



Pre-Physician Associate Quick Facts

TYPICAL PA SCHOOL PREREQUISITES

Biology - BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L

General Chem - CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L & 2211/L

Organic Chemistry - CHEM 2211/L

Anatomy - CBIO 2200/L & 2210/L

Psychology - PSYC 1101

Statistics: STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010 or BIOS 3000

Microbiology - MIBO 2500/L or 3500/L or 3500 & 3501L

*not a definitive list, always check with your target schools

RECOMMENDED CLASSES

Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry II, Medical

Terminology, Genetics, and Abnormal Psychology

Average Matriculant Numbers

- Overall GPA: 3.50
- Science GPA: 3.50
- GRE: 310 combined score & ~4.0 writing (scores above 50th percentile)

GRADE TRENDS

Admissions Committees Look For:

- Upward Trends — Improvement over time shows resilience and growth.
- Red Flags — Repeated withdrawals or poor performance in science courses
- Course Location — Too many difficult courses taken outside your home institution may raise concerns

While an instance or two of poor performance is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of red flags should be avoided.

C.A.S.P.A.

Centralized Application Service

To apply to most PA programs, you will utilize the CASPA application service. Official transcripts, GRE scores, a personal statement, and letters of recommendation are all submitted to CASPA. If you are applying to a program that does not use CASPA, you will need to provide them with all that information separately.

CASPA opens each year in late April, but programs differ in terms of their application deadlines. Most deadlines are in the fall for a summer start; however, some may have spring deadlines for a winter start. You are responsible for checking the application deadlines for the programs to which they hope to apply. Regardless of deadline, you are encouraged to submit your application as early as possible.

MAJORS

There is no single "best" major for physician associate students—choose a field you truly enjoy, as you're more likely to succeed in it. Be sure to meet with a pre-health advisor in the Pre-Professional Advising Office to create a plan that fits your goals.

General Information

- Master's Degree
- Most Programs are 2 - 3 years
- Ten institutions in Georgia:
 - Augusta University
 - Emory University
 - GA-PCOM
 - Mercer University
 - Morehouse
 - South College
 - South University
 - Brenau University
 - Agnes Scott
 - Berry College

G.R.E.

Graduate Record Examination

Contains three sections:
Quantitative, Verbal, Essay

- Dedicate four to eight weeks exam prep
- Offered at University Testing Service regularly
- Recommended to take Jan - March of your application cycle

DIRECT PATIENT CARE

Students must spend a significant amount of time working or volunteering in clinical settings where they are able to administer care to patients.

Competitive applicants to PA school generally have over 1000 hours of experience. While programs will list minimum hours that are lower, they do not normally matriculate students who only have the minimum. As a result, it is not unusual for pre-PA students to take a gap year to focus on direct patient care experience.

SHADOWING

Shadowing does not count towards direct patient care. While PA programs do require more direct patient care hours, shadowing is often still required or recommended. The value of shadowing a PA lies in gaining knowledge of the profession, and building a rapport with a PA who can then write a strong letter of recommendation. While some schools may not specify the number of shadowing hours required, you should expect to have a little over 100 hours between at least two different settings.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Research experience is recommended, but is not required for admission into most PA schools. If you are interested in research, then you should plan to dedicate at least a year to a specific project or research lab.

VOLUNTEERING

- Shows service-mindedness & empathy
- Gains experience in diverse social issues
- Focus on long term involvement
- Look for leadership roles when possible

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Large lecture classes make it harder to connect, so be intentional in building relationships with professors.
- Attend office hours regularly
- Engage during class & labs
- Develop relationship over a period of time for a strong letter.

Choose Letter Writers Wisely

- Pick people who know you well
- Choose strong, specific letters over generic letters
- Ask early and give plenty of notice.

LOR Sources	Additional Notes
Science Faculty	Biology, Chemistry, etc. – often required. Lecture, not lab.
Research Mentor	Great addition, but <u>may not</u> count as a science faculty letter.
Physician Associate	Often Required
Non-Science Faculty	Optional for most, but shows well-roundedness
Other Strong Options	Volunteer coordinators, employers, etc.

Check the requirements of each school you plan to apply to. If no guidelines are given, generally aim for one hard science faculty letter, one practicing PA letter, and one additional professional letter. Some schools draw a distinction between mentorship and class instruction. Don't be afraid to reach out to your target schools for clarification!

INSTITUTION

Augusta University
Emory University
Mercer University
Morehouse
South University
PCOM
South College
Brenau University
Agnes Scott
Berry College

APPLICATION PERIOD

July - October
April - October
November - April
April - October
April - August
April - December
April - December
April - September
April - December
April - April

MATRICULATION DATE

May
August
January
June
January
June
Sept/Oct
January
October
August