



# Pre-Physician Assistant Preparation

Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine under the supervision of licensed physicians, and they are qualified to perform approximately 80% of the duties commonly carried out by primary care physicians. PAs practice in almost all healthcare settings and in many medical and surgical specialties. They must pass a national certifying examination, open only to graduates of accredited PA programs. The PA degree is at the master's-level, based on a curriculum involving both classroom instruction and clinical rotations. Therefore, most students entering a PA program have already completed a baccalaureate degree, usually in the sciences. The average entrant has had approximately four years of healthcare experience, competitive scores on the GRE, and a grade point average of between 3.4-4.0. Some schools now require the PA-CAT exam: [pa-cat.com](http://pa-cat.com). Also, many schools require additional tests like CASPer® [takecasper.com/about-casper](http://takecasper.com/about-casper). Below are the requirements to be considered for PA school admission. If the requirements are met, **identifying an undergraduate major is based completely on the student's interests and goals**. Biology, biochemistry, neuroscience, or health science are some Norwich programs to consider. PA schools do not favor a particular major.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Additional coursework in humanities and social sciences, as well as knowledge of medical terminology, is often required. Check with your destination program.

### ENGLISH

EN 110 Writing and Inquiry I  
 EN 111 Writing and Inquiry II

### CHEMISTRY

CH 103/L General Chem. I w/Lab  
 CH 104/L General Chem. II w/Lab  
 CH 225/L Organic Chem. I w/Lab  
 CH 226/L or Organic Chem. II w/Lab  
 CH 324/L Biochemistry I w/Lab

### MATH

MA 121 Calculus I\*\*  
 MA 232 Elementary Statistics

### BIOLOGY

BI 101/L Principles of Biology I w/Lab  
 BI 102/L Principles of Biology II w/Lab  
 BI 215/L Human Anatomy & Phys. I w/Lab  
 BI 216/L Human Anatomy & Phys. II w/Lab  
 BI 220/L Introductory Microbiology w/Lab  
 \*BI 303/L \*Genetics w/Lab

### PSYCHOLOGY

PY 211 Introduction to Psychology

### \*PHYSICS

\*PS 201/L or \*General Physics I w/Lab  
 PS 211/L University Physics I w/Lab  
 PS 202/L or General Physics II w/Lab  
 PS 212/L University Physics II w/Lab

\*\* Note: not all PA programs require calculus – check entry requirements at your destination program.

\* Highly recommended but not required at all schools.

Association of Physician Assistant Programs: [aapa.org](http://aapa.org); Physician Assistant Education Association: [paeonline.org](http://paeonline.org).



NORWICH  
UNIVERSITY®

PRE-HEALTH TRACK

**You can get healthcare experience by becoming a:**

- Medical assistant
- Emergency medical technician (EMT)
- Medic or medical corpsman
- Lab assistant/phlebotomist
- Registered nurse
- Emergency room technician
- Surgical tech
- Certified nursing assistant (CNA)