

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISEMENT WORKSHEET 2018-2019

Northeastern State University

University of Central Oklahoma

Health Professions Advisor

Department of Biology

200 Howell Hall

(405) 974-5733

Required Courses for the NSU Physician Assistant Program

Non-Science:

2 Psychology courses (recommended PSY 11103 and PSY elective course)

Science and Math:

General Chemistry I and II with labs, Organic Chemistry I, two courses of health related biology, which may include biochemistry (minimum 6 semester hours), human anatomy and lab, human physiology and lab, one semester of mathematics (college algebra or higher), and statistics. Courses with labs as well as several upper-level biology (course number 3000+) are preferred. (See recommended courses listed below and check prerequisites for each class). A baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by the Commission on Colleges of Regional Accrediting Organization is required. Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree prior to matriculation to the PA program. A minimum undergraduate or graduate degree GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required. Students may have no more than two prerequisite courses in progress after December 31 of the year prior to entering the program, and preference is given to applicants who have fully completed their prerequisites before applying. Health related science courses must be taken within 7 years prior to matriculation. Advanced placement courses will not be accepted for pre reqs. In order to apply, the application must be completed by **October 1**.

UCO Courses that Meet Required Courses for NSU

- PSY 1103 General Psychology
- PSY XXXX Psychology elective, (ie. PSY 2103 Social Psychology, PSY 2833 Developmental Psychology, or PSY 4753 Abnormal 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
- BIO 2504 Human Anatomy and Laboratory
- BIO 2604 Human Physiology and Laboratory. Concurrent enrollment in BIO 2604L is required.
- BIO 2604L Human Physiology Laboratory (NSU may accept BIO 3803 AND 3813 Mammalian Physiology I and II instead if both are taken, but check with admissions office)
- BIO 3054 Microbiology for Majors and Laboratory
 OR BIO 2314 Intro to Microbiology and Lab
- STAT 2103 Intro Stats for Sciences

Suggested biology coursework (check prerequisites):

- BIO 1204 Biology for Majors: Principles
- BIO 2203 Cell Biology
- BIO 3303 Genetics
- BIO 3414 Histology and Laboratory
- BIO 4134 Developmental Biology and Laboratory
- BIO 4515 Pathogenic Microbiology and Immunology and Laboratory
- BIO 4414 Virology and Laboratory
- BIO 4622 Methods of Human Dissection
- CHEM 3403 Biochemistry I

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 program. The application deadline is **October 1** for admission to the next class which begins the following July. To be considered for admission to the Physician Associate Program an applicant must:

1. be on course to successfully complete a baccalaureate degree from any regionally accredited college or university prior to matriculation;
2. be in good standing with the college or university last attended;
3. submit a completed PA application (is available starting in April) with application fee
<https://portal.caspaonline.org/caspaHelpPages/about-caspaoverview/index.html>

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.

The program lasts for 27 months, consisting of 14 months of didactic training. The remaining 13 months of rotations are performed at various hospitals, clinics, and doctor offices within the state.

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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:

<http://www.aapa.org>

<http://www.paeonline.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/25515/pid/25515>

<http://www.physicianassistantforum.com/>

For PA information from NSU PA admission: paprogram@nsuok.edu or call 918-444-5464

To apply through the CASPA application service <https://portal.caspaonline.org/>