

Shoreline Physician Assistant



Major Preparation Sheet 2016-2017

What is Physician Assistant?

Physician Assistants (P.A.) work directly under the supervision of doctors; they examine patients, order diagnostic tests, prescribe medication, and perform basic medical procedures to treat common illnesses and injuries. Most P.A.'s work in primary care while others may specialize in such areas as surgery, pediatrics or emergency services.

Areas of Study in Physician Assistant: Anatomy and Physiology, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, Family Practice, Clinical Medicine, Maternal and Child Health, Emergency Medicine, Behavioral Medicine, Rural Healthcare and Underrepresented Populations, Medical Procedures, Public Health, Leadership and Management, Professional and Medical Ethics.

Where does my path start?

You will complete an Associate of Arts – Direct Transfer Agreement (AA-DTA) at Shoreline.

Use the AA -DTA Degree Planning Guide to understand the requirements for graduation.

Once you complete your Shoreline degree, you can transfer to a four-year school. Most Physician Assistant (PA) programs are Master's Degree and require a Bachelor's degree for admission. There are a few schools with a Bachelor program in PA, including one in Washington State. P.A. programs require extensive clinical experience; some schools accept volunteer hours, but others require that you have paid work experience as a health care provider. For more information: http://www.shoreline.edu/science/prehealth/ http://prehealthblog.shoreline.edu

Where can I go for help?

Physician Assistant Faculty Advisors

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For course questions and entry codes:

biologyadvising@shoreline.edu chemistryadvising@shoreline.edu

General Academic Advising

FOSS (5000) Building, Rm. 5229 206-546-4559 advising@shoreline.edu www.shoreline.edu/advising

Career Planning

www.shoreline.edu/job-careerservices/

International Student Academic Advising

9000 Building, Rm. 9302 206-546-4697 ieadvisors@shoreline.edu www.shoreline.edu/international/ advising/

Where can I transfer?

Students can transfer to a number of public and private colleges and universities in the U.S., but the Direct Transfer Agreement applies only within Washington. The following colleges in Washington offer a degree in Physician Assistant, which may require specific courses for admission. Contact the Physician Assistant department at your chosen four-year school(s) for more information.

University of Washington

Seattle and Spokane offer Master's degree programs; Tacoma offers Bachelor's degree program.

Heritage University (Masters)

What can I do with a Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Physician Assistant?

Physician Assistants (PA) develop strong critical thinking, problem solving, communication and technical skills to provide direct patient care in a number of health care settings. In addition to patient care, PA's manage health care facilities, conduct research, teach classes, promote wellness, and provide leadership in the health care field.

Potential employers include: Hospitals, health care clinics, physician's office, colleges and universities, in-home health care, government agencies, non-profit organizations, business and industry. For more, please visit career information and resources at http://www.shoreline.edu/counseling-services/career-counseling.aspx

What courses should I take?**

Below are recommendations for fulfilling the AA-DTA requirements if you are planning to pursue a four-year degree in Physician Assistant.

I GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Strongly Recommended

BIOL &241 and &242

These are commonly **required** for admission. Check with your chosen four-year program(s) to confirm.

Other Recommendations

These courses are well-matched with Physician Assistant, but are not commonly required for admission.

Additional credits in medically related sciences,

e.g., CHEM &131, MATH &141

Quant. and Symbolic	MATH& 146	
Reasoning		
II. DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT	S	
Humanities		CMST &101, &220
Natural Sciences	BIOL &211, &260; CHEM &121	Physician Assistant Programs outside of Washington State often require additional courses in Chemistry, such as CHEM 171/181 172/182 and 173/183
Social Sciences		ANTH &206, PSYC &100, &200, SOC &101 or &201

What does your chosen program require?

Before choosing classes, become familiar with the program where you want to apply: visit the website, email the department, and/or speak with a Shoreline advisor. Below are examples from Washington schools with different admissions and graduation requirements. Check with the school for world language requirements. (Non-native speakers of English are often exempt from this requirement.) Students need to apply through the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) between May 1 and Oct. 1. A secondary application is also required for each school; check each school for deadlines.

School	Degrees & Requirements	SCC Courses
University of Washington	Master's in Clinical Health Services (MCHS) and Bachelor's in Clinical Health Services (BCHS) MEDEX Northwest is the University of Washington's Physician Assistant program. All applicants must have at least one year (2,000 hours) of paid clinical work experience providing direct delivery of medical care to patients or work in an allied health field such as x-ray technology, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, etc. Competitive MEDEX candidates average a total of 6.5 years patient care experience. Strongly recommended that science pre-requisites be completed within the last 5-7 years. Recommended courses: biochemistry (CHEM& 131), genetics, sociology and/or psychology and/or anthropology. Admission to the Master's Program: A Bachelor's degree is required for admission in a major of your choice, along with scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).	Course requirements must be completed by Oct 1 deadline with a minimum 2.7 grade: CHEM &121, BIOL &211, &241+&242, and &260, MATH &146, ENGL &101 and another ENGL course. For admission to the Anchorage program college algebra (MATH 111 or &141) and PSYC &100 and &200 are also required.
Heritage University, Toppenish, WA	Master's of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Admission requires a Bachelor's degree in a major of your choice. A minimum of 1,000 hours of "hands-on" patient contact work experience. All prerequisites must be completed by Jan 1. TOEFL is required if English is not your first language and your undergraduate degree is outside the US.	Must have a 3.0 in each course: CHEM &121, BIOL &211, &241, &242, &260, MATH 111, &141, &146 or 211.

^{**} This unofficial guide is intended to support you as you prepare for your major. Please consult with an advisor and your chosen four-year school(s), as program and admissions requirements vary and may change without notice.