

PRE-PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT EMPHASIS

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Physician's assistants (PA's) practice medicine supervised by licensed physicians. A PA is qualified to give a physical exam, order and administer tests, make diagnoses, and treat illnesses. In some rural areas where physicians are in short supply, PA's serve as the only providers of health care, conferring with their supervising physicians and other medical professionals, as needed and as required by law. A PA's responsibilities depend on the type of practice, experience, the working relationship with physician supervisors and other health care providers, and state laws.

Science Courses Required For PA School (Taken from UCHSC program):

Course	Course Name	Cr.	√
BIOL 191/L	College Biology I-Botany/Lab	5	
BIOL 192/L	College Biology II-Zoology/Lab	5	
BIOL 321/L	Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy/Lab	5	
BIOL 341/L	Vertebrate Physiology/Lab	4	
BIOL 350	Mendelian and Population Genetics	2	
BIOL 351	Molecular Biology and Genetics	2	
CHEM 121/L	General Chemistry I/Lab	5	
CHEM 122/L	General Chemistry II/Lab	5	
CHEM 301/L	Organic Chemistry I/Lab (Recommended)	5	
CHEM 302/L	Organic Chemistry II/Lab (Recommended)	5	

Note: Lower division courses with combined Anatomy and Physiology are not acceptable.

Other Required Components:

Course	Course Name	Cr.	√
MATH 156	Introduction to Statistics	3	
Humanities	See Catalog	12	

PSYCHOLOGY 6 semester hours – some suggested courses listed here:

Course	Course Name	Cr.	√
PSYCH 100	General Psychology	3	
PSYCH 151	Introduction to Human Development	3	
PSYCH 220	Drugs and Behavior	3	
PSYCH 251	Infancy, Childhood and Preadolescence	3	
PSYCH 252	Adolescence, Adulthood and Aging	3	

Recommended Upper Division Courses:

Course	Course Name	Cr.	√
CHEM 301/L	Organic Chemistry I/Lab	5	
CHEM 302/L	Organic Chemistry II/Lab	5	
CHEM 311/411	Biochemistry	3	
BIOL 301/L	General Microbiology/Lab	5	
BIOL 311/411	Biochemistry (Recommended)	3	
BIOL 402	Immunology	3	
BIOL 412/L	Cellular Biology/Lab	4	

Note: A total of 18 semester hours of upper division coursework must be completed.

There are over 140 programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), located throughout the United States. Programs generally are affiliated with two- and four-year colleges and university schools of medicine and allied health. Most program application deadlines are the first of December through the end of March, and most programs begin in August or September. A list of current accredited programs is available from the CSU-Pueblo Biology Pre-Health Advisor or from the American Academy of Physician Assistants at: www.aapa.org.

Most PA programs require a minimum of two to three years of college credits and some health care experience prior to admission. Some programs require a baccalaureate degree. Over one-half of those who apply to PA programs already have or will have earned a baccalaureate degree.

Colorado has two PA programs, the Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant (CHA/PA), a Master's degree program, located at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver (www.uchsc.edu/chapa/) and a Certificate program at Red Rocks Community College (www.rccc.ccooes.edu/pa/), for those with significant healthcare experience.

The UCHSC program requires a baccalaureate degree and Pre-PA course work with superior performance, especially in science core courses. Communication skills, written and oral, and "people skills" are extremely important. Applicants must also sit for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The number of student admitted each year is limited. The program itself requires a three-year tenure for completion, with award of a certificate of completion and an MS degree available upon completion of an additional research project.