

Physician Assistant

Pre-requisite and General Information

From the American Academy of Physician Assistants website:

"Physician assistants (PAs) are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs perform a comprehensive range of medical duties, from basic primary care to high-technology specialty procedures. PAs often act as first or second assistants in major surgery and provide pre- and postoperative care. In some rural areas where physicians are in short supply, PAs serve as the primary providers of health care, conferring with their supervising physicians and other medical professionals as needed and as required by law. PAs can be found in virtually every medical and surgical specialty."

A listing of all Physician Assistant programs in the United States: <http://directory.paeaonline.org>

NOTE: Fresno State does not have a Physician Assistant Program

Below is a typical list of pre-requisites:

- ✓ One course in Human Anatomy with lab (BIOL 67A-B)
- ✓ One course in Human Physiology with lab (BIOL 67A-B)
- ✓ One course in General Chemistry with lab (CHEM 1A/1AL)
- ✓ One course in Microbiology or Bacteriology with lab (BIOL 20 or 120)
- ✓ One course in Algebra, Calculus or Statistics (MATH 70, 75 or PSYCH 42)
- ✓ One course in English Composition (ENGL 10 or ENGL 5A-B)
- ✓ Two courses in Social Sciences
 - Ideal courses provide exposure to human or organizational behavior such as Psychology, Sociology, Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies or Cultural Anthropology
- ✓ Overall GPA and Science GPA around 3.0

NOTE:

- ✓ Individual programs may vary. Visit each school's website in order to obtain accurate information about pre-requisites. Contact each school directly to determine if the coursework you can take here at Fresno State will meet their requirements.
- ✓ Most PA programs also require hands-on patient care experience that must be completed prior to enrollment.

The average PA program takes **26.5 months** to complete. Upon graduation from an accredited program, PAs are eligible to take the national certifying examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Only those passing the test can use the title Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C). Information about this exam can be found here: <http://www.nccpa.net>

For general information about PA programs, visit:

Physician Assistant Education Association Website: <http://www.paeaonline.org>

Fresno State Pre-Med Website: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/csm/premed/alternative/physician-assistant.html>