

## New York Physician Assistant Program Course Requirements

*This is an overview and should in NO WAY substitute for personally reviewing the requirements of each school*

Courses At Hunter	Stony Brook (MS)	Long Island University (BS)	<sup>3</sup> New York Institute of Technology (MS)	SUNY Downstate (BS)	York College (BS)	Pace University (MS)	St. John's University (BS)
BIOL 100 <sup>1</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
BIOL 102 <sup>1</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
BIOL 120	*	X	X	X	X	X	
BIOL 122	*	X	X	X	X	X	
CHEM 102	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CHEM 104	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CHEM 106	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
STAT 213	X	X	RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED	X	RECOMMENDED	**
BIOL 230 (MicroBiology)	X	X	RECOMMENDED	X		X	X
CHEM 222	<b>X OR BIOL 300</b>			RECOMMENDED	X	<b>X OR BIOL 300</b>	
CHEM 223						<b>X if CHEM 222 is taken</b>	
CHEM 224							
CHEM 225							
BIOL 300 (BioChem) <sup>2</sup>	<b>X OR CHEM 222</b>			RECOMMENDED		<b>X OR CHEM 222</b>	RECOMMENDED
BIOL 302 (Genetics)	X		RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED			
PSYCH 101			X	X	X		

\*Preference given to applicants who have completed Anatomy and Physiology at time of application

\*\*Biostatistics is preferred

<sup>1</sup> Some Physician Assistant Programs do not require General biology however BIOL 102 is a pre-requisite for upper level biology courses at Hunter so it has been marked as a requirement

<sup>2</sup> CHEM 222 and CHEM 223 are pre-requisites for BIOL 300 at Hunter College

<sup>3</sup> NYIT requires that applicants submit GRE exam scores

(BS): Bachelor of Science degree program (MS): Master of Science degree program

Each school has additional requirements regarding social sciences, humanities, and writing. This is only an overview of the science pre-requisites.

Physician Assistant programs prefer courses that are taken at 4 year institutions with rigorous science programs. Students who are biology majors or who have taken more upper level science courses are generally better applicants.

Physician Assistant programs also require health care experience. While every school has their own minimum requirement, most schools require between 500-1000 documented hours of health care experience, particularly direct patient care. Each school also feels differently about volunteering versus getting paid, some would even like applicants to have non- health care related community service hours in addition to their health care experience. Other schools would like students to have experience in more than one health care setting. Check with each school for their preferences. Generally, the more hours of experience you gain, the better candidate you become; completing at least 1000 hours is highly recommended. Below is a partial list of ways to gain this experience:

- Medical assistant
- Surgical technologist
- Licensed practical or registered nurse
- Dental assistant
- Dental hygienist
- Certified nursing assistant
- Home health aide
- Residential aide
- Emergency medical technician
- Paramedic
- Physical therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Physical therapy assistant
- Physical therapy aide
- Occupational therapy assistant
- Occupational therapy aide
- Respiratory therapist
- Perfusionist
- Electrocardiographic (EKG) technician
- Phlebotomist
- Ophthalmologic technician
- Volunteer work involving direct patient care
- Shadowing a physician, physician assistant or dentist

Most Physician Assistant programs accept between 30-50 students a year making admissions very competitive. Remember, the information above only applies to New York Physician Assistant programs but there are many other programs throughout the country.

If you are planning on applying to Physician Assistant programs you do not need to open a file with the Pre-Health Professions Advising Office. If you are unsure if you want to pursue medical school or physician assistant studies than you should open a file with the office and start collecting the appropriate evaluations and letters of recommendation. You can do this by going to: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/prehealth/links-resources>. Students applying to Physician Assistant programs do not receive Committee Letters.

Helpful Websites:

Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistant Programs  
[www.CASPAonline.org](http://www.CASPAonline.org)

Physician Assistant Education Association  
[www.paeaonline.org](http://www.paeaonline.org)