



PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

The Saint Louis University Physician Assistant Program is a master's level program. At SLU, students can take courses to help them meet the pre-requisites for admission to a physician assistant program. Each PA program has different pre-requisite coursework. Health care experience is also required for SLU's program and many other programs; the number of hours varies with each program.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY PRE-PA COURSEWORK

Biology	
BIOL 1040	PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY I
BIOL 1060	PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY II
Chemistry	
CHEM 1110/1115	GENERAL CHEMISTRY I AND LAB
CHEM 1120/1125	GENERAL CHEMISTRY II AND LAB
CHEM 2410	PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I
CHEM 2415	PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I LAB
CHEM 2420	PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II
CHEM 2425	PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II LAB
Statistics (select one)	
BIOL 4790	BIOMETRY
STAT 1100	INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS
MATH 1300	ELEMENTARY STATISTICS
Human Anatomy (select one)	
ANAT 1000	BASIC HUMAN ANATOMY
SEE ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY SECTION*	
Human Physiology (select one)	
PPY 2540	HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY
BIOL 4540	HUMAN CELLULAR PHYSIOLOGY I
SEE ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY SECTION*	
Anatomy and Physiology (select both to fulfill the Anatomy and Physiology requirement)	
HSI 3300/3310	ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I & LAB
HSI 3400/3410	ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II & LAB
Microbiology (select one)	
BLS 4510	MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY
BIOL 4640	GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY
MB 1580	BASIC MICROBIOLOGY
Genetics	
BIOL 3030	PRINCIPLES OF GENETICS
Medical Terminology	
HSI 2200	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY



HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE

The Saint Louis University Physician Assistant Program requires a minimum of 500 hours of direct patient care experience by the time of application.

- Direct patient care experience varies and can be acquired on a full or part time basis.
- Patient care experience requiring certification and providing monetary compensation is more competitive than volunteering.
- Examples of types of employment providing direct patient care hours are Certified Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Phlebotomist or Medical Scribe.
- These types of jobs may be found in hospitals, nursing homes or medical offices. Prospective applicants may need to receive additional training to obtain these jobs.
- Shadowing a physician assistant is not considered direct patient care experience, but it is an important aspect of gaining knowledge of the PA profession.
- A maximum of 100 clinical hours obtained within required components of an education program can be counted toward direct patient care experience.



PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCHOLAR ADMISSION VERSUS TRADITIONAL ADMISSION

	PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCHOLAR	TRADITIONAL ADMISSION
Minimum science and overall GPA	3.3	3.0
Minimum grade in a pre-requisite class	B	C
Pre-requisite classes taken	Take all science pre-requisites at SLU	Prefer that all science pre-requisites are taken at a four year college or university
Minimum direct patient care hours	100 hours by August 1 after sophomore year 250 hours at the end of Junior year 500 hours by June 15 after graduation	500 hours at the time of CASPA application submission
Apply	Apply by August 1 after Sophomore year. Contact Helen McCormack, Program Coordinator of Admission, for application at hmccorma@slu.edu , by May 1 of Spring Semester sophomore year.	Apply the summer or early fall the year before you would like to begin the program. Apply through CASPA and SLU supplemental application.
Acceptance	Qualified candidates are interviewed in September of their Junior year and may be accepted into the Pre-PA Scholars by October 31 of that year. Pre-PA Scholars would then begin the PA program in August following their undergraduate graduation, assuming all requirements have been maintained. One to four qualified candidates per year are accepted. Number of applications varies.	Qualified candidates are interviewed. Applicants are accepted on a rolling admission basis. (Over 500 applicants per year; 80 - 100 interviewed; 34 total positions for each class.)

WEBSITES

The following websites may be useful in search information about physician assistants and the various programs in the U.S.

- aapa.org | American Academy of Physician Assistants
- moapa.org | Missouri Academy of Physician Assistants
- arc-pa.org | Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant
- slu.edu/doisy | Saint Louis University Physician Assistant
- pafocus.org | Physician Assistant Education Association Pre-Physician Assistant Focus Page