

BIOLOGY MAJOR: PRE-PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT EMPHASIS

The following information is designed to familiarize you with Physician's Assistant as a career and a basic curriculum for Biology majors intending to enter into a Master's level Physician's Assistant program upon completion of the Bachelor's degree.

PAs are licensed health care professionals who practice medicine with the supervision of a physician. The responsibilities of a PA include: conducting physical exams, diagnosing and treating disease, ordering and interpreting tests, counseling on preventative health care, and assisting in surgery. In most states, PA's can write prescriptions. Indiana, however, is only one of three states that does NOT allow PA's to write prescriptions. What exactly a given PA does is determined by his/her training, experience, and state laws. In addition the PA's practice reflects the practice of the supervising physician. PAs are found in all areas of medicine although clearly half of all PAs practice primary care medicine (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, and gynecology).

PA programs train their students in the medical model because PAs work so closely with physicians. Three phases of instruction comprise the typical curriculum: basic sciences, introduction to the clinical sciences, and supervised clinical instruction. Upon graduation, PAs take a national certification exam and must maintain certification through continuing education and passing exams for recertification.

Admission into PA programs is highly competitive. The requirements for gaining admission into specific programs differ although the following are broad generalizations you must keep in mind in planning your program of study. As a Biology major at USI, you can complete the various requirements through required and elective courses in Biology, the UCC (University Core Curriculum), and other electives. It is important you check into the schools you are interested in attending so there are no surprises when it comes time to apply.

- Minimum GPA of 2.75 with many requiring 3.00
- Six months to one year minimum direct patient care experience
- Biology to include: Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology (in some cases combined anatomy and physiology courses are acceptable, in others majors levels courses are required. In almost all cases lab courses are required)
- Chemistry to include: General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Biochemistry
- Statistics
- Social Science Courses to include: Intro Psychology and additional courses in psychology (abnormal, developmental) and or courses in sociology/anthropology
- Medical Terminology

FRESHMAN

ENG 101	3	ENG 201	3
MATH 111/118	4/5	MATH 241	3
BIOLOGY 141	4	BIOLOGY 151	3
SPCH 101/107	3	CHEM 261	4
PED	1	PED	1
	<u> </u>	HP 115	<u> 2 </u>
	15/16		16

SOPHOMORE

BIOL 152	3	BIOL 215	3
CHEM 262	4	BIOL ELECTIVE	3/4
PSYC 201	3	CHEM 353	4
UCC ELECTIVE	3	UCC ELECTIVE	3
UCC ELECTIVE	<u> 3 </u>	UCC ELECTIVE	<u> 3 </u>
	16		16/17

JUNIOR

BIOL 334	3	BIOL 272	3
BIOL 333	4	BIOL 382	4
CHEM 354	4	UCC ELECTIVE	3
UCC ELECTIVE	3	BIOL ELECTIVE	3/4
UCC ELECTIVE	<u> 3 </u>	ELECTIVE	<u> 3 </u>
	17		13/14

SENIOR

BIOL 342	4	BIOL 481	3
CHEM 431	4	BIOL ELECTIVE	4
PHYS 175	4	BIOL ELECTIVE	4
ELECTIVE	<u> 3 </u>	PHYS 176	<u> 4 </u>
	15		15

This is a suggested sequence of courses. There is some flexibility in the schedule. The courses taken during the Freshman year will depend on your math placement. Some courses, CHEM 261 and 262, can be completed during the summer. In order to graduate, you must complete the University Core Curriculum (UCC) of 50 hours. All students must also make sure that they complete 39 credits at the 300/400 level.

Suggested BIOL electives: BIOL 335, BIOL 422, BIOL 431, BIOL 442, BIOL 461

For further information contact Dr. Maurice in SC 73, by phone at 812-461-5231 or by email: hmaurice@usi.edu