PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TIMELINE for HONORS
Pre-PA Timeline (Regardless of Major)

Why is this Pre-PA Timeline important for the eventual Application Process?

Pre-PA students will better prepare a competitive profile if they organize an individualized plan. Consider the following steps in your planning process.

**Step #1:** Develop a list of Pre-requisites based on programs of interest;

**Step #2:** Check for TU pre-requisites for all courses you plan to take through the Temple Course Catalogue

**Step #3:** Develop your personalized Timeline draft by adding to this list all courses required for your major as well as University Gen Ed Requirements for graduation; Each student’s timeline will be different! Once drafted, review the timeline draft with your Academic Advisor.

**Step #4:** Remember to include advanced planning for exposure to health care, patient contact hours, service activities, and GRE prep.

*Note: While Temple does not have a PA Program, you can successfully prepare to apply to these programs by completing the course requirements you have carefully listed in your personalized timeline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Pre-Requisite Course Listing</th>
<th>Timeline Notes:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Biology: Bio 1011/lab and 1012/lab</td>
<td><strong>Second Year:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences: Anatomy &amp; Physiology 1223/lab and 1224/lab and microbiology w/lab</td>
<td><strong>By June:</strong> Share ePortfolio Draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry: Chem 1951/33 and 1952/34</td>
<td>Build Exposure to PA, Hands-On Patient Contact hours, Community Service**</td>
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<td>Additional Chemistry courses: Organic Chem 2912 or Biochemistry</td>
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<td>Math: Elementary Statistics 1013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology : Required Courses: Psychology 1061 or 1996, Child developmental, Abnormal psychology (Lifespan Development)</td>
<td><strong>Third Year:</strong></td>
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<td>Genetics * Bio 1911 &amp; 2912 are prereq’s</td>
<td>Prepare for and take the GRE by the summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Reading &amp; Writing: Mosaic I &amp; II</td>
<td>Continue to Build Hands-On Patient Contact Hours, Service**</td>
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<td>Social sciences</td>
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<td>Computer literacy</td>
<td>The Application Process</td>
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<td>The CASPA Application cycle opens in April.</td>
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<td>Submit Application by July. Application must show plan in place to complete any outstanding pre-requisites.</td>
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**Fourth Year:**

Continue coursework required for major/graduation.

**Professional Development / Clinical Exposure**

Exposure to PA’s, health care settings, and direct patient (hands-on) contact are an important part of your preparation / application to PA programs. Most programs will require over 200 hours of direct patient contact. Many of the Pennsylvania programs require between 200 and 500 hours of direct patient contact, paid or volunteer, and some programs require shadowing experience with a PA as well. Consider becoming EMT or CAN certified as a way of meeting this requirement. Experience should be well rounded!

**Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (PPHS) Pre-PA Advising**

Advising offered by the Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (PPHS) supplements the academic advising (course registration, major requirements and graduation review) provided by the advising center in the student’s primary college. Students planning to apply to physician assistant programs are strongly encouraged to initiate an ePortfolio with the PPHS as early as their freshman year.
Information on Applying to PA Programs

Physician Assistants (PAs): PAs are licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and write prescriptions.

Application Process: Applications are processed through CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants) (www.caspaonline.org), an electronic, web-based system that allows applicants to complete one application and designate any number of programs to receive their application. Programs that do not participate in CASPA post their applications on their Web sites. Apply early once the application cycles open!!

Undergraduate Major: There is no preferred major for preparing for PA programs. Choosing a major that interests you or that is your academic strength will be to your benefit.

GPA Requirements: Overall GPA; Math/Science GPA; and Pre-Requisite GPA above 3.3 are preferred. Calculating your Science GPA includes grades from all courses taken from the Departments of Bio, Chem, Physics, & Math appearing on your transcript. Note: *The GPA includes both grades for a course that is repeated. *Transfer students need to include courses from all institutions attended.

Entrance Exam: GRE: Most PA programs require the GRE exam. The GRE is offered year round as an on-line exam. Plan to take the exam summer after your junior year. www.ets.org/gre/ Begin exam prep early!

Letters of Recommendation

PA Programs will first review your numbers (Overall GPA, Pre-Requisite GPA, Science GPA, GRE Scores). If the numbers are in a competitive range for their particular program, they will then consider you for an interview. Part of the Interview Process will include a review of letters of recommendation. Individual PA Programs are very specific about the types of recommendation letters required. Begin early to consider recommendation sources!

1) Begin speaking with faculty and requesting letters of recommendation as you are completing classes in the sciences and have performed well in the class (A or B+). Recommendation sources from mentors and non-science faculty should also be considered as early as possible.

2) Stay in contact with each of your recommendation sources each semester. Before you apply, make sure you inform them once again that, as they had agreed, you will add their name to your application as a Recommendation source.

3) Even if not planning to request a PPHS Committee Letter, please remember: A Committee Recommendation Letter from PPHS will serve to highlight your strengths as an applicant. At a minimum, completing and sharing an ePortfolio for advising feedback will keep you organized as you prepare to apply. A Committee letter will only be sent to CASPA for applicants who: (1) have completed ePortfolios in the timeframe required; (2) have interviewed with a member of the Pre-Health Evaluation Committee, and (3) supplied exam scores.

Office Contact Information:

Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (PPHS) 1810 Liacouras Walk, Suite 100; 215 204-2513 healthadvising@temple.edu

Visit the PPHS website for updates on workshops and other opportunities. www.temple.edu/healthadvising

Additional Resources on PA’s

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) www.paeaonline.org

American Academy of Physician Assistants http://www.aapa.org

Details on CASPA Participating Programs: https://portal.caspaonline.org/caspaHelpPages/participating-programs/