

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISEMENT WORKSHEET 2019-2020

Northeastern State University

University of Central Oklahoma

Health Professions Advisor

Department of Biology

200 Howell Hall

(405) 974-5733

Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college prior to matriculation into the PA program at NSU. The following courses must be completed with a "C" or better to qualify for admission to the PA program.

PSY 1103	General Psychology
PSY XXX3	Psychology Elective – must have PSY prefix (i.e. PSY2833 Dev. Psych, or PSY4753 Abn. Psych).
STAT 2103	Intro Stats for Sciences or STAT 2113
MATH 1513	College Algebra (or Higher)
CHEM 1103	General Chemistry I. Concurrent enrollment in CHEM 1112 is required.
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry I Recitation/ Laboratory
CHEM 1223	General Chemistry II. Concurrent enrollment in CHEM 1232 is required.
CHEM 1232	General Chemistry II Recitation/ Laboratory
CHEM 3303	Organic Chemistry I.
CHEM 3312	Organic Chemistry I Lab
*CHEM 3403	Biochemistry
*BIO 3303	Genetics
*BIO 2504	Human Anatomy and Laboratory
*BIO 2604	Human Physiology and Laboratory. Concurrent enrollment in BIO 2604L is required.
+*BIO 2604L	Human Physiology Laboratory
BIO 3054	Microbiology for Majors and Laboratory OR BIO 2314 Intro to Microbiology and Lab

*The following courses must have been completed within the last seven years of the application deadline.

+NSU will accept BIO 3803 AND 3813 Mammalian Physiology I and II instead of Human Physiology if both are taken.

***If you are transferring credits from outside UCO, please discuss those with your academic advisor and the Health Professions Advisor.

Application Policy and Requirements:

All application materials must be received by **October 1st** for consideration to begin the following summer. Top applicants will be invited to the NSU-Muskogee campus for an interview. Once interviews are complete, admission decisions will be made, and applicants will be contacted with the committee's decision. To be considered for admission to the PA Program, an applicant must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or legal permanent alien.
2. Earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited college completed prior to matriculation into the program
3. Completion of all prerequisite course listed above with a grade "C" or better. Students may apply with outstanding prerequisite courses as long as they demonstrate a plan to complete those courses, and have no more than two prerequisite courses in progress after December 31st of the year prior to entering the program. The health-related upper division biology courses must be completed within 7 years of matriculation into the program.
4. Be in good standing with the college or university last or currently attending.
5. Have a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. No exceptions will be made. Applicants not meeting GPA requirements will be ineligible for admission and remove from further consideration.
6. Although not required for admission, prior healthcare experience is expected. Length and depth of healthcare experience is a selection factor.

Application Procedure:

1. Complete the NSU Graduate College Application Form online.
<https://academics.nsuok.edu/graduatecollege/Apply-for-Admission>
2. Submit an on-line application through CASPA during the application period (**June 1 – October 1** of the year prior to intended entry to the program).
https://help.liasonedu.com/CASPA_Applicant_Help_Center
3. Submit Graduate Record Examination General Test scores to **both CASPA and** to the NSU Graduate College (**GRE Code 6485**). All GRE Scores must also be submitted to CASPA using NSU PA Program CASPA **GRE Code 7376** by the application deadline.
4. Three letters of reference submitted directly to CASPA.
5. Official Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended (including NSU) must be submitted directly to **both CASPA and** to the NSU Registrar for Graduate College admission. For applicants offered an interview, updates to grades and courses completed after the application deadline must be submitted directly to the Physician Assistant Studies Program as courses are completed and an updated official transcript to the Registrar's office before matriculation into the program.
6. Foreign coursework must be submitted to World Education Services for evaluation.
7. Completion of a mandatory on-campus interview will be required of those selected for final consideration from the CASPA application pool.
8. Review post-acceptance requirements and affirm ability to meet each before matriculation into program including immunization requirements, technical standards, health insurance verification, drug screen and background check. All post-acceptance requirements and forms must be completed before matriculation into the program.
9. Be formally admitted to the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program through the PA Program Admissions Committee and receive final admission approval with completion of post-acceptance requirements.

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. The program lasts for 27 months, consisting of 75 credit hours in the didactic training on campus and 35 credit hours in the clinical phase of training performed at various hospitals, clinics, and doctor offices within the state.

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

Contents of this publication are subject to revision without notice. The provisions of this publication do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied between any application, students, or faculty member of the Physician Assistant Program at NSU.

For more information about PA's and PA programs:

<http://www.aapa.org>

<http://www.paeaonline.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/25515/pid/25515>

<http://www.physicianassistantforum.com/>

For PA information from NSU PA admission: paprogram@nsuok.edu or call 918-444-5464 **To apply through the CASPA application service:** <https://paeaonline.org/caspa/>