GETTING STARTED

Create a Medical Applicant Portal (MAP) via myNortheastern. MAP is an online resource for students and alumni to identify themselves as Pre-Physician Assistant and stay informed of important dates and events. It also serves as a portfolio to help prepare students for the application process.

Our website houses a great deal of pertinent information and resources for your perusal: undergraduate.northeastern.edu/prehealth

REQUIRED COURSEWORK

Requisite courses are school specific. For detailed course requirements, please review:
- Physician Assistant Education Association Program Directory

Common courses include:
- Two semesters of Biology with labs
- Two semesters of Chemistry with labs
- Two semesters of Anatomy & Physiology with labs
- Microbiology with lab (Requires Genetics & Molecular Biology)
- Two semesters of Math (Calculus & Statistics)
- Additional coursework across disciplines is often required or recommended (e.g. Psychology, Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, English, Medical Terminology, etc.)

AP credit is sometimes not accepted for prerequisite courses. In this case, students should complete upper-level coursework to satisfy the requirement. Please refer to program websites for more detail on their AP credit policy.

MAJOR OPTIONS

Students admitted to US physician assistant schools come from all undergraduate majors. Physician assistant schools appreciate academic diversity. You are encouraged to select a major based on your interests. Common majors include Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Behavioral Neuroscience and Health Science.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Many programs require an approximate number of hours of paid, hands-on patient care experiences prior to applying. It is strongly recommended students obtain 1,800 to 2,000 clinical hours before applying. Examples of direct patient care positions include, but are not limited to Certified Nursing Assistant, Physical Therapy Aid, Medical Assistant, etc. Be mindful that some position hours (e.g. EMT or Medical Scribe) may not count toward your direct patient care hours as PA schools do not see these roles as totally hands-on patient care experiences. More information can be found on program websites.

Clinical experiences should also include shadowing hours with a licensed Physician Assistant. It is the quality of your shadowing experience, rather than number of hours that allows you to demonstrate your understanding of the profession.

EXPERIENTIAL PREPARATION

Community Engagement: Volunteer in your local or global community. Service experiences do not need to be within the field of healthcare, but should follow your interests and demonstrate a passion for helping those in need. Explore your campus community - join organizations that tap into your own passions and interests, such as the Pre-PA Society. Demonstrate your ability to lead. Connect with faculty and build up your professional network at Northeastern and beyond.

Research: Though not required for physician assistant programs, research experience makes your application stand out among the applicant pool. Having a solid understanding of research allows for an informed interpretation of hypotheses, results and translation to practice.

ENTRANCE EXAM

Pre-Physician Assistant students will traditionally sit for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), though this is not required by all programs. It is recommended that two to three months are dedicated to study before taking the exam.

CONNECT

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