

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISEMENT WORKSHEET 2019-2020

Oklahoma City 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 an accredited college or university prior to enrollment. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. All prerequisites must be completed by **August 15th** prior to the January matriculation.

UCO Courses that Meet Required Courses for OCU (check all course prerequisites):

| | |
|-----------|---|
| PSY 1103 | General Psychology |
| PSY XXXX | Psychology Elective; (Must have PSY prefix in course number). |
| 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 3403 | Biochemistry |

A Minimum of 5 Biological Science Courses, at least 3 credits each. Recommended Courses Include:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| BIO 1204 | Biology for Majors: Principles |
| BIO 2203 | Cell Biology |
| 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 |
| BIO 4515 | Path Micro & Lab |
| BIO 4414 | Virology & Lab |
| BIO 3303 | Genetics |
| BIO 3414 | Histology & Lab |
| BIO 4134 | Dev. Biology & Lab |

***Note: kinesiology, nutrition, exercise science, and nursing courses will not be allowed to satisfy biology prerequisites for OCU.*

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 program. The application deadline is **August 1** for admission to the next class which begins the following January. To be considered for admission to the Physician Associate Program an applicant must:

1. Earn a bachelor's degree prior to matriculation.
2. Have a degree GPA of 3.0 (3.2 or higher preferred in order to gain an interview) on a 4.0 scale.
3. All prerequisites must be completed at a regionally accredited college or university in the U.S. and completed by August 15th. If you receive an interview, verification of completion must be shown at the time of the interview in the form of an official transcript containing the course work.
4. Submit a completed (CASPA) PA application (available end of April) with application fee
<https://paeaonline.org/caspa/>
5. Submit OCU's supplemental application and fee
6. Submit a personal resume
7. Submit 3 letters of recommendation

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. It is also

highly recommended to attend an advising session at the OCU PA program. Please check the school's website for details. The program lasts for **28 months**, consisting of **12 months** of didactic training. The subsequent **15 months** will consist of rotations in the following specialties: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Women's Health, Behavioral Health, General Surgery, and Emergency Medicine. The **Final Month** will consist of a summative evaluation process to ready students for entry into the profession. Please visit www.okcu.edu/physician-assistant/prospective-students/requirements in order to apply.

Application Procedure:

1. Admission decisions are based on evidence of academic preparation, a letter of recommendation, grades, and (if selected for final consideration) an on-campus interview and brief writing task.
2. All applicants must apply through the online application system CASPA. In addition, applicants must submit an online OCU Supplemental Application to the OCU Office of Graduate Admissions on or before **August 1st**.
3. To be considered for OCU admission, an applicant must submit their application and all supporting materials including transcripts, letter of recommendation, and resume to CASPA on or before the **August 1st** deadline. Applications for each annual admission cycle will be available through CASPA beginning in **April**.
4. Approximately 100 of the most qualified applicants (300 typically apply) will be invited for a personal interview. 36 students are selected each year. 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.

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 OCU or UCO.

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/>

<http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation/accredited-programs/>

**For PA information from Oklahoma City University PA admissions and to register for an advisement session contact:
Amber Hicks (405) 208-6260, ahicks@okcu.edu**

<http://www.okcu.edu/physician-assistant/home>

To apply through the CASPA application service <https://paeaonline.org/caspa/>