

Pre-Physician Assistant Prerequisites and Timeline for Application



Idaho State
University

Kasiska Division
of Health Sciences

How to use this document:

- These are the prerequisites for the ISU Physician Assistant program and for preparations to take the GRE. Check other individual programs for exact requirements.
- Take these classes (according to prerequisites). Work with a pre-health advisor to determine correct sequencing.
- This page demonstrates the prerequisites, you may choose to take two to four years – whatever amount of time fits best for your plan.
- Add major classes along with pre-physician assistant prerequisites
- Pay close attention to sequences, prerequisites and when classes are offered
- Your major can be in any field as long as you have the classes to prepare you for a physician assistant program – Choose your major by your greatest field of interest.

Course Subject and Title	Credits	Offered	Pre & Co Requisites
BIOL 1101/L General Biology I and Lab	4	F,S,Su	Must place into MATH 1108
BIOL 1102/L General Biology II and Lab	4	F,S	BIOL 1101/L
BIOL 2221/L Introductory Microbiology and Lab BIOL 2235/L General Microbiology and Lab	4	F,S,Su F,S	CHEM 1101 or CHEM 1111/L, BIOL 1101/L or BIOL 2227/L BIOL 1101/L, BIOL 1102/L, CHEM 1112/L
BIOL 2227/L Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab OR BIOL 3301/L Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab	4	F,S	Must place into MATH 1108 BIOL 1101 or BIOL 2227/L
BIOL 2228/L Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab OR BIOL 3302/L Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab	4	F,S	BIOL 2227/L or BIOL 3301/L BIOL 1101/L or BIOL 2227/L
BIOL 4432 Biochemistry	3	F,S	BIOL 1101/L, CHEM 3301
CHEM 1111/L General Chemistry I and Lab	5	F,S	MATH 1143 or 1147 (recommended – CHEM 1101)
CHEM 1112/L General Chemistry II and Lab	4	F,S	CHEM 1111/L
CHEM 3301/3303 Organic Chemistry I and Lab	4	F	CHEM 1112/L
MATH 1153 Statistical Reasoning	3	F,S,Su	MATH 1108
PSYC 3301 Abnormal Psychology	3	F,S	

For Physician Assistant Program Application

Register to take the GRE – receive test score 10-15 days after test date
Prior to the start of the Application Process – Research programs you wish to apply to
3-6 months prior to application – Begin drafting your personal essay and finding letter writers
CASPA Application
At least 3 months prior to deadline – Create your account; complete the “Colleges Attended” and “Evaluations” sections
10-12 weeks prior to deadline – Ask your schools to send official transcripts directly to CASPA
6-8 weeks prior to deadline – Submit and complete your application; monitor your application for receipt of transcripts and letters of evaluation
4-6 weeks prior to deadline – Monitor your application until your status is verified
After Deadline – Download a copy of your application for your records
You must reach out to your programs to learn about school’s admissions decisions

What else do you need?

- Undergraduate degree
 - Major – complete all requirements for major
 - General Education Requirements
- Patient Care/Healthcare Experience
 - Many PA programs require prior health care experience with hands on experience
 - Medical Assistant
 - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)/ Paramedic
 - Lab assistant/phlebotomist
 - Registered Nurse/CNA
 - Emergency Room Technician
- Shadowing in Healthcare Settings
 - Programs may have a minimum time requirement for shadowing experience
 - Must be done under the supervision of a certified healthcare professional
 - Look for opportunities using your own networking and connections, both personal and professional
- Leadership
 - Healthcare or non-healthcare setting, students are encouraged to be creative
 - Shows that you are a strong member of a team
 - Showing leadership will make you stand out from other applicants and show you are actively preparing for your future in your career and community
- Research
 - More important for some programs than others
 - Talk to your advisor or instructions for help finding research opportunities
- Letters of Recommendation
 - The type and number of letters needed will change based on the program you are applying to
 - For example, one letter from a science professor, one letter from an health professional who directly observed you, one personal reference
 - Consult with your pre-health advisor to determine letters of recommendation
- Attributes
 - Enthusiasm
 - Patience
 - Problem Solving Skills
 - Adaptability
 - Compassion
 - Collaborative

Helpful links:

AAPA: <https://www.aapa.org/>

PAEA: <https://paeaonline.org/>

Idaho PA: <https://www.idahopa.org/>

NCCPA: <https://www.nccpa.net/>

CASPA Applicant Help Center: https://help.liasionedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center

GRE: <https://www.ets.org/gre/>

Pre-Health at ISU – isu.edu/hpac