

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Physician Assistants are healthcare professionals who practice medicine as members of a team that includes their supervising physicians. PAs deliver a broad range of medical and surgical services to diverse populations in rural and urban settings. 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 prescribe medications. Students interested in becoming a PA should know they would be entering one of the fastest growing professions in the US, with outstanding job prospects over the next 15 to 20 years.

There are approximately 218 accredited PA programs in the United States, and the average program takes 27 months to complete. Unfortunately, the prerequisite coursework required for admission to PA programs is not standardized. While program requirements vary, it is not uncommon for PA programs to require some or all of the following courses:

Biology (1 year)	BIO/MBI 115, 116
General Chemistry (1 year)	CHM 141, 144 and CHM 142, 145
Organic Chemistry/CHM 241, 244 and CHM 242, 245	
Biochemistry (1 year)	<b>or</b>
Anatomy (1 semester)	BIO 201 <b>or</b> KNH 244*, 244L*
Mathematics (1 semester)	MTH 102 or higher
Statistics (1 semester)	STA 261
Microbiology (1 semester)	MBI 201
Physiology (1 semester)	BIO 161 <b>or</b> BIO 305
Psychology (2	

attending. Second, the majority of PA schools require that students apply to their programs using a web-based application service called CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants). For a complete listing of schools that require applicants to apply through CASPA, please visit the following website: <https://portal.caspaonline.org/>. Lastly, the majority of PA programs require students to take the Graduate Records Exam (GRE).

For additional information about preparing for a career as a Physician Assistant, please contact Ms. Tailyn Walborn via email at [walborta@miamioh.edu](mailto:walborta@miamioh.edu).