

# Pre-Physicians Assistant Academic Prerequisite Guide 2009/2010

\*\*\*There are academic prerequisite variations between Physicians Assistants Schools. Therefore, it is up to each student to research the school(s) of interest for specific requirements.\*\*\*

## Overall Academic GPA

The average overall academic GPA for Physician/Surgeon Assistant schools for the 2007-2008 cycle, as reported by the Physician Assistant Education Association, was a 3.43 on a 4.0 scale.

## Overall Science GPA

The average overall science GPA for Physician/Surgeon Assistant schools for the 2007-2008 cycle, as reported by the Physician Assistant Education Association, was a 3.38 on a 4.0 scale.

## GRE

The average “minimum” accepted GRE score for most Physician/Surgeon Assistant schools is 1000. \*Students should check with individual schools to determine their minimum requirement.

## Required Courses

Although many Physician/Surgeon Assistant schools offer master’s degrees, some have a baccalaureate path. Students desiring the bachelor’s route must complete two years of college credit prior to admission.

Most Physician/Surgeon assistant schools require the following courses to be completed before admission, but please note that schools vary in requirements and it is up to the you, the Student, to research schools of interest:

General Chemistry (with labs)	CHEM 1110/11 CHEM 1120/21	8 hrs.
Organic Chemistry (with labs)	CHEM 2010/11 CHEM 2020/21	10 hrs.
General Biology (with labs)	BIOL 1110/11 BIOL1120/21	8 hrs.
English Composition	ENGL 1010 ENGL 1020	6 hrs.
Communication**	SPCH 1300	3 hrs.
Probability & Statistics	MATH 1530	3 hrs.
Psychology	PSYC 1310	3 hrs.
Anatomy & Physiology I & II	HSCI 2010/11 2020/21	8 hrs.
Microbiology	HSCI 3320/21	4 hrs.
Biochemistry	HSCI 3030/31	4 hrs.
<u>Course Electives</u>		<u>33 credit hrs.</u>
Total (minimum)		90 credit hrs.

\*\* Choice of: General Speech, Public Speaking, Argumentation and Debate

## Recommended Courses

Most Physician/Surgeon Assistant schools recommend the following courses:

Biology	BIOL 1130/31	4 hrs.
Genetics	BIOL 3100 & 3141(lab optional)	3-5 hrs.
Calculus I & II	MATH 1910 1920	8 hrs.
Immunology	HSCI 3540	3 hrs.
Medical Terminology	PUBH 2750	3 hrs.
Nutrition	FACS 2420	3 hrs.
Sociology	SOAA 1020	3 hrs.
Computer Sciences	*Multiple Choices	3 hrs.
Humanities/Social Science	*Multiple Choices	15 hrs.

\*Students should contact individual schools for specific requirements.

## Majors

Students may major in the field of their choice. However, some schools feel that students who major in Biology or Chemistry will be the most prepared for entry into Physician/Surgeon Assistant School. Students should speak with a Medical Professions advisor before/when declaring a major.

## Application Process

Students should begin the application process to Physician/Surgeon Assistant School during their junior year of college. Most schools use the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Students may begin applying May 1<sup>st</sup> and can utilize the site to determine the application deadline for the school of their choice. The website address is [www.caspaonline.org](http://www.caspaonline.org).

During the application process, most schools will require three letters of recommendation to be submitted, one of which must be from a doctor or Physician Assistant. Therefore it is imperative for students to establish a strong relationship with the person whom the student is volunteering for or shadowing.

## Experience

Most Physician/Surgeon Assistant schools require applicants to have health care experience. Volunteering or Shadowing a doctor or Physician/Surgeon Assistant during the student's entire college career is highly recommended.

## Extracurricular Activities

Physician Assistant schools are interested in students who are well rounded. They want to know that entering students can handle a rigorous course load while also balancing work/extracurricular activities. Students should visit the SORC located on the first floor

of the Culp center or [www.etsu.edu/sorc](http://www.etsu.edu/sorc) for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization, you must demonstrate leadership qualities!

### **Concerns**

Students must meet with their pre-professional and academic advisor each semester. Furthermore, students who are Athletes or in the Honors College must also seek advisement from those parties. Serious consequences can occur if students fail to meet with advisors, such as not graduating on schedule, not taking the appropriate courses to prepare for the GRE, etc.

### **Take Note**

Be cautious when putting anything on social networking sites and the internet (such as MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Email, Voicemail, Mobile Text Messaging, Twitter, and blogs).

Email addresses should also be considered when corresponding with professional schools. Remember that first impressions can also be based on correspondence. Is your email address appropriate for professional communication?

Messages and images you send electronically are reflections of your judgment and potential suitability for Professional Careers. Self-deprecating behaviors shared on an accessible venue can be viewed and/or shared by anyone, resulting in detriment to your acceptance into a Professional School.

**\*\* PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS DO LOOK AT INTERNET SOURCES WHEN CONSIDERING CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS!!!**

## Suggested Two Year Schedule for Pre-Physician/Surgeon Assistant Students

### Fall Freshmen Year

Course	Credit Hours
CHEM 1110/1111	4
BIOL 1010/1011	4
MATH 1530	3
ENGL 1010	3
Elective	3
	17

### Fall Sophomore Year

Course	Credit Hours
CHEM 2010/2011	4
BIOL 1130	4
MATH 1910	4
SPCH 1300	3
Elective	3
	18

### Spring Freshmen Year

Course	Credit Hours
CHEM 1120/1121	4
BIOL 1020/1021	4
PSYC 1310	3
ENGL 1020	3
Elective	3
	17

### Spring Sophomore Year

Course	Credit Hours
CHEM 2020/2021	4
MATH 1920	4
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	17

**\*Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours each semester.**