

Physician Assistant (PA)

Q. What is a Physician Assistant (PA)?

A. Physician assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. PAs employed by the federal government are credentialed to practice. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and in virtually all states can write prescriptions. Within the physician-PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services.

Q. What are the prerequisites for applying to a PA program?

A. PA programs look for students who have a desire to study, work hard, and to be of service to their community. Most physician assistant programs require applicants to have previous health care experience and some college education. Commonly nurses, EMTs, and paramedics apply to PA programs. Listed below are the recommended prerequisite admission requirements for most Physician Assistant programs:

Fullerton College courses:

One semester of Human Anatomy	ANAT 231 F
One semester of Human Physiology	ANAT 240 F
One semester of Microbiology	MICRO 262 F
One semester of General Chemistry	CHEM 111AF
One semester of General Physics	PHYS 205 F
One semester of English Composition	ENGL 100 F

Recommended (required at some schools):

One semester of College Algebra	MATH 141 F
One course in Statistics	MATH 120 F
One or more courses in Psychology	PSY 101 F
One semester of Sociology	SOC 101 F

* Each accredited physician assistant program has its own application process and set of admission requirements. Please contact the programs you are interested in directly.

For additional information, check the following websites:

American Academy of Physician Assistants	www.aapa.org
Riverside Community College	www.rcc.edu
Charles R. Drew University	www.cdrewu.edu
Western University	www.westernu.edu
University of Southern California	www.usc.edu
Loma Linda University	www.llu.edu

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