

Physician Assistant Program Application Procedures

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Research the differences between MD, PA, and NP so you are confident in your decision.
- Stop by or call Pre-Professional Advising to be placed on our list-serv.
- Focus on your grades; develop your time management and study skills.
- Consider joining clubs such as Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED: Pre-Health Honor Society) and the Association of Pre-PA Students (APPAS).
- Research typical courses required for PA programs.
- Start a journal to record your volunteer, shadowing, and patient care hours over the next few years. Write a summary of your experience to refresh your memory once you are apply to programs.
- By the end of your first semester, start to consider patient care training opportunities, such as EMT or CNA training courses. The sooner you start acquiring patient care hours, the more competitive you'll be as an applicant.
- Around your second semester or over the summer, try to shadow as much as possible, especially with a PA.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Stay current with required courses.
- Start to research schools you might be interested in. You can use <http://directory.paeaonline.org> to find information about all PA programs.
- Start to build relationships with professors! You will need letters of recommendation when it comes time to apply.

- Visit www.scapapartners.org and consider joining ASPIRE, which offers shadowing and many other pre-PA resources.
- Make sure you are on track by going over your plan during OPPA's drop-in hours on Tuesdays 1 – 4 p.m. and Wednesdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Take remaining pre-requisite courses
- Begin reviewing for the GRE. Allow 3-6 months of studying before taking the GRE. You may also want to consider taking a course in GRE prep. Sign up for the GRE at <https://www.ets.org/gre>.
- Solidify your letters of recommendation. See admissions websites for exact requirements
- Create a CASPA (www.caspaonline.org) account to become familiar with the layout of the program. The application cycle usually opens in late April. Be sure to check matriculation dates.
- At least 3 weeks before your deadline, make sure that all of your letters of recommendation have been requested and received.

SENIOR YEAR

- If you have not already done so during the summer, submit your application and complete any secondary applications you may have received.
- Respond to any interview requests immediately.
- Schedule a mock interview at the OPPA.
- Notify any programs offering you admission of your decisions as early as possible.
- If you do not get in, come up with a plan to improve your application and try again!
- Please inform our office about acceptances and where you will matriculate. Good luck!