



# Pre-Physician's Assistant Concentration

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Physician's assistants (PA's) practice medicine supervised by licensed physicians. A PA is qualified to give physical exams, order and administer tests, make diagnoses, and treat illnesses. In some rural areas where physicians are in short supply, PA's serve as the only providers of health care, conferring with their supervising physicians and other medical professionals, as needed and as required by law. A PA's responsibilities depend on the type of practice, experience, the working relationship with physician supervisors and other health care providers, and state laws.

There are many programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), located throughout the United States. The American Academy of Physician Assistants maintains a list at: <https://www.aapa.org/career-central/become-a-pa/>.

Colorado has four Master of Physician Assistant (MPAS) programs included in the Colorado Academy of PAs: <https://www.coloradopas.org/>.

- CU Anschutz campus Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant (CHA/PA) (<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/physician-assistant-program> )
- Rocky Vista <https://www.rvu.edu/admissions/mpas/>
- Colorado Mesa <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/kinesiology/graduate/pa-program/index.html>
- Red Rocks Community College [www.rccc.edu/pa/](http://www.rccc.edu/pa/) (for those with significant healthcare employment)

Program requirements, including prerequisite coursework, exam scores and experience, may vary and therefore students are encouraged to research the schools early to verify specific requirements. Pre-PA course work with superior performance, especially in science core courses is essential as are communication skills, written and oral, and "people skills."



## Pre-Physician's Assistant Preparation

### Required Courses for PA Programs (Taken from CU Anschutz program):

Course	Course Name	Cr.	Semester
BIOL 181/L	College Biology I-Organismal/Lab	4	
BIOL 182/L	College Biology II-Cellular/Lab	4	
BIOL 321/L	Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy/Lab*	5	
BIOL 341/L	Vertebrate Physiology/Lab*	4	
BIOL 350	Mendelian and Population Genetics	2	
BIOL 351	Molecular Biology and Genetics	2	
CHEM 121/L	General Chemistry I/Lab	5	
CHEM 122/L	General Chemistry II/Lab	5	
MATH 156	Introduction to Statistics	3	
3XX or 4XX	Upper Division course work (18 total)	7	

**\*Note:** Lower division courses with combined Anatomy and Physiology are not preferred at CU Anschutz and will not fulfill the 18-credit upper division requirement.

**PSYCHOLOGY**      6 semester hours – some suggested courses listed here:

Course	Course Name	Cr.	Semester
PSYCH 100	General Psychology	3	
PSYCH 151	Introduction to Human Development	3	
PSYCH 220	Drugs and Behavior	3	
PSYCH 251	Infancy, Childhood and Preadolescence	3	

### **Recommended Upper Division Courses:**

Course	Course Name	Cr.	Semester
CHEM 301/L	Organic Chemistry I/Lab	5	
CHEM 302/L	Organic Chemistry II/Lab	5	
CHEM 311/411	Biochemistry	3	
BIOL 301/L	General Microbiology/Lab	5	
BIOL 402	Immunology	3	
BIOL 412/L	Cellular Biology/Lab	4	

**Note:** Check programs you are interested in applying to for their specific requirements.



## Biology B.S. with Pre-Physician's Assistant preparation

Courses	Course Name	Credits	Semester
<b>Biology Core Courses</b>		<b>30</b>	
BIOL171	First Year Seminar	1	
BIOL 181/181L	College Biology I-Diversity	4	
BIOL182/182L	College Biology II-Cellular	4	
BIOL 201/201L <b>OR</b> BIOL 202/202L	Botany/Lab (S) Zoology/Lab (F)	4	
BIOL 301/301L	General Microbiology/Lab*	5	
BIOL414/414L	Vertebrate Physiology/Lab* (F)	4	
BIOL 350	Mendelian and Population Genetics*	2	
BIOL 351	Molecular Biology and Genetics*	2	
BIOL 352	Evolutionary Biology & Ecology*	3	
BIOL 493	Senior Seminar (upon completion of core)*	1	
BIOL 321/L	Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy*	5	
<b>Biology Electives</b>	Advisor Approved. See Electives* List	<b>10</b>	
<b>NOTE:</b> The following courses may NOT be used as electives in the Biology major: BIOL 100/L, 112, 121, 121L, 206/L, 223/L, 224/L, 291, 294, 394, 491, 494, 495, and 498.			
<b>Total Biology Credits</b>		<b>45</b>	
<b>Science and Math Support Courses</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester</b>
CHEM 121/121L	General Chemistry I/Lab*	5	
CHEM 122/122L	General Chemistry II/Lab	5	
CHEM 301/301L	Organic Chemistry I/Lab*	5	
CHEM 302/302L	Organic Chemistry II/Lab	5	
PHYS 201/201L	Principles of Physics I/Lab*	4	
PHYS 202/202L	Principles of Physics II/Lab	4	
MATH 221	Applied Calculus	4	
MATH 156	Intro to Statistics	3	
<b>Total support Credits</b>		<b>35</b>	
<b>General Education Courses</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester</b>
ENG 101	English Composition I	3	
ENG 102	English Composition II	3	
	Humanities	3	
	Humanities	3	
COMR 103	Speaking and Listening	3	
Psych 100	General Psychology (Social Science)	3	
Psych 151	Human Development (Social Science)	3	
	History	3	
<b>General Electives</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>TOTAL CREDITS TO COMPLETE MAJOR</b>		<b>120</b>	

\*Many courses have prerequisites that are listed in the catalog.