

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISEMENT WORKSHEET 2018-2019

School of Community Medicine, OU-Tulsa

University of Central Oklahoma

Health Professions Advisor

Department of Biology

200 Howell Hall

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Required Courses for the OU-Tulsa Physician Assistant Program

Non-Science:

English Composition I and English Composition II (6 semester hrs); College Algebra (3 semester hrs) (or higher math); General Psychology and Psychology elective (6 semester hrs) (recommended: abnormal psychology or developmental psychology not sociology)

Science (with a grade of "C" or better):

Chemistry (12 semester hrs) (General Chemistry or higher with lab. 3 of the 12 must be Organic Chemistry with lab or Biochemistry with lab); Human Anatomy with lab (4 semester hrs); Human Physiology with lab (4 semester hrs); Microbiology with lab (4 semester hrs); Upper division science (6 semester hours - must be 3000 or 4000 level and Biochemistry does not count). Recommended: Pathogenic Microbiology, Immunology, Genetics, Embryology, Histology, Virology.

A Bachelor's degree is required. All prerequisites must be a grade of "C" or higher. All upper division science prerequisites and Anatomy and Physiology must be completed within the last 7 years from matriculation. No more than one science and one non-science prerequisite can be in progress after December 31st of year prior to enrollment.

UCO Courses that Meet Required Courses for OU-Tulsa

ENG 1113	English Composition
ENG 1213	English Composition and Research
MATH 1513	College Algebra or higher level math classes (ie. MATH 2153 Bio-Calculus)
PSY 1103	General Psychology
PSY XXXX	Psychology elective, (ie. PSY 2103 Social Psychology or PSY 2833 Developmental Psychology).
CHEM 1103	General Chemistry I. Concurrent enrollment in CHEM 1112 is required.
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry I Recitation/ Laboratory
CHEM 1223	General Chemistry II. Concurrent enrollment in CHEM 1232 is required.
CHEM 1232	General Chemistry II Recitation/ Laboratory
CHEM 3303	Organic Chemistry I AND CHEM 3312 Organic Chemistry I Lab OR CHEM 3403 Biochemistry AND CHEM 3442 Experimental Biochemistry
BIO 2504	Human Anatomy and Laboratory
BIO 2604	Human Physiology and Laboratory. Concurrent enrollment in BIO 2604L is required.
BIO 2604L	Human Physiology Laboratory
BIO 3054	Microbiology for Majors and Laboratory OR BIO 2314 Intro to Microbiology and Lab

TWO of the following:

BIO 4515	Pathogenic Microbiology and Immunology and Laboratory.
BIO 4414	Virology and Laboratory.
BIO 3303	Genetics
BIO 3414	Histology and Laboratory
BIO 4134	Developmental Biology and Laboratory

Many of these courses above have prerequisites, so please check before making your course plan. If you have any questions regarding prerequisites, please meet with an academic advisor in the Nigh Advisement Center. If you have specific requests regarding prerequisites being waived, please contact the Biology department chair.

Minimum Admission Requirements: Admission to the program requires completion of prerequisite course work and submission of all application materials. The department admissions committee will review application materials and may require additional information from each applicant. Successful completion of minimum admission requirements does not assure that an interview will be granted. Interview invitations do not insure acceptance to the program. Applicants are considered only for the summer semester, with classes beginning the 1st of June. The application deadline is **October 1** for admission to the next class entering the following June. To be considered for admission to the Physician Associate Program an applicant must:

1. completion of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university before matriculation will be required;
2. be in good standing with the college or university last attended;
3. have taken the GRE (graduate Record Examination) with scores received by the **October 1 deadline**. Score must be current within the last 5 years;
4. submit a completed CASPA, an OU Physician Assistant Supplemental application form (application is processed through OUHSC admissions office), prerequisite form with processing fee, official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, a resume, and a personal statement on why you wish to become a Physician Assistant. (It is recommended that applications have health-related experience whereby direct patient contact is emphasized);
5. submit 3 letters of reference, at least 1 from a physician or PA;
6. have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and 3.0 science GPA;

AT OU-Tulsa, a recently admitted class had the following academic averages: GPA: 3.68; Science GPA: 3.61. GPA last 60 hours: 3.70 GRE 60th percentile. Applicants are urged to investigate physician assisting as a career prior to application in such ways as observation or working with a PA during a typical day and investigating advantages and disadvantages of the discipline. Please see the school's website for more detailed information on their selection criteria.

The program at OU-Tulsa lasts for 30 months, consisting for fifteen (15) months of didactic training at the OU-Tulsa campus. The remaining 12 months of rotations are performed at OU hospitals and clinics, and other care centers.

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The physician assistant (P.A.) is a professional member of the health care team qualified by academic and clinical education to provide a broad range of patient care services under the supervision of a licensed physician. P.A.s are formally trained to perform many of the routine but time-consuming tasks physicians usually perform. They take medical histories, perform physical examinations, order laboratory tests and x-rays, make preliminary diagnosis, and give inoculations. They also treat minor injuries by suturing, splinting and casting. In nearly all states of the U.S. except for Kentucky, physician assistants may prescribe medications (each state has their own set of restrictions).

P.A.s always work under the supervision of a physician. The proximity of supervision; however, depends upon the locality. For example, some P.A.s work in rural or inner city clinics where a physician may be available only one or two days each week and make "house calls" or go on "hospital rounds" to check patients and report back to the physician. P.A.s assist physicians in specialty areas, such as family practice, internal medicine, general and thoracic surgery, emergency medicine, and pediatrics. P.A.s specializing in surgery, provide pre- and post-operative care and may work as first or second assistants during major surgery.

OPPORTUNITIES: Employment opportunities are expected to be excellent for physician assistants, particularly in areas or settings such as rural and inner city clinics that have difficulty attracting enough physicians. Employment of P.A.s is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2016 due to anticipated expansion of the health care services industry and an emphasis on cost containment. Physicians and institutions are expected to employ more P.A.s to provide primary care and assist with medical and surgical procedures, thus freeing physicians to perform more complicated and revenue-generating tasks. The public and third-party payers also seem to approve of P.A.s use. For example, Medicare now allows physicians to bill the government for services provided by their P.A.s to hospital and nursing home patients. The growth of HMOs and group medical practices should also lead to more jobs for P.A.s.

STARTING SALARIES: According to the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the national median salary for P.A.s is approximately \$102,000.

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For more information about PA's and PA programs: www.aapa.org and www.paeaonline.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/25515/pid/25515
For PA information for the OU-Tulsa PA Program visit: http://www.ou.edu/content/tulsa/community_medicine/scm-pa-program.html
To apply to OU-Tulsa and other programs, use CASPA: <http://portal.caspaonline.org/> as well as the **OU-Tulsa Application**.
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