

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Physician Assistants (PAs) are considered one of the three primary care providers, along with physicians and nurse practitioners. They can lead patient-centered medical teams, or work independently with a patient to ensure the appropriate treatment plan is created. As experts in general medicine, PAs are license and certified in each state.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National average salary: \$115,390
- » National projected career growth: 31%
- » Examine, diagnose and treat patients
- » Write prescriptions and/or assist with surgery
- » Counsel patients on preventative care

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Approximate years of schooling: 6-7
 - Requires Bachelor's Degree
- » Approximate tuition & fees: \$78,000
- » Average admittance GPA
 - 3.74 (Science GPA)
 - 3.07-4.0 (5 year range)
- » GRE not required at UNMC; Required by some schools

NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska Medical Center
- » College of Saint Mary
- » Union College
- » University of Colorado
- » Des Moines University
- » University of Iowa

COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Shadow professionals in the field
- » Obtain direct patient health care experience
- » Stay active in community volunteering
- » Take one semester of at least 17 credit hours

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS SAY



A career in medicine is the most rewarding career in the World. If you love people and you love medicine, you will be very happy with your decision.”

-Stephen Pasquini, PA-C



When PAs are on the health care team, patients know they can count on receiving high-quality care.”

-John McGinnity, PA-C

*Data and information from Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and information from UNMC.

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Click the links for requirements from the schools listed below:

University of Nebraska Medical Center	Union College
Creighton University	Des Moines University
University of Iowa	Northwestern University

Student is ultimately responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

UNMC's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 16)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 1450 – Biology I	5	S, F, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2440 – Microbiology	4	S, F, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
-BIOL 2740 – Human Physiology & Anatomy I*	4	F, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
-BIOL 2840 – Human Physiology & Anatomy II*	4	S, M	BIOL 2740
OR			
-BMCH 2400 - Human Physiology & Anatomy I*	4	F, S	
-BMCH 2500 - Human Physiology & Anatomy II*	4	S, M	BMCH 2400

*BIOL A & P is preferred for PA school. A & P II must be taken through the same department that A & P I was taken.

Chemistry (minimum credits: 16)			
CHEM 1180 & 1184 – General Chemistry I & Lab	4	S, F, M	MATH 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190 & 1194 – General Chemistry II & Lab	4	S, F, M	MATH 1320 and CHEM 1180/1184
CHEM 2210 & 2214 – Fund of Organic Chemistry & Lab	5	S, F	CHEM 1140 & 1144 or 1190 & 1194
CHEM 3650 & 3654 – Fundamentals of Biochemistry & Lab	4	S, F	CHEM 2210 & 2214 or 2260 & 2274
OR			
CHEM 1180 & 1184 – General Chemistry I & Lab	4	S, F, M	MATH 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190 & 1194 – General Chemistry II & Lab	4	S, F, M	CHEM 1180 & 1184
-CHEM 2250 – Organic Chemistry I*	3	S, F, M	CHEM 1190 & 1194
-CHEM 2260 & 2274 – Organic Chemistry II*	5	S, F	CHEM 2250
CHEM 3650 & 3654 – Fundamentals of Biochemistry & Lab	4	S, F	CHEM 2210 & 2214 or 2260 & 2274

*UNMC strongly recommends the one-year Organic Chemistry sequence.

Statistics (one course)			
PSYC 3130 – Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	S, F, M	MATH 1120, 1220, 1310 or 1530
SOC 2130 – Social Statistics	3	S, F, M	MATH 1120, 1130, 1220, 1310 or 1530
STAT 3000 – Statistical Methods I	3	S, F, M	MATH 1310 or 1220
PA 3000 – Applied Statistics	3	S, F, M	MATH 1310 or 1220
BIOL 4110—Statistics for Biology	4	F	BIOL 1450 & 1750 and MATH 1220, 1130 or 1530
Other statistics courses can fulfill the requirement as well but should be approved by an admissions advisor.			

Psychology (minimum credits: 9)			
PSYC 1010 – Introduction to Psychology	3	S, F, M	
PSYC 4440 – Abnormal Psychology	3	S, F, M	PSYC 1010
PSYC 2500 – Life Span Psychology	3	S, F, M	PSYC 1010

Medical Terminology			
HEKI 2000 - Medical Terminology	1	S, F, M	
BIOL 1160 – Medical Terminology	2	S, F, M	

English Composition: (minimum credits: 6)

ENGL 1150 or 1154- Composition I	3	S, F, M	AP score of 3 or by EPPE exam
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Strongly Recommended Courses

-MATH 1120 – College Algebra	3	S, F, M	MATH 1210
OR			
-MATH 1320- Pre-Calculus Algebra	3	S, F, M	MATH 1220 or 1310
BIOL 2140- Genetics	3	S, F, M	BIOL 1450 & 1750
BIOL 3240- Introduction to Immunology	3	S, F	BIOL 1450 & 1750 & 2140
BIOL 3830- Biology of Pathogenic Microorganisms	3	S	BIOL 1450 & 1750 & 2140
ENGL 1160 or 1164- Composition II	3	S, F, M	ENGL 1150 or 1154, AP score 4, or EPPE

Additional UNMC Admissions Information

Academics

- It is recommended that students take courses in chemistry, biology, mathematics, and psychology beyond the required prerequisite courses.
- No AP (Advanced Placement), CLEP, Pass/Fail credit will be accepted for required prerequisite course.
- The minimum GPA to apply is a 3.0.
- Grades below C are not accepted.
- Repeated course grades (original and repeated) will be averaged in the CASPA GPA calculations.

Standardized Exam

- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required at UNMC, but may be required for acceptance at other P.A. schools.

Extracurriculars

- It is important to gain direct patient contact either through work or through volunteering. There is no minimum requirement for patient contact hours. However, the most competitive applicants will have 2000 patient contact hours.
 - PA shadowing is important to demonstrate a solid understanding of the profession. The most competitive applicants will have 50 hours of shadowing.
- All of the above information is from UNMC CAHP Physician Assistant Admissions and Preference Factors.
- For more information or questions about UNMC's Physician Assistant program please contact Kevin Howard, MA, Recruitment Specialist at Kevin.Howard@unmc.edu or 402-559-6673