



Pre-Physician Assistant

The Profession

Physician assistants are skilled members of the health care profession who function as an extension of the physician and provide a wide range of medical services. Under the supervision of a licensed physician, physician assistants interview patients and record health histories, conduct physical examinations, order and interpret diagnostic tests, establish treatment plans and educate patients in preventive medicine and health maintenance.

The Program at UW-Platteville

The pre-physician assistant program at UW-Platteville is a three to four year course of study in which the student follows a prescribed curriculum which is necessary to meet admission requirements to a professional physician assistant program. In most cases a Bachelor of Science degree will aid admission into a professional program.

Pre-physician assistant is a preprofessional program; therefore, the student must also indicate an academic major because a preprofessional program is not a major but rather a statement of intent.

Physician Assistant Training

The professional program usually consists of 24 months during which the first phase involves classroom and laboratory instruction in basic medical sciences. The second phase (clinical phase) consists of structured clinical rotations (preceptorships), which allow students the opportunity to work with practicing physicians and experience direct patient contact. Following this training, the physician assistants are eligible to take a national certification examination for physician assistant accreditation.

High School Preparation

In preparing to enter the pre-physician assistant program, the high school student needs to acquire a strong science/mathematics background. In addition, a good background in communication and social skills is helpful.

Faculty and Facilities

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville provides the student with a strong liberal studies curriculum, a dedicated faculty and modern facilities to support the program. These include well-equipped chemistry, physics, and biology laboratories.

Placement

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville has a good record of placing qualified students in professional programs designed for physician assistants.

Outstanding Career Opportunities

The demand for physician assistants in health care is growing as their role continues to expand. Opportunities for physician assistants are becoming rapidly available in both rural and urban settings, especially with the increasing public awareness of the importance of health care and the increasing demands placed on physicians. There are also increasing employment opportunities for physician assistants in specialty areas of medicine. Physician assistants enjoy a career which offers rewards in personal achievement, financial compensation, and providing service to others.

Suggested Course of Study

The requirements of the UW-Platteville pre-physician assistant program are designed to prepare students for several different Physician Assistant programs. Students are advised to seek information about requirements from the professional school they plan to attend.

Minimum Requirements

Biology (minimum of 17 cr)

Biol 1450
Biol 2140 and 2240
Biol 3240

Chemistry

Chem 1140 and 1240
Chem 3540/3510
Chem 4630/4610

Math

Math 1530 and 2530 or Math 2450
Math 1830

Social Sciences and Humanities

Sociology 1130
Psychology 1130
Advanced course in Psychology or Sociology
Ethnic Course 3cr

In addition to these minimum requirements, it is also strongly recommended that the applicant to physician assistant school have a background including analytical geometry, beginning calculus (or pre-calculus), statistics and physics. In fact, some professional schools require different combinations of these courses. These course requirements are supplemented with any additional curriculum needs for individual schools.

Nonacademic Requirements

Each applicant must show evidence of knowledge of and experience with the physician assistant profession. This is largely accomplished by working in a clinical setting (as a CNA or EMT or other related position) and/or through voluntary or job shadowing experiences. This experience should include at least 500 hours of volunteer/paid health care experience. This experience should also include direct patient contact.

For More Information

For more information write, to the Pre-Physician Assistant Advisor, Department of Biology, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, Wisconsin 53818-3099, or call 608.342.1793.

For general information on the university and its programs, consult the website at www.uwplatt.edu or contact the UWP Prospective Student Services, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818-3099, or call toll-free 1.877.897.5288 or locally 608.342.1068.

Suggested Course of Study

First Year

First Semester

1140	General Chemistry	4
1450	General Zoology	5
1130	English	3
	Electives	3
		15

Second Semester

1240	General Chemistry	4
1230	English	3
2450	Pre-Calculus	5
1350	General Botany	5
1000	Physical Education (or 1110-1490)	1
		18

Second Year

First Semester

3540	Organic Chemistry(Lab 3510)	4
1140	Introductory Physics(Lab 1110)	5
2140	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
	Elective	3
		16

Second Semester

3630	Organic Chemistry (Lab 3610)	4
1240	Introductory Physics (Lab 1210)	5
2240	Human Anat. & Phys. II	4
1000	Physical Education (or 1110-1490)	1
	Elective	3
		17

Third Year

First Semester

	Advanced Biology (Microbiology 3240, Advanced Phys. 4240, Embryology 3140, Cell Biology 2040)	4-8
1010	Public Speaking	2
2430	Math	3
	Minor or Electives	3
		12-16

Second Semester

3000	Technical Writing	3
	Advanced Biology (Histology 4340, Genetics 3330, Immunology 3620, Comp.Anatomy 3040)	3-6
	Minor or Electives	6-12
4630	Biochemistry Lab (4610 optional)	3-5
		12-18

Fourth Year

First Year

	Advanced Biology (Microbiology 3240, Advanced Phys. 4240, Embryology 3140,)	3-7
	Minor or electives	9-12
		15-16

Second Semester

	Advanced Biology (Comp. Anatomy 3040, Histology 4340, Genetics 3330, Immunology 3620)	2-7
	Minor or electives	9-12
		15-16

*Electives include choices in Humanities and Fine Arts (i.e. Literature is recommended. Other choices include Philosophy, Art, Music Theater, and/or History), Social Sciences (i.e. Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, Criminal Justice, Political Science and/or Psychology), International and Ethnic/Gender Studies.

**This program of study (or a similar program) is prepared for a student majoring in Biology, who completes graduation requirements in 4 years at UWP with a pre-physician assistant emphasis. Many alternate programs exist.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, handicap, sex, sexual orientation, developmental disability, national origin, ancestry, marital status, arrest record or conviction record.