PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Introduction

Students interested in a career as a Physician Assistant have the option of pursuing any major along with completing specific prerequisites. Direct-entry Physician Assistant graduate schools typically require the bachelor degree be completed. Students must gain a thorough understanding of the profession through a range of shadowing experiences and significant direct patient care experience (through work as a Certified Nursing Assistant, EMT, Home Health Aid, etc.). Some programs require a competitive score on the GRE and community service hours.

Canisius undergraduates are given preference by the Canisius Physician Assistant program (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/physician-assistant/).

Students should work with the Pre-Med Advisor beginning in the first college year to select appropriate coursework based on their schools of interest and plan appropriate co-curricular experiences. In addition to the information in this section, please check the general information at the pre-medical and pre-health section of the catalog (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/pre-professional-programs/pre-medical-pre-health-professions/).

Recommended Pre-Physician Assistant Courses

Academic admission requirements vary by school, but usually include the following courses:

**General Biology**

At least one year of general biology with laboratory. (Note that some programs also require Genetics.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 111 &amp; 111L</td>
<td>Introductory Biology I and Introductory Biology Laboratory I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 112 &amp; 112L</td>
<td>Introductory Biology II and Introductory Biology Laboratory II</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Anatomy & Physiology**

One year of anatomy & physiology with laboratory. (Note that some schools may accept BIO 114/BIO 115 for this requirement. Canisius PA program does not.)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 324 &amp; 324L</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Human Anatomy Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 340 &amp; 340L</td>
<td>Physiology and Physiology Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Microbiology**

One semester of general microbiology with laboratory:

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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 307 &amp; 307L</td>
<td>Microbiology and Microbiology Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Chemistry**

One year of general chemistry and one semester of organic chemistry with laboratories:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHM 111 &amp; 111L</td>
<td>General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 112 &amp; 112L</td>
<td>General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 227 &amp; 227L</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry I Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
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1. Students may take CHM 109, CHM 110, and CHM 111L to fulfill this requirement.

**Biochemistry**

One semester of biochemistry.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>Option 1:</td>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 211</td>
<td>Biochemistry and Cell Biology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 212</td>
<td>Biochemistry and Cell Biology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students should take both BIO 211 / BIO 212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Option 2:</td>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCH 301</td>
<td>Introduction to Biochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCH 302</td>
<td>Cellular Biochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students may take one or both courses of BCH 301/ BCH 302</td>
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**Psychology:**

One to three semesters of psychology (must include developmental psychology, abnormal psychology is strongly recommended):

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<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 101 or PSY 102</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology I or Introduction to Psychology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 203</td>
<td>Lifespan Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 303</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Mathematics**

One semester of statistics. (Note that some programs also require calculus (MAT 111).

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<tr>
<td>PSY 201 or KIN 398 or MAT 141</td>
<td>Basic Statistics for Behavioral Sciences or Statistics and Research Design or Inferential Statistics and Computers for Science</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
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**Medical Terminology**

One course in medical terminology is required by some schools.

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<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HRP 111</td>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>
Additional Pre-Physician Assistant Course Suggestions

Biology
Imunochemistry or Genetics

Sociology
SOC 110 or SOC 111

Bio-Medical Ethics
PHI 243 or RST 345

Elective Courses
HRP 101 allows students to explore different health professions.

HRP 201 and HRP 202 allow students to explore areas of medicine in more depth.

HRP 498 is an internship in medical informatics. A medical scribe internship is also available.