

**PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISEMENT WORKSHEET 2023**  
**OU Health Science Center - Oklahoma City**

University of Central Oklahoma  
Health Professions Advisor  
Department of Biology  
200 Howell Hall  
(405) 974-5733

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Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university prior to enrollment into the PA program at OUHSC-OKC. While pursuing a baccalaureate degree at UCO, the following courses must be completed with a "C" or better to qualify for admission to the PA program.

No more than one science and one non-science prerequisite can be in progress after December 31 prior to matriculation at the OUHSC PA program.

**UCO Courses that Meet Required Courses for OUHSC-OKC (check course prerequisites):**

ENG 1113	English Composition
ENG 1213	English Composition and Research
MATH 1513	College Algebra or higher level math classes (ie. MATH 2153 Bio-Calculus)
PSY 1103	General Psychology
PSY XXXX	Psychology elective, (ie. PSY 2103 Social Psychology or PSY 2833 Developmental Psychology)
CHEM 1103	General Chemistry I
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry I Recitation/ Laboratory
CHEM 1223	General Chemistry II
CHEM 1232	General Chemistry II Recitation/ Laboratory
BIO 2504	Human Anatomy and Laboratory
+BIO 2604	Human Physiology and Laboratory
+BIO 2604L	Human Physiology Laboratory
BIO 3054	Microbiology for Majors and Laboratory (Recommended since it is a prerequisite for BIO 4515 & 4413)
<b>OR</b>	BIO 2314 Introduction to Microbiology and Lab

**ONE of the following:**

BIO 4515	Pathogenic Microbiology and Immunology and Laboratory
<b>OR</b>	
BIO 4414	Virology and Laboratory
<b>OR</b>	
BIO 3303	Genetics

Many of these courses above have prerequisites, so please check before making your course plan. If you have any questions regarding prerequisites, please meet with an academic advisor in the Nigh Advisement Center. If you have specific requests regarding prerequisites being waived, please contact the Biology department chair.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Admission to the program requires completion of prerequisite course work and submission of all application materials. The department admissions committee will review application materials and may require additional information from each applicant. Successful completion of minimum admission requirements does not assure that an interview will be granted. Interview invitations do not insure acceptance to the program. Applicants are considered only for the summer semester, with classes beginning in June. The application deadline is **October 1** for admission to the next class entering the following June. To be considered for admission to the Physician Associate Program an applicant must:

1. Earn a bachelor's degree from accredited college or university prior to matriculation
2. Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
3. Be in good standing with the college or university last or currently attending
4. Complete all prerequisite courses with a grade "C" or better.
5. Submit a completed CASPA (<https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>), an OU PA Supplemental Application form (<https://apps.ouhsc.edu/admissions/>), prerequisite form with processing fee, official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, a resume, 3 letters of reference, and a personal statement on "Why I Wish to Become a Physician Associate". (It is recommended that applicants have health-related experience whereby direct patient contact is emphasized).
6. Although not required for admission, prior healthcare experience is expected. Length and depth of healthcare experience is a selection factor.
7. Take CASPer non cognitive test ( <https://takecasper.com> ) Test dates are limited. For test dates [Click Here](#)
8. Complete GRE (code 2180) and submitted through CASPA by October 1<sup>st</sup> (taken within 5 years).

Applicants are urged to investigate physician assisting as a career prior to application in such ways as observation or working with a PA during a typical day and investigating advantages and disadvantages of the discipline. Please see the school's website for more detailed information on their selection criteria.

The program at OU-Tulsa lasts for 27 months, consisting for fifteen (15) months of didactic training at the OU-Tulsa campus. The remaining 12 months of rotations are performed at OU hospitals and clinics, and other care centers.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

1. All applicants must apply through the online application system, CASPA during the application period (**June 1<sup>st</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>** of the intended entry to the program) <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
2. Applicants must submit an online OU PA Supplemental Application form to the OUHSC Office of Admissions on or before the **October 1<sup>st</sup>** deadline. <https://apps.ouhsc.edu/admissions/>
3. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be submitted directly to both CASPA and to the OUHSC Office of Admissions. For applicants offered an interview, updates to grades and courses completed after the application deadline must be submitted directly to the OU-TA Physician Assistant Program as courses are completed, and an updated official transcript sent to the OUHSC Office of Admissions.
4. Submit 3 letters of reference directly to CASPA
5. Have taken the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) with scores received to CASPA and the OUHSC Office of Admissions by the **October 1<sup>st</sup>** deadline. Scores must be current within the last 5 years.  
<http://www.ets.org/gre>
6. Foreign coursework must be submitted to the World Education Services for evaluation  
<http://www.wes.org/>
7. Completion of a mandatory of a mandatory on-campus interview will be required for those selected for final consideration from the CASPA application pool.
8. Approximately 20 of the most qualified applicants will be invited for a personal interview. Maintaining a high standard of academic excellence, knowledge of the health care system, personal maturity, self-assurance, good interpersonal skills, volunteering in the community, shadowing a PA, and work experience will weigh strongly in the admission decision.

*A recently admitted class had the following academic averages: Avg. Overall GPA 3.8 | Avg. Science GPA 3.73 | Avg. GRE Score – 305*

### **PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

The physician assistant (P.A.) is a professional member of the health care team qualified by academic and clinical education to provide a broad range of patient care services under the supervision of a licensed physician. P.A.s are formally trained to perform many of the routine but time-consuming tasks physicians usually perform. They take medical histories, perform physical examinations, order laboratory tests and x-rays, make preliminary diagnosis, and give inoculations. They also treat minor injuries by suturing, splinting and casting. In nearly all states of the U.S. except for Kentucky, physician assistants may prescribe medications (each state has their own set of restrictions). P.A.s always work under the supervision of a physician. The proximity of supervision; however, depends upon the locality. For example, some P.A.s work in rural or inner city clinics where a physician may be available only one or two days each week and make “house calls” or go on “hospital rounds” to check patients and report back to the physician. P.A.s assist physicians in specialty areas, such as family practice, internal medicine, general and thoracic surgery, emergency medicine, and pediatrics. P.A.s specializing in surgery, provide pre- and post-operative care and may work as first or second assistants during major surgery.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Employment opportunities are expected to be excellent for physician assistants, particularly in areas or settings such as rural and inner city clinics that have difficulty attracting enough physicians. Physicians and institutions are expected to employ more P.A.s to provide primary care and assist with medical and surgical procedures, thus freeing physicians to perform more complicated and revenue-generating tasks. The public and third-party payers also seem to approve of P.A.s use. For example, Medicare now allows physicians to bill the government for services provided by their P.A.s to hospital and nursing home patients. The growth of HMOs and group medical practices should also lead to more jobs for P.A.s.

**STARTING SALARY:** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national median salary for P.A.s is approximately **\$108,000**.

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**For more information about PA's and PA programs:** [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org) and [www.paeonline.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/25515/pid/25515](http://www.paeonline.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/25515/pid/25515) and <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation/accredited-programs/>

**For PA information for the OUHSC-OKC PA Program visit:** <https://www.oumedicine.com/academy-of-teaching-scholars/pa-program-okc>

**To apply to OUHSC-OKC and other programs, use CASPA:** <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login> as well as the OUHSC-OKC Application

**Contact information:** phone: (405) 271-2058 email: [infookc-pa@ouhsc.edu](mailto:infookc-pa@ouhsc.edu)