

Pre-Physician Assistant



University of Wyoming

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Preprofessional coursework does not constitute a major. Preprofessional coursework is completed in addition to that of a declared major in order to enhance the likelihood of acceptance to a professional school and success in a professional degree program.
- Be aware that, for some degrees, it may take more than four years to graduate with a bachelor's degree while incorporating preprofessional coursework.
- Students starting in MATH 1400 or higher can complete this plan in four years, with modest modifications. Students starting below MATH 1400 should plan on at least an additional year prior to applying to physician assistant programs.
- It takes more than a year to apply to a physician assistant program. In order to go directly from an undergraduate degree program to professional program, students must develop a competitive resume and largely complete their prerequisite coursework by the end of their junior year.
- Physician assistant programs typically require 500 to 2,000 hours of paid patient contact prior to applying. Students aspiring to enter a physician assistant program must seek qualifications and employment in entry level health care positions.
- The prerequisite coursework listed below is for general guidance *only*. Specific programs may have additional requirements. Students should carefully research a variety of realistic potential programs to make sure they are meeting both the academic *and* non-academic expectations and requirements of the program.
- Begin working with the Preprofessional Health Advising Office *as soon as possible* to determine a realistic path to professional school. Contact information and an appointment link can be found at uwyo.edu/preprof. For students not in Laramie, phone appointments are welcome.

Freshman Fall Semester

	Hrs	Min	Grade	Notes
USP First-Year Seminar	3		C	FY
CHEM 1020 General Chemistry I *	4			PN
LIFE 1010 General Biology **	4			PN
MATH 1400 College Algebra ***	3			Q

Credit hours subtotal: 14

- Contact your preprofessional advisor and arrange your initial meeting with him or her.
- Get involved: volunteer and seek out leadership opportunities.
- Explore employment that provides paid patient contact.

Winter Break

- Job shadow and/or volunteer in your home community.
- Explore summer employment that provides paid patient contact.

Freshman Spring Semester

	Hrs	Min	Grade	Notes
CHEM 1030 General Chemistry II	4			
ENGL 1010 College Composition and Rhetoric	3		C	C1
MICR 2021 General Microbiology	4			Cross listed with MOLB 2021.
PSYC 1000 General Psychology	3			H

Credit hours subtotal: 14

- Meet with your preprofessional advisor.
- Continue involvement: volunteer and seek out leadership opportunities.
- Explore employment that provides paid patient contact.

Summer Break

- Engage in activities that make you a stronger candidate, such as job shadowing, working in a health care setting, research, and community service.
- Work in a health care position that provides paid patient contact.

Sophomore Fall Semester

	Hrs	Min	Grade	Notes
CHEM 2300 Introductory Organic Chemistry	4			Can substitute CHEM 2420 (Organic Chem I) <i>and</i> CHEM 2440 (Organic Chem II).
KIN 2040 Human Anatomy	3			Cross listed with ZOO 2040; must take concurrently with KIN/ZOO 2041.
KIN 2041 Human Anatomy Lab	1			Cross listed with ZOO 2041; must take concurrently with KIN/ZOO 2040.
STAT 2050 Fundamentals of Statistics	4			Can substitute STAT 2070 (Intro Statistics for the Social Sciences).
Major Course	3			

Credit hours subtotal: 15

- Meet with your preprofessional advisor.
- Continue involvement through community service, career exploration, and leadership opportunities.
- Work limited hours in a position that provides paid patient contact.

Winter Break

- Job shadow and/or volunteer in your home community.
- Obtain additional patient contact hours.
- Explore summer employment that provides paid patient contact.

Sophomore Spring Semester

	Hrs	Min	Grade	Notes
MOLB 3610 Principles of Biochemistry	4			
ZOO 3115 Human Systems Physiology	4			
Major Courses	6			

Credit hours subtotal: 14

- Work limited hours in a position that provides paid patient contact.

Summer Break

- Engage in activities that make you a stronger candidate, such as job shadowing, working in a health care setting, research, and community service.

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Junior Fall Semester

Hrs Min Grade

Notes

Additional courses required by college, major(s), minor(s), USP, and/or Honors x

Remaining prerequisite courses for potential program x

Credit hours subtotal: Variable

- Meet with your preprofessional advisor.
- Continue involvement through community service, career exploration, and leadership opportunities.
- Work limited hours in a position that provides paid patient contact.

Winter Break

- Job shadow and/or volunteer in your home community.
- Explore and apply for summer enrichment opportunities.
- Prepare for the GRE and explore potential physician assistant programs to which to apply.
- Explore summer employment that provides paid patient contact.

Junior Spring Semester

Hrs Min Grade

Notes

Additional courses required by college, major(s), minor(s), USP, and/or Honors x

Remaining prerequisite courses for potential program x

Credit hours subtotal: Variable

- Meet with your preprofessional advisor.
- Continue involvement through community service, career exploration, and leadership opportunities.
- Work limited hours in a position that provides paid patient contact.

Summer Break

- Take the GRE late spring/early summer.
- Begin filling out the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) as soon as available (June). Be aware that some schools do not use CASPA.
- If a Wyoming resident, apply for WICHE residency certification.
- Begin secondary applications.

Senior Fall Semester

Hrs Min Grade

Notes

Major Course 3

Additional courses required by college, major(s), minor(s), USP, and/or Honors x

Remaining prerequisite courses for potential program x

Credit hours subtotal: Variable

- Continue with secondary applications.
- Interviews.
- Continue involvement in community service, career exploration, research, and leadership opportunities.
- Work limited hours in a position that provides paid patient contact.

Winter Break

- If accepted to a physician assistant program, begin arranging for financial aid and housing and making relocation plans.
- If not accepted, or if waitlisted, engage in self-evaluation to determine why and if reapplying. Meet with your preprofessional advisor during this process.
- If reapplying, determine a realistic timeline to do so. This may mean spending a year or more to improve your application before reapplying.

Senior Spring Semester

Hrs Min Grade

Notes

USP Communication 3 3 C C3

Additional courses required by college, major(s), minor(s), USP, and/or Honors x

Remaining prerequisite courses for potential program x

Credit hours subtotal: Variable

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: Variable dependent upon selected major

- Continue with interviews.
- Follow up with schools where you interviewed, but have not received a final decision.
- Continue involvement in community service, career exploration, research, and leadership opportunities.
- Work limited hours in a position that provides paid patient contact.

Post Graduation

- If accepted to a physician assistant program, complete all paperwork necessary for admission and financial aid. Relocate to where you will be studying.
- If not admitted to a physician assistant program, follow parallel plans outside of the field or take steps necessary to become a viable applicant.

Notes

* Requires MATH ACT \geq 23, MATH SAT \geq 600, or Math Placement Exam \geq 3, or concurrent enrollment in MATH 1400, 1405 or 1450. (University standard)

** Requires MATH ACT \geq 21, MATH SAT \geq 600, Math Placement Exam \geq 2, or \geq C in MATH 0921. (University standard)

*** Requires MATH ACT \geq 23, MATH SAT \geq 600, Math Placement Exam \geq 3, or \geq C in MATH 0925. (University standard)

• A minimum grade of C is required for the USP First-Year Seminar, USP Communication 1, USP Communication 2, and USP Communication 3 requirements. Other minimum grade requirements will be determined by the academic major a student pursues.