A physician assistant, or PA, does similar work to a doctor. They both examine patients, diagnose illness, and develop and apply treatment. A PA cannot perform surgery and works under the supervision of a doctor. A PA does not need as much schooling as a doctor does. To become a physician assistant, you’ll first need a bachelor's degree, which you can get at Wayne State. The recommended major is biology. Through the pre-physician assistant degree path, you’ll be ready to enter a PA program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center or another professional medical school.

**Skills Learned**
- Human anatomy and physiology
- Evolutionary processes
- Biological systems and structures
- Molecular genetics
- Microbiology
- Cellular biology
- Experimental design and data collection
- Modern lab techniques
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Technical communication
- Statistical analysis

**Possible Careers**
- Physician assistant
- Lab supervisor
- Clinical advisor
- Clinic manager
- Educator
- Research assistant

**Types of Employers**
- Hospitals and medical clinics
- Private medical practices
- Government organizations
- Sports teams and clubs
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Medical research facilities
- Community wellness centers
- Non-profit organizations
- Outpatient clinics
- Nursing homes
- Assisted living centers
- Medical research companies

**Activities / Opportunities**
- Conduct research projects
- Conferences and presentations
- Peer mentoring and tutoring
- Service-Learning
- Study Abroad

**Clubs / Organizations**
- Biology Club
- Health Science Club (Lambda Delta Lambda)

**FAST FACTS**

**Degrees offered:** This program is set up so you can earn a B.S. from WSC. Then you'll be ready to continue with graduate work at a professional medical school.

**School:** Natural and Social Sciences

**Department:** Life Sciences

**Suggested program of study:** Biology

**Popular minors:** Chemistry, Spanish, Psychology

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**outside the classroom**

Visit [www.wsc.edu/clubs](http://www.wsc.edu/clubs) to learn more about clubs and organizations on campus.
# SAMPLE PROGRAM OF STUDY

Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. There is no substitute for developing a careful course registration plan in consultation with your advisor. For questions about this content, please see your advisor.

## FRESHMAN - 1st semester
- BIO 110 Biology Concepts (General Studies CAT 7) ........................................ 4
- CHE 106 General Chemistry I ................................................................. 4
- ENG 102 Composition Skills (General Studies CAT 1) ......................... 3
- PSY 101 General Psychology (General Studies CAT 5) ....................... 3

## FRESHMAN - 2nd semester
- BIO 200 Zoology or BIO 210 Experimental Plant Science ..................... 4
- CHE 107 General Chemistry II ............................................................... 4
- CNA 100 Principles of Human Communication (General Studies CAT 2) . 3
- ENG 200 Expository Writing ................................................................. 3
- General Studies CAT 4 ........................................................................ 3

## SOPHOMORE - 3rd semester
- BIO 320 Molecular Genetics ................................................................. 4
- CHE 314 Organic Chemistry I ............................................................... 4
- General Studies CAT 8 ......................................................................... 3
- PHI 105 Ethics and Values (General Studies CAT 6) ........................... 3

## SOPHOMORE - 4th semester
- BIO 108 Medical Terminology ............................................................. 1
- BIO 200 Zoology or BIO 210 Experimental Plant Science ..................... 4
- CHE 315 Organic Chemistry II .............................................................. 4
- MAT 180 Probability and Statistics (General Studies CAT 3) ............ 3
- PSY 230 Lifespan Development .......................................................... 3

## JUNIOR - 5th semester
- BIO 220 Human Anatomy ................................................................. 4
- BIO 301 Biology Seminar ................................................................. 1
- CHE 326 Biochemistry ................................................................. 4
- FCS 207 Nutrition (General Studies CAT 9) ......................................... 3
- HIS 120 World History (General Studies CAT 10) ............................... 3

## JUNIOR - 6th semester
- BIO 340 Human Physiology ............................................................... 4
- BIO 370 Intro to Research ................................................................. 2
- BIO 385 Microbiology ................................................................. 4
- Electives ......................................................................................... 6

## SUMMER
- BIO 397 Internship or BIO 465 Continuing Research ......................... 1

## SENIOR - 7th semester
- BIO 434 Advanced Cell Biology ....................................................... 3
- BIO 469 Senior Seminar or BIO 470 Research Project ....................... 1
- PHY 201 General Physics I ................................................................. 3
- PHY 321 General Physics Lab .............................................................. 1
- Electives ......................................................................................... 6

## SENIOR - 8th semester
- BIO 330 Histology ................................................................. 4
- BIO 425 Evolution ................................................................. 3
- BIO 486 Immunology ................................................................. 3
- PSY 450 Abnormal Psychology ........................................................ 3
- Elective ......................................................................................... 3

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**pre-physician assistant faculty**

Ronald Loggins, Ph.D.  
*Department Chair*  
402-375-7045  
Carhart Science 207E  
rologgi1@wsc.edu

Doug Christensen, Ph.D.  
Mark Hammer, Ph.D.  
Shawn Pearcy, Ph.D.