Did you know?

- Physician assistants (PAs) can perform physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret labs, perform procedures, assist in surgeries, make hospital rounds, provide patient education and counseling, and prescribe medications.

- There are over 200 PA programs in the US with many new programs opening up every year, and class sizes that range from 25 to 58 students. Master’s program typically take 2 years to complete, and total tuition ranges from $50,000 to $104,000.

- PA programs, modeled after medical school curricula, provide students with both classroom and clinical experience at an accelerated pace. PA’s are trained to be versatile and collaborative and a PA’s scope of practice will continue to grow and may shift over time due professional interests.

- PAs practice medicine with physician supervision, but this does not mean a supervising physician must be present with the PA. The level of autonomy a PA has is determined at the practice level.

Physician Assistant Application Preparation

- Completing the prerequisite courses is just one aspect of the process. You must also have a well-rounded application consisting of experience (shadowing, volunteer work, undergraduate research, life experience, etc.), letters of recommendation, GRE scores (not all programs require this), and a strong admissions essay.

- One unique requirement of most PA programs is the large number of direct patient care hours required, either paid or volunteer. The typical applicant has anywhere from 2 to 4 years of health care experience, equivalent to a minimum of 1000-2000 cumulated hours. Many PA programs list on their websites approved health care experiences that qualify as direct patient hours

- Be sure to research individual programs about any COVID-19 related changes (Pre-requisites and GRE exceptions, Pass/Fail Policy, etc).

Online Resources

Health Professions Program Website: healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
American Academy of Physician Assistants: aapa.org
Physician Assistant Education Association: paeaonline.org
Central Application Service for Physician Assistants: caspa.liaisoncas.com
Exploring Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- Student Clubs & Organizations
- Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement
- Tykeson College and Career Advising
- Duck Nest
- Global Education Oregon
- TAEC study support
- Holden Center
- HPP workshops
- University Career Center

Advising

Schedule an appointment with an HPP advisor online or call 541-346-9200
Or visit us in Tykeson Hall, 2nd floor, health@uoregon.edu
Sample 4-Year Plan

The chart below illustrates one way PA prerequisites\(^1\) can fit into a 4-year plan. Keep in mind that a good graduation plan is as unique as the student following it. Math placement, major, transfer credits, application timeline, personal/family commitments, and other factors will shape your graduation plan and timeline. Health Professions Advisors are here to help you create a graduation plan that works best for you!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Classes | CH 221 & 227  
MATH 112 | CH 222 & 228  
MATH 251\(^{ii}\) | CH 223 & 229  
MATH 243 |        |
| Experience |        |        |        |        |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Classes | CH 331\(^{iii}\)  
HPHY 211\(^{ii}\) | BI 211  
PSY 201 or 202 | BI 212  
HPHY 212\(^{ii}\) |        |
| Experience |        |        |        |        |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Third Year</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Classes | HPHY 321  
HPHY 322 | HPHY 323  
HPHY 324 | HPHY 325  
BI 214 |        |
| Experience |        |        |        |        |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Fourth Year</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>BI 320(^{i})</td>
<td></td>
<td>BI 330 &amp; 331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) **Prerequisites vary widely by school.** Research specific schools that interest you to be sure you meet any additional requirements.

\(^{ii}\) This course is a prerequisite for UO’s anatomy & physiology sequence. It may not be required by OT programs.

\(^{iii}\) UO doesn’t offer a class titled “Abnormal Psychology.” Confer with the PSY department about similar classes, and confirm with graduate programs that it will satisfy the admission requirement (varies by school).