

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

A physician assistant (PA) is a licensed medical professional who works under the supervision of a physician and is qualified to provide a wide range of medical services. Many PAs work in primary care settings, providing general medical care to patients, including performing physical exams, diagnosing and treating common medical conditions, and prescribing medications. PAs can also specialize in certain medical fields, including emergency medicine, surgery, cardiology, dermatology, orthopedics, and more. They work closely with specialists to provide care to patients with specific health issues. You can start your path to becoming a physician assistant at Wayne State, majoring in Biology or Health Sciences. After receiving your undergraduate degree, you'll be ready to move on to graduate work at a professional optometry school and earn your master's degree in physician assistant studies (MPAS).

fast facts

Recommended majors:

Life Sciences/Biology (B.A. or B.S.)

Chemistry/Health Sciences (B.A. or B.S.)

Departments: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Mathematics

School: Science, Health, and Criminal Justice

Suggested minors: Chemistry, Exercise Science, Psychology, Public and Global Health, Spanish

focus on results

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

outside the classroom



Visit www.wsc.edu/clubs to learn more about clubs and organizations on campus.

Activities/Opportunities

- Peer mentoring and tutoring
- Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP)
- Service-Learning
- Study Abroad

Clubs/Organizations

- Biology Club
- Exercise is Medicine on Campus (EIM-OC)
- Health Science Club
- Physician Assistant Club

The following information is provided to guide you in the pre-professional program described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for choosing a major and registering for courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

Suggested majors for Pre-Physician Assistant

The following majors are recommended for students planning to attend a physician assistant school. Additional electives may be recommended. Participation in the Pre-Physician Assistant program at WSC does not guarantee acceptance to a graduate program for physician assistant studies.

Life Sciences/Biology (B.A. or B.S.) — Our Biology program lays the groundwork needed for students entering graduate school and provides plenty of time in our biology and research labs.

Chemistry/Health Sciences (B.A. or B.S.) — The Health Sciences major offers a solid foundation in biology and chemistry, and emphasizes how these fields relate to careers in health and medicine.

Sample courses

Students may be advised to take the following courses while pursuing one of the recommended majors. Please consult with your advisor to draft a final plan of study, and be sure to check with your intended PA school to make sure you're meeting all prerequisite course requirements.

BIO 320 Molecular Genetics	4
BIO 330 Histology.....	3
BIO 336 Cancer Biology	3
BIO 340 Human Physiology	4
BIO 385 Microbiology	4
BIO 430 Parasitology.....	3
BIO 434 Advanced Cellular Biology	3
BIO 443 Advanced Human Anatomy.....	3
BIO 486 Immunology.....	3
CHE 326 Biochemistry I.....	4
CHE 426 Biochemistry II.....	3
HSC 345 CPR-Healthcare Provider	1

department faculty



Visit www.wsc.edu/life-sciences-department to learn more about the Department of Life Sciences.

Visit www.wsc.edu/physical-sciences-mathematics-department to learn more about the Department Physical Sciences and Mathematics.

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