

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 licensed and certified in each state.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National median salary: \$130,020
- » National projected career growth: 28%
- » Examine, diagnose, and treat patients
- » Write prescriptions and/or assist with surgery
- » Counsel patients on preventative care

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): 6-7 years
- » Requires a bachelor's degree
- » Average Entering 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
- » Creighton University
- » College of Saint Mary
- » Des Moines University
- » University of Iowa
- » University of Missouri-Kansas City
- » University of South Dakota
- » Union College

COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Take BIOL 1060 Intro to Medical Careers and Ethics
- » Shadow professionals in the field
- » Obtain direct patient health care experience
- » Stay active in community volunteering
- » Take at least one semester with at least 17 credit hours

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL 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 the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and information from UNMC

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UNO Health Careers Resource Center
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Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

| | |
|---|--|
| University of Nebraska Medical Center | Creighton University |
| Des Moines University | College of Saint Mary |
| University of Iowa | University of Missouri-Kansas City |
| University of South Dakota | Union College |

*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

UNMC's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

| Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 12) | | | |
|--|---------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Course | Credits | Semester | Prerequisites |
| BIOL 1450 Biology I & Lab | 5 | F, S, M | High school Biology and Chemistry |
| BIOL 2440 The Biology of Microorganisms & Lab | 4 | F, S, M | High school Biology and Chemistry |
| AND | | | |
| BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab* | 4 | F, S, M | High school Biology and Chemistry |
| BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab* | 4 | F, S, M | BIOL 2740 |
| OR | | | |
| BMCH 2400 Human Physiology & Anatomy I & Lab* | 4 | F, S | |
| BMCH 2500 Human Physiology & Anatomy II & Lab | 4 | F, S | BMCH 2400 |

| Chemistry (minimum credits: 17) | | | |
|--|---------|----------|--|
| Course | Credits | Semester | Prerequisites |
| CHEM 1180 & 1184 General Chemistry I & Lab | 4 | F, S, M | MATH 1300 or 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144 |
| CHEM 1190 & 1194 General Chemistry II & Lab | 4 | F, S, M | MATH 1300 or 1320 and CHEM 1180 & 1184 |
| AND | | | |
| CHEM 2210/2214 Fund of Organic Chemistry & Lab | 5 | F, S | CHEM 1140 & 1144 or 1190 & 1194 |
| CHEM 3650/3654 Fund of Biochemistry & Lab | 4 | F, S | CHEM 2210 & 2214 or 2260 & 2274 |
| OR | | | |
| CHEM 2250 Organic Chemistry I* | 3 | F, S, M | CHEM 1190 & 1194 |
| CHEM 2260 & 2274 Organic Chemistry II & Lab | 5 | F, S | CHEM 2250 |
| CHEM 3650/3654 Fund of Biochemistry & Lab | 4 | F, S | CHEM 2210 & 2214 or 2260 & 2274 |

*UNMC and Creighton **strongly** recommend the one-year Organic Chemistry sequence.

| Statistics (minimum credits: 3) | | | |
|--|---------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Course | Credits | Semester | Prerequisites |
| BIOL 2020 Statistics for Life and Environ. Science | 3 | F, S | MATH 1120, 1130, 1300, or 1320 |
| PA 3000 Applied Statistics | 3 | F, S, M | MATH 1300 or 1320 |
| PSYC 3130 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences | 3 | F, S, M | MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT1530 |
| SOC 2130 Social Statistics | 3 | F, S, M | MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT1530 |
| STAT 3000 Statistical Methods I | 3 | F, S | MATH 1300 or 1320 |

*Other statistics courses can fulfill the requirement as well but should be approved by an admissions advisor.

| Psychology (minimum credits: 9) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| Course | Credits | Semester | Prerequisites |
| PSYC 1010 Introduction to Psychology | 3 | F, S, M | |
| PSYC 2500 Lifespan Psychology | 3 | F, S, M | PSYC 1010 |
| PSYC 4440 Abnormal Psychology | 3 | F, S, M | PSYC 1010 |

| English Composition (minimum credits: 6) | | | |
|--|---------|----------|--|
| Course | Credits | Semester | Prerequisites |
| ENGL 1150 English Composition I | 3 | F, S, M | AP Score 3, ACT 14-26, HS GPA 2.3+ |
| ENGL 1160 English Composition II | 3 | F, S, M | AP Score 4, ENGL 1140 or 1150, or ACT 27+ or Reading or English ACT score of 29+ |
| Writing Intensive Course | 3 | | Depends on Major or recommendation below: |

Medical Terminology (Choose one)

| | | | |
|---|---|---------|--|
| BIOL 1160 Terminology of Human Health & Disease | 2 | F, S | |
| HEKI 2000 Medical Terminology | 1 | F, S, M | |

Strongly Recommended Courses

| | | | |
|--|---|---------|--|
| MATH 1300 College Algebra with Support | 4 | F, S, M | |
| OR | | | |
| MATH 1320 Pre-Calculus Algebra | 3 | F, S, M | ACT 22 or ALEKS 4 |
| BIOL 2140 Genetics | 4 | F, S, M | BIOL 1450 & 1750 and CHEM 1140 or 1180 |
| BIOL 3020 Molecular Biology of the Cell | 3 | F, S, M | BIOL 2140 and a Gen. Chem course |
| BIOL 3240 Introduction to Immunology | 3 | F, S | BIOL 1450, 1750, & 2140, *BIOL 3020 |
| BIOL 3830 Biology of Pathogenic Microorganisms | 3 | S | BIOL 2140 or BIOL 2440 or BIOL 3240 |
| ENGL 4970 Writing about Sickness and Health | 3 | S | ENGL 1160 |

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 PA 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 cahpaadmissions@unmc.edu or call 402.559.6673.