

## PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PLANNING GUIDE (CORE 34)

**Pre-Physician Assistant** is a track designed to prepare students for admission into a Physician Assistant Master's program. Students complete these courses alongside the bachelor's degree of their choice. The University of Kansas **does not** have a PA program, but regional schools include Kansas State University, Wichita State University, and the University of Missouri -- Kansas City. The courses below are **commonly** required for admission, but each program is different -- **it's important to meet with a Pre-Health Academic Advisor early!**

More information can be found by visiting [prehealth.ku.edu](http://prehealth.ku.edu).

COMMONLY REQUIRED	OPTIONS AT KU	CORE 34 (FALL 2024 & AFTER)	NOTES
Molecular & Cellular Biology	BIOL 150*	NPS	
Organismal Biology	BIOL 152	NPS	
Biology Lab for STEM	BIOL 154	NPS	
Microbiology w/ Lab	BIOL 200 & BIOL 203 or BIOL 400 & BIOL 402	NPS	BIOL 200 & BIOL 203 are offered spring semester only. BIOL 400/402 do not fulfill Core 34 NPS requirement.
Human Anatomy w/ Lab	BIOL 240 & BIOL 241	NPS	
Human Physiology w/ Lab	BIOL 246 & BIOL 247	NPS	
Genetics	BIOL 350		
Biochemistry	BIOL 600		
General Chemistry I	CHEM 130*	NPS	
General Chemistry II	CHEM 135	NPS	
Organic Chemistry I w/ Lab	CHEM 330 & CHEM 331	NPS	
Statistics	MATH 365* or PSYC 210	MTS	
Psychology	PSYC 104	SBS	
Human Development	PSYC 250	SBS	
Psychological Disorders	PSYC 350		
Sociology	SOC 104 or SOC 160	SBS	
Medical Terminology	CLSX 332 or HEIM 230	AH	HEIM 230 does not fulfill Core 34 AH requirement.

**\*Courses marked with an asterisk have prerequisites not already listed above. Please see a Pre-Health Academic Advisor for guidance.**

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

- KU does not have a PA program; students should research programs and begin preparing early!
  - Programs require PA shadowing experience and direct patient care. The average accepted applicant has over 2,000 hours of direct patient experience.
  - Many programs require applicants to have completed most, if not all, pre-requisite courses by the time of application.
- If you plan to enter a PA program directly after senior year, you should begin the application process the summer between your junior and senior years.
- The above courses are common pre-requisites, but some schools may also require pathophysiology, medical ethics, psychology of aging, pharmacology, health policy, and/or human nutrition.
  - Students should always double check admission requirements and course equivalency. Some programs require specific versions of statistics or physiology that may not be listed on the previous page.
- To apply to most PA programs, complete the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). The application is available starting in April; different programs have different deadlines.
  - Applications include supplemental forms, personal statements, recommendation letters, and healthcare experience.
- The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or PA-CAT is not required for admission to most programs, but some schools do require it. Make sure to check each program and speak with a Pre-Health Academic Advisor to be sure!
- Sample sequencing:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Fall: CHEM 130, BIOL 150, PSYC 104
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Spring: CHEM 135, BIOL 152, BIOL 154, SOC 104
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Fall: CHEM 330, CHEM 331, BIOL 240
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring: BIOL 241, BIOL 350, MATH 365
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Fall: BIOL 246, BIOL 247, HEIM 230
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Spring: BIOL 600, BIOL 200, BIOL 203