

Pre-Physician Assistant

PA Program Prerequisites

A specific major is not required for admission into a PA program. Students are advised to major in a discipline they are both most interested and able to excel in.

The following courses are required for admission to most PA programs:

<i>Prerequisite (PAEA 2015)</i>	<i>Prerequisites for the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine (2015 Cycle)</i>	<i>Course Equivalent at Cornell College</i>
2 English courses	2 English courses	ENG 111 (1 st Year Writing Course) & 1 additional writing course within the English department
2 Introductory Biology courses with labs	Introductory course in Animal Biology or General Zoology and at least 3 upper-division level courses in Biology or Zoology, one of which must be animal, human, or exercise physiology.	BIO 141 (Foundations: Cellular Biology), & BIO 142 (Foundations: Organismal Biology), BIO 329 (Anatomy & Physiology I), BIO 330 (Anatomy & Physiology II), & BIO 205 (Cellular and Molecular Biology)
3-4 Upper Level Biology courses	Examples of Upper-Level Courses: Cell Biology**, Immunology**, Microbiology**, Anatomy, Embryology, Endocrinology, Histology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology **Highly recommended	BIO 327 (Immunology) BIO 326 (Microbiology) KIN 207 (Systems Physiology) BIO 328 (Neurobiology)
2 General Chemistry course with lab	Series of introductory courses in Chemistry followed by upper-level courses in Organic Chemistry and Introductory Biochemistry.	CHE 121 (Chemical Principles I) & CHE 122 (Chemical Principles II)
Organic Chemistry course sequence with lab		CHE 225 (Organic Chemistry I Lecture) CHE 326 (Organic Chemistry II Lecture) CHE 327 (Organic Chemistry Laboratory) CHE 334 (Biochemistry)
1 Statistics course	Statistical Sciences – 1 course	STA 201 (Statistical Methods I)
1 Biochemistry course	X	BIO 334 (Biochemistry)
Humanities/Social Science courses	X	Suggested: PSY 161 (Fundamentals of Psychological Science) PSY 282 (Abnormal Psychology) SOC 101 (Sociological Thinking)

The following courses at Cornell College are prerequisites for some of the aforementioned PA prerequisites and/or are recommended for students pursuing PA programs:

BIO 315 (Genetics)

Note: Each PA program has a specific list of prerequisites you must complete to be considered for admission. Most PA programs require additional courses than those specified in the table above. Visit both the [PAEA Program Directory](#) and PA program websites regularly to explore program-specific prerequisites to ensure you've satisfy courses needed before applying. Be sure your Faculty Advisor is aware that you are Pre-PA. It is strongly recommended that you meet with your Faculty Advisor and [Dimensions staff](#) regularly to ensure you are meeting the requirements for both your major and PA programs in the proper sequence.

AP Credit

PA programs have different rules when it comes to accepting AP credit as fulfillment of a prerequisite. If you enter Cornell College with AP credit, closely check the requirements of the PA programs of which you intend to apply.

Community College Credit

Most PA programs prefer that applicants take all prerequisites at a 4-year institution. Students interested in earning credit at a community college should meet with their Faculty Advisor and the Associate Director of Dimensions *before* registration.

Cornell College Pre-Physician Assistant Sample 4-Year Timeline*

Year in School	Cornell College Course Satisfying Prerequisite	Additional Information
First Year	FYS ENG 111 1 additional English writing course BIO 141 BIO 142 CHE 121 CHE 122	Your top priorities are becoming acquainted with your new surroundings, living arrangements, and course requirements. Students are strongly encouraged to get involved in co-curricular activities they are interested in or passionate about. (Activities do not all need to be medical-related.) New students should meet with the Associate Director of Dimensions at least once during their first year on campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many students will begin exploring opportunities to shadow healthcare professionals, volunteer in the community, and take part in student organizations. Hours spent in co-curricular activities should be tracked for the medical school application. • Students are encouraged to start thinking about summer as early as October**. • Students should review professional resources from this document and the Dimensions website to familiarize themselves with medicine and the medical field. • Attend relevant Dimensions Pre-Health Workshops.
Second Year	PSY 161 STA 201 CHE 225 CHE 326 CHE 327 BIO 205	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to work closely with faculty members on research and other projects outside of class. Narrow down co-curricular involvement to experiences that are most meaningful to you and that you are most passionate about (even if it's not healthcare related.) Move up to leadership positions or take on more responsibility in co-curricular activities. • Start looking at PA programs more closely to identify unique requirements of schools you are interested in. Read in detail about the medical school application cycles, the GRE, and the Cornell College Health Professions Committee. • Attend relevant Dimensions Pre-Health Workshops.
Third Year	BIO 315 CHE 202 PHY 141 PHY 142 BIO 329	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work up to leadership positions or take on more responsibilities in co-curricular activities. Continue to shadow in the medical field and volunteer in the community. • Be sure you've completed at least the minimum amount of shadowing hours required by PA programs you plan to apply to. • Register for the GRE and prepare by taking several full-length practice exams. (Dimensions can help you identify GRE prep resources.) Students should sit for the GRE in April, May or June of their third year on campus if they plan to apply to start a PA program immediately following graduation. • Prepare for Health Professions Committee if you intend to enter PA school immediately following graduation. Application deadlines should be verified with the Associate Director of Dimensions before the end of your junior year. (Example: Health Profession Committee applications are due summer 2016 if you hope to start medical school fall 2017.) • Attend relevant Dimensions Pre-Health Workshops.
Fourth Year	CHE 334 PSY 282 SOC 101 BIO 326, 327, or 328 BIO 330 Complete graduation major/minor requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete secondary applications and on-campus interviews. • Attend relevant Dimensions Pre-Health Workshops.

*You should always begin with the course most aligned with your current ability. It is better to start a few courses back and earn an "A" than to jump right into the prerequisite course and earn a "B" or "C". This sample timeline includes many required, recommended, and prerequisite courses for PA programs. Always consult specific PA program prerequisites and with your Faculty Advisor before making course selections.

**Pre-Physician Assistant students hoping to enter PA school immediately after graduation are strongly encouraged to use their summers. This includes conducting research, volunteering in the community, shadowing or interning in the field of medicine, and/or working in the healthcare field.

