

BIOLOGY MAJOR—Pre-Medical Option 2018-2019

Track II: Pre-Physician Assistant

The Pre-Medicine option in Biology has two tracks. This document outlines the requirements for Track II: Pre-Physician Assistant which is designed for students interested in being a physician assistant (PA). (Track I: Pre-Medicine is outlined on a separate document). Courses used to satisfy these requirements also satisfy the Biology and Society, Organismal Biology, Physiology, Writing Intensive Course (WIC) and upper division science requirements in the Biology major. A 3.0 GPA is required to complete the option. Students completing the requirements listed below will meet the prerequisites for most PAEA accredited physician assistant schools in the U.S. and abroad. Some PA schools will not accept online science courses (especially those with online labs) or prerequisite classes from study abroad programs. Students should always consult the requirements of all schools to which they plan to apply. Previous versions of this option are different and are tracked in MyDegrees. **All courses and prerequisites are subject to change.**

Core Coursework			
Course	Pre(co)requisites	Term	Credits
PHAR 210 Terminology of the Health Sciences		F, W, SP, SU	2
PSY 201 AND PSY 202 General Psychology		F, W, SP, SU	3,3
SOC 204 Introduction to Sociology		F, W, SP, SU	3
PHL 205 Ethics OR PHL/REL 444 Biomedical Ethics	Sophomore standing for PHL/REL 444	F, W, SP, SU	4
PSY 350 Human Lifespan Development OR PSY 381 Abnormal Psychology	PSY 201 and PSY 202	F, W, SP, SU	4
PH 201, 202, 203 General Physics	MTH 112 (C-)	F,W,SP,SU	5,5,5
BI 331-333 Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology AND BI 341-343 Human Anatomy and Physiology Lab	BI 211, 212, 213 (C-); CH 233/CH 263	F, W, SP (in order)	3,3,3 2,2,2
Writing Intensive Course			
BI 317 Scientific Theory and Practice	BI 211, 212, 213, (C-)	F, W?, SP?	3
BI 319 Critical Thinking & Communication in the Life Sciences	BI 211, 212, 213; ST 351	F?, W?, SP	3
MB 385 Emerging Infectious Diseases & Epidemics	BI 211, 212, 213	W	3
HSTS 417 History of Medicine	Upper-division standing	F, W, SP, SU	4
Medicine, Health and Society (select one course from the following):			
ANTH 352 Anthropology, Health, and the Environment		F, W, SP, SU	3
ANTH 383 Introduction to Medical Anthropology		F, W, SP, SU	3
ANTH 474 Cross-cultural Health and Healing		?	4
BB 332 Molecular Medicine	Any biology course	F	3
BI 420 Viruses in Modern Society		Alternate W	3
H 210 Introduction to the Health Care System		F, W, SP, SU	3
H 225 Social and Individual Health Determinants		F, W, SP	4
H 312 HIV/AIDS and STI's in Modern Society		F, W, SP, SU	3
H 320 Introduction to Human Disease		F, W, SP, SU	3
H 333 Global Public Health		F, W, SP	3
HSTS 416 History of Medicine Pre-1800		?	4
MB 330 Disease and Society		SU	3
SOC 350 Health, Illness, and Society		F, W, SU	4
Upper Division Elective (select three credits from Path I or one course from Path II)			
Path I Experiential Learning Credits: (complete any combination of three credits below)			
BI 309 Teaching Practicum or 409: Advanced Teaching Practicum	By Approval	F,W,SP	1-3
BI 401 Research and Scholarship	By Approval	F,W,SP,SU	1-3
Path II Science Elective: (select one 3+ credit, upper division (300-400 level) science elective science course not used above):			
Courses from BB, BI, BOT, CH, MB, MTH, PH, ST, & Z including double major, minor and Bacc. Core may be used with exception of courses listed as excluded below. Other science courses outside of COS and other credits taken internationally may be used by approval. Excluded: 401-410, BB 350, BB 490-492, BI 331-333, BI 341-343, CH 334, CH 335, CH 336, ST 314 Z 361/362, Z 461, and any 399 or 499 courses not approved.			

OSU Pre-Physician Assistant Resources and Information

Applying to Physician Assistant School

Admission Test: Most schools require an entrance exam, often the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) <http://www.gre.org/>. Some schools will accept MCAT scores.

References: It is important to begin establishing relationships with professors and professionals throughout your education. Applicants will generally need a minimum of three references. References who can speak about you beyond a grade you received and can address your character and professionalism will be particularly strong.

Medical Experience: PA schools clinical experience requirements range from 500 to 4000 hours. Some require clinical hours to be complete before applying – check specific schools for details. Some opportunities for medical experience are listed below (research experience is not considered clinical). Typically one can earn 2000 hours working full time in a year.

Medical Experience:

Internships, volunteering or working in health care is important to begin early to gain experience and to clarify your career choice and interests. See the medical sections of the internships & volunteering list: <http://ib.oregonstate.edu/professional/internship-research/intern-volunteer-list>.

International Medical Internships through the OSU study abroad office are a great way to prepare you for work in a diverse population, improve language and/or cross-cultural communication skills, and gain clinical experience through clinic rotations: <http://ib.oregonstate.edu/professional/international>.

Shadowing and other healthcare experience is a good way to get exposure to the field and to decide if being a PA is for you. To learn more about healthcare experience, you may view this document: <http://ib.oregonstate.edu/files/ib/Healthcare%20Experience.pdf>.

Work experience

Students are encouraged to pursue direct hands-on patient care jobs on their own, and many schools require that medical experience be paid. Examples of how students can gain work experience include becoming certified and working as: a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), a Medical Assistant, a Phlebotomist, a Medical Scribe, or an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). It is important to verify requirements of individual schools when applying, as acceptable experience varies across institutions.

CPR Certification

Some schools require that students have a current CPR certification at time of application to PA school.

Health Care Careers Enrichment Programs

See the following links for searchable databases of summer programs to learn what it is like to work in a health care or research field: <https://explorehealthcareers.org/enrichment-programs/>, or <http://www.naahp.org/StudentResources/summeropportunities.aspx>

Leadership:

Health profession schools value leadership experience as a way to develop interpersonal skills and the ability to lead as part of a team. There are a variety of ways to incorporate leadership experiences as an undergraduate, including: officer roles in a student club, coordinator for an organization (public, private, or non-profit), or being a peer mentor or an ambassador for your college or department. Students may also consider taking leadership courses or completing the OSU Leadership Minor: (http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/leadership_minor/).

Campus Resources

Pre-PA Advising: Contact your assigned advisor.

Go to <http://ib.oregonstate.edu/advising/appointments>.

Additional Resources

- American Academy of PAs <http://www.aapa.org/>. Click on "What is a PA?" link to learn more details about this career.
- Central Application Service for Physician Assistants www.caspaonline.org
- Biology Careers Page - Medical and Health Care <http://ib.oregonstate.edu/professional/careers>
- Explore Health Careers www.explorehealthcareers.org - learn more about the PA field as well as explore other health professions careers.
- OHSU PA Program: <http://www.ohsu.edu/pa/>
- Pacific University PA Program: <http://www.pacificu.edu/pa/>
- Furman University Medical and Health Care Links <http://facweb.furman.edu/~jsnyder/careers/medical.html>
- Oregon Society of Physician Assistants <http://www.oregonpa.org/>
- Physician Assistant Education Association <http://www.paeonline.org/>

Study Abroad:

Although specific prerequisite professional courses should not be done abroad, study abroad is a great opportunity and very feasible for Pre-PA students. You can work with your advisor on how to schedule and apply study abroad courses to your degree. See <http://ib.oregonstate.edu/professional/international>.

Research Opportunities: Research provides the opportunity to develop analytical and communication skills, as well as an understanding of research methods and the process of science. For these reasons, it is considered excellent preparation for a career in the health professions. See: <http://ib.oregonstate.edu/professional/research-internships>.