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Biology Faculty Advisors

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Physician's assistants (PA's) practice medicine supervised by licensed physicians. A PA is qualified to give a physical exam, 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 over 140 programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), located throughout the United States. Programs generally are affiliated with two- and four-year colleges and university schools of medicine and allied health. Most program application deadlines are the first of December through the end of March, and most programs begin in August or September. A list of current accredited programs is available from the American Academy of Physician Assistants at: www.aapa.org.

Most PA programs require a minimum of two to three years of college credits and some health care experience prior to admission. Some programs require a baccalaureate degree. Over one-half of those who apply to PA programs already have or will have earned a baccalaureate degree.

Colorado has two PA programs, the Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant (CHA/PA), a Master's degree program, located at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver (www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/education/degree_programs/PAProgram/Pages/Home.aspx) and a Certificate program at Red Rocks Community College (www.rrcc.edu/pa/), only for those with significant healthcare experience.

The UCHSC program requires a baccalaureate degree and Pre-PA course work with superior performance, especially in science core courses. Communication skills, written and oral, and "people skills" are extremely important. Applicants must also sit for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The number of student admitted each year is limited. The program itself requires a three-year tenure for completion, with award of a certificate of completion and an MS degree available upon completion of an additional research project.

Pre-Physician's Assistant Requirements

(2011-12 catalog)

Students must have a Bachelor's degree for UCHSC program.

Required Courses for PA Programs (Taken from UCHSC 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)	5	

***Note:** Lower division courses with combined Anatomy and Physiology are not preferred at UCHSC 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	
PSYCH 252	Adolescence, Adulthood and Aging	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	

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

Courses	Course Name	Credits	Semester
Biology Core Courses		30	
BIOL171	Career Planning I (freshman year)	1	
BIOL 181/181L	College Biology I-Diversity	4	
BIOL182/182L	College Biology II-Cellular	4	
BIOL 201/201L OR 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	
Biology Electives	Advisor Approved. See Electives* List	10	
NOTE: 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.			
Total Biology Credits		45	
Science and Math Support Courses		Credits	Semester
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	
Total support Credits		35	
General Education Courses		Credits	Semester
ENG 101	English Composition I	3	
ENG 102	English Composition II	3	
	Humanities	3	
	Humanities	3	
Spcom 103	Speaking and Listening	3	
Psych 100	General Psychology (Social Science)	3	
Psych 151	Human Development (Social Science)	3	
	History	3	
General Electives		16	
TOTAL CREDITS TO COMPLETE MAJOR		120	

*Many courses have prerequisites that are listed in the catalog or diagrammed on the last page of this handout.