available through CASPA (Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistant) at www.caspaonline.org/. The application cycle begins April 1 and students should apply as soon as possible.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Many other factors are considered in the holistic review of the application, interview, and admissions process. They may include the following: communication skills, letters of recommendation, problem solving skills, professionalism, work experience, degree earned, research, volunteerism, interview performance, attitude, timeliness, and other factors that help differentiate those applicants that possess the highest likelihood of succeeding as part of the healthcare team as a physician assistant.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES
TREVECCA NAZARENE COLLEGE (NASHVILLE, TN)**

Requirements and Prerequisites	Equivalent FHU Classes	Hours
General Chemistry I & II* & labs	CHE121/121L & 122/122L	8
Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II	BIO211 & 212	8
Psychology	PSY210 & 310	6
Microbiology	BIO215	4
Medical Terminology	BIO115	1-3

* Due to the competitiveness of the selection process, all applicants are encouraged to take as many additional upper level science courses as possible. Not only do the courses provide information of academic performance, but they also assist in preparation for the rigorous program. The successful completion of these additional courses will assist in your competitiveness. Certain upper-level science courses have shown a strong correlation to successful completion of the rigors of the PA program. These sources include Immunology, Pathophysiology, Genetics, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Organic Chemistry & Biochemistry.

IS A DEGREE REQUIRED? X YES NO

A baccalaureate degree, which includes prerequisite courses for the program, must be completed prior to enrollment with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 on a 4.00 scale. While any undergraduate major is acceptable, biology or chemistry majors will be the best prepared.

Last year's entering class had an average general GPA of 3.7, Science GPA of 3.76, a GRE combined score of 307 and had taken 5 upper division science courses.

IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?

In the opinion of the PA program faculty, past medical experience provides a framework upon which students can build and facilitate the expansion of the fund of medical knowledge. Clinical experience is **required**. An applicant must log at least 250 hours of **direct** patient care. **All**

Direct Patient Care hours must be logged at the time of submitting your application.

We do not accept updates sent to the program via email.

Shadowing, volunteering, and medical mission exposure does not count toward direct patient care hours. Positions that qualify include: Medical Assistant, Surgical Technician, First Assistant, Scribe, CNA, LPN, RN, EMT/Paramedic, OT/PT or OT asst./PT asst., AT-C, Phlebotomist, RT, ER technician, Lab Technician, Clinical Pharmacy Technician-with client exposure, and Clinical Dietician. Positions that do NOT qualify are Personal Care Assistant, Pharmacy Technician-without clinical exposure, Unit Clerk, Camp Counselor, Counselor, and Social Worker. Clinical training hours for prior degrees obtained are not to be submitted in the application as direct patient care. **Only hours logged as an employee of any of the above clinical positions will be accepted. Please do not include hours accrued in training or working towards certification. All hours must be logged at the time of application submission.**

At the time of submission, an applicant should have at least 10 hours logged of shadowing a physician assistant. An applicant may update his or her application. This provides a sufficient insight as to the role and duties of practicing physician assistants and is believed to be an accurate indicator of an individual's desire and commitment to the profession. Shadowing may be logged from multiple physician assistants. All hours logged should be obtained via direct clinical observation and not based on a personal relationship. Mission shadowing can be utilized in the case of direct patient care with a PA. Applicants will have until October 1st to log all shadowing hours in CASPA. The program does not accept email updates.

ADMISSION EXAM: GRE

Taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and making a score of 300 (combined verbal and quantitative).
The 2018 cohort has a GRE of 308, a science GPA of 3.7, & a cumulative GPA of 3.81.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 1

Applications are available through CASPA (Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistant) at www.caspaonline.org/.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
(MEMPHIS, TN) ***January Start Date*****

*Requirements and Prerequisites	Equivalent FHU Classes	Hours
General Chemistry I & II (with labs)***	CHE121, 121L & 122, 122L	8
General Biology I or II & upper division BIO^	BIO111 or 112 and BIO 300/400	8
Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II**	BIO211 & 212	8
Psychology, Sociology or Anthropology	PSY210, 310, SOC 241, or BIB351	3
Microbiology	BIO215	3
Medical Terminology	BIO115	2
Statistics	MAT235	3

*It would be to your advantage to take more science courses than the minimum required, such as Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry I, cell biology, molecular biology & genetics.

**Must include laboratory experiences-may be one term of comparative or human anatomy and one term of physiology. Online anatomy and physiology lab courses will NOT meet this prerequisite.

***Organic chemistry or biochemistry is recommended in addition to these requirements.

^ Applicants who take above the requirement will receive additional consideration on their application.

IS A DEGREE REQUIRED? YES NO

A baccalaureate degree, which includes prerequisite courses for the program, must be completed prior to enrollment with a minimum CASPA cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.00 scale for the prerequisites.

Experience has shown that generally a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 must be presented for the applicant to be competitive. A grade of “C” or better must be made on any pre-requisite course. CLEP credit may not be used for any of the pre-requisites. AP credit may be accepted if the undergraduate institution counts it. Classes begin in January. All applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning. All applicants must have graduated by August 31 of the year prior to the program’s matriculation.

IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we recognize that some applicants will not be able to obtain direct care experience or shadowing hours. We are waiving our minimum requirement for shadowing or direct care experience. We will give preference to those applicants that have a history of direct care experience. The Program considers it vital that prospective students enhance their knowledge of medicine through direct, patient-oriented clinical experience in a variety of settings. Such experience, which is frequently gained through volunteer work, should enable the student to acquire a greater understanding of the realities of medicine and provide an opportunity for service. In the past, the UTHSC program required 500 hours to be completed at the time of application submission, but majority of students had substantially more. In order to be competitive a student must gain those experience hours.

ADMISSION EXAM: PA-CAT

UTHSC will require the PA-CAT for the 2023-2024 CASPA admission cycle. We are not setting a minimum score for this admission cycle. The GRE is no longer accepted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 31

Applications are available through CASPA (Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistant) at www.caspaonline.org/. The application cycle begins May 1. Since UTHSC works on a rolling enrollment, you are encouraged to submit your application early.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES
Bethel University (McKenzie, TN)

Requirements and Prerequisites	Equivalent FHU Classes	Hours
General Chemistry I & II & Labs***	CHE121/121L & 122/122L	8
Genetics	BIO335	4
Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II	BIO211 & 212	8
Psychology	PSY210	3
Microbiology	BIO215	4
General Biology I & II	BIO 111 & 112	8
Pathophysiology +	BIO 318	3
Pharmacology+	NUS 325	3
Biochemistry & Organic Chemistry+	CHE 321/322 & CHE 331	4-12
Cell Biology+	BIO333	4
Immunology+	CHE431	3
Statistics+	MAT235	3

*It would be to your advantage to take more science courses than the minimum required, such as sociology, child and/or abnormal psychology, or other life science, or social sciences beyond the minimum. It is also recommended that applicants take additional English and mathematics because of the need for strong analytical and communication skills.

Minimum of B- on all prerequisite courses.

+ Recommended

**5 of the 8 prerequisites must be completed at the time of application.

***Prerequisite for Organic Chemistry.

IS A DEGREE REQUIRED? X YES NO

A baccalaureate degree, which includes prerequisite courses for the program, must be completed prior to enrollment with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 overall & 3.25 for science courses on a 4.00 scale. While any undergraduate major is acceptable, biology or chemistry majors will be the best prepared. Eighty science hours must be completed before applying to the program.

IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?

Patient care experience is valued, but no longer listed as required. Past medical experience provides a framework upon which students can build and facilitate the expansion of the fund of medical knowledge. The recent data provided shows an average of over 2800 hours of experience from students. Completion of a minimum of 40 hours shadowing with a Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C), within the past 5 years is also required.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: VOLUNTEER

Bethel requires the completion of a minimum of 25 hours of Community Service/Volunteering within the past 5 years.

ADMISSION EXAM: GRE

Taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is also required. A minimum score of 300 is recommended. The PA-CAT is only recommended and does not improve or reduce admission likelihood.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 1

Applications are available through CASPA (Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistant) at www.caspaonline.org/. Classes begin each January. The application must be complete by September 1. All forms should be submitted to Bethel University Physician Assistant Program by October 1. **APPLY EARLY!**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Matriculation to the program begins in January.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BETHEL:

Admission to the Bethel University PA program is very competitive.

Statistically, before applying to the program the ideal applicant has the following:

- a 3.4 overall GPA
- 304/3.8 GRE scores
- completed 250+ hours of healthcare experience
- completed 100 shadowing hours
- completed 80 science hours

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES
FAULKNER UNIVERSITY (MONTGOMERY, AL)**

*Requirements and Prerequisites	Equivalent FHU Classes	Hours
General Chemistry I & II (with labs)	CHE121, 121L & 122, 122L	8
General Biology I or II	BIO111 or 112	8
Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II	BIO211 & 212	8
General Psychology	PSY210	3
Abnormal or Developmental Psychology	PSY218 or PSY310	3
Microbiology	BIO215	3
Medical Terminology	BIO115	2
Statistics	MAT235	3

Applicants may have up to 9 credit hours (or 3 courses) in progress at the time of application. All prerequisite courses must be completed by June prior to starting the program in August. Additional science coursework may be considered to enhance the application includes immunology, genetics, health education, pathophysiology, biochemistry, physics, cell biology, and organic chemistry.

IS A DEGREE REQUIRED? YES NO

A baccalaureate degree, which includes prerequisite courses for the program, must be completed prior to enrollment with a minimum cumulative and prerequisite GPA of 3.0 on a 4.00 scale. A grade of “C” or better must be made on any pre-requisite course.

IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?

100 hours of prior direct patient contact and 40 hours of shadowing is required. Additional patient care and shadowing above the minimum enhances the application.

ADMISSION EXAM: GRE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 1

Applications are available through CASPA (Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistant) at www.caspaonline.org/. The application cycle begins May 1. Since Faulkner works on a rolling enrollment, you are encouraged to submit your application early.