



PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT INFORMATION
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
GENERAL ACADEMIC BUILDING 220

Physician Assistants, frequently called PA's, have a broad scope of duties and responsibilities, largely governed by the medical setting in which they work. PA's are regulated by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and work under the supervision of physicians. Texas requires that the PA's supervising physician register with the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and that PA's be licensed.

Most of the physician assistant programs in Texas are approximately three years in length. A master's degree is awarded the student after the successful completion of all course work at the institution which offers the program. Upon graduation the physician assistant is eligible to take the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistant examination.

Duties of PA's working under a primary care physician include: performing appropriate interviews and physical examinations; ordering and screening results of laboratory diagnostic studies; organizing and integrating information derived from the interview, examination and laboratory; assisting with the performance of clinical procedures; instructing and counseling patients regarding preventive health care behaviors; monitoring responses to physician-directed programs of therapy; responding independently to life-threatening situations; facilitating patient access to appropriate health care services; making tentative assessments; making tentative diagnostic and therapeutic plans in such a way that the physician can perceive the medical problem; treating minor cuts and wounds; removing casts and changing dressings. In addition, PA's are employed as first and second assistants in surgery, particularly in cardiovascular and orthopedic surgery.

Programs usually start in the summer and the application for all six Texas schools is through www.CASPAonline.org . Duration of the programs is 24-34 months, full-time.

Application Service: CASPA: www.caspaonline.org

A web site that has information on PA schools in the U.S.A.: www.allalliedhealthschools.com/find/

Information for Graduate Record Exam: www.gre.org

Additional Resources - Web Addresses

American Academy of Physician Assistants: www.aapa.org

Physician Assistant webpage: www.physicianassistant.org

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Physician Assistant Schools in Texas:

Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Physician Assistant Program

5323 Harry Hines Blvd.

Dallas, TX 75235-9090 - (214) 648-1700

www.swmed.edu or

<http://www8.utsouthwestern.edu/utsw/home/educ/alliedprostud/index.html>

The University of Texas Medical Branch

Department of Physician Assistant Studies

School of Allied Health Sciences

301 University Boulevard

Galveston, TX 77555-1028 (409) 772-3046

www.utmb.edu or www.sahs.utmb.edu/programs/pas

University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth

3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard

Fort Worth, TX 76107-2699

817/735-2204 or 1/800/535-8266

www.hsc.unt.edu or www.hsc.unt.edu/education/pasp

Baylor College of Medicine

Physician Assistant Program

Room 633E

Department of Community Medicine

One Baylor Plaza

Houston, TX 77030 - (713) 798-4619

www.bcm.tmc.edu or www.bcm.edu/pap

Texas Tech University Health Science Center

School of Allied Health

Office of Admissions

3601 4th Street

Lubbock, TX 79430 - (806) 743-3220

www.ttuhsc.edu or <http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sah/mpa/>

University of Texas School of Allied Health Sciences at San Antonio

Physician Assistant Studies

7703 Floyd Curl Drive

San Antonio, Texas 78284 - (210) 567-8800

www.uthscsa.edu or www.uthscsa.edu/sah

Prerequisites for Physician Assistant Schools in Texas*

Master Degree Program – 66-90 hours required

UNTHSCFW = University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth
TT = Texas Tech University Health Science Center
UTSA = The University of Texas Health Sciences Center San Antonio

Master Degree Program - Bachelor of Science degree required

BCM = Baylor College of Medicine
SAHSS = The University of Texas Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School
UTMB = The University of Texas School of Allied Health Sciences at Galveston

English: 6-12 semester hours

UTSA, BCM,
UNTHSCFW, TT ENGL 1310 College Writing I (3 hours) **OR**
ENGL 1313 Computer Assisted College Writing I (3 hours)

UTSA, TT,
UNTHSCFW ENGL 1320 College Writing II (3 hours) **OR**
ENGL 1323 Computer Assisted College Writing II (3 hours)

UTSA Humanities (3 hours) – includes Philosophy, Ethics, Humanities, Classical
Civilizations (does not include foreign lang., sociology, psychology,
anthropology, economics, linguistics, geography)

TT COMM 1010 Intro to Communication (3 hours)

American History: 6 semester hours

UNTHSCFW, UTSA HIST 2610 US History to 1865 (3 hours) **AND**
HIST 2620 US History from 1865 (3 hours)

Political Science: 6 semester hours

UNTHSCFW, UTSA PSCI 1040 American Government (3 hours) **AND**
PSCI 1050 American Government (3 hours)

Math: 3-6 semester hours

SAHSS, UNTHSCFW,
UTSA, TT, UTMB MATH 1100 College Algebra (3 hours) **OR** higher

UNTHSCFW, UTSA MATH 1680 Elementary Probability and Statistics (3 hours)
TT, BCM, UTMB

Biology: 8-12 semester hours

UTMB, TT, UTSA BIOL 1710 Principles of Biology I (3 hours)
BIOL 1730 Principles of Biology Laboratory I (1 hour)
AND
BIOL 1720 Principles of Biology II (3 hours)
BIOL 1740 Principles of Biology Laboratory II (1 hour)

UTMB, UNTHSCFW, BCM, TT, UTSA, SAHSS	BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Physiology I (4 hours) AND BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Physiology II (4 hours)
SAHSS, UTMB, TT, UTSA, UNTHSCFW, BCM	BIOL 2040 Biology of Microorganisms (4 hours)
UNTHSCFW	BIOL 3451 Genetics (3 hours) OR BIOL 4200 Immunology (4 hours)
UTMB	BIOL 4200 (4 hours) OR BIOL 4530/4540 Virology & Lab (4 hours)
SAHSS	BIOL 3451 Genetics (3 hours)
TT	Biol 3451 recommended (3 hours)

Biochemistry: 3 semester hours

UNTHSCFW	BIOC 3621 Elementary Biochemistry (3 hours) <i>or</i> BIOL 3510 Cell Biology (3hrs)
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Chemistry: 8 semester hours

UTMB, SAHSS, BCM, UNTHSCFW, TT, UTSA	CHEM 1410 General Chemistry I (3 hours) CHEM 1430 Lab. Sequence for General Chemistry (1 hour) AND CHEM 1420 General Chemistry II (3 hours) CHEM 1440 Lab. Sequence for General Chemistry (1 hour)
SAHSS, BCM, UTMB, UNTHSCFW, UTSA	CHEM 2370 Organic Chemistry I (3 hours) CHEM 3210 Lab. Organic Chemistry I (1 hour)

Nutrition: 3 semester hours

TT	SMHM 1450 Principles of Nutrition (3 hours) Recommended for UTMB but not required
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Behavioral Sciences: (Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology)

UTMB	6 semester hours (any Psychology or Sociology)
SAHSS, UNTHSCFW, UTSA, BCM	PSYC 1630 General Psychology I (3 hours)
TT	Social & Behavioral Sciences: 9 hrs (any combination of Psyc, Sociology, Anthropology)
UNTHSCFW	Any additional 6 hours of Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology electives
BCM	Psychology elective (3 hrs)

Visual and Performing Arts:

UTSA 3 hours from Visual & Performing Arts

Electives:

UTSA 25 hours – additional courses in any discipline in courses listed above or in social sciences

Courses listed below are recommended as electives but are not requirements for admission.

BCM Medical Terminology
Recommended for UTSA but not required

TT 14 hours recommended from electives in: Medical Terminology, Computer Literacy, Communication Skills

UTMB SMHM 1450 – Nutrition - highly recommended

Other: BCM Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) training certification

***Shown above is a composite list of requirements for the physician assistant programs in Texas. Please be aware that program requirements may change without notice and can vary with each school.**

UT Southwestern Allied Health School:

1. GRE (no minimum score)
2. B.A. or B.S. degree required
3. 3.0 science and 3.0 overall GPA (minimum)
4. Recommended professional or “hands-on” experience
5. Prerequisite coursework completed by December 31 of year of application.

UNT Health Science Center – Ft. Worth:

1. Completion of 90 semester credit hours of college credit from a U.S. accredited college or university
2. A minimum overall GPA of 2.85
3. Two or three letters of reference
4. A total of 37-55 hours are required to fulfill the prerequisites for the PA program; however, 90 credit hours are required before application
5. GRE not required
6. Bachelor’s degree recommended but not required

Texas Tech School of Allied Health Sciences

1. Minimum 2.75 GPA
2. Complete all science prerequisites within 7 years of application date
3. AP & CLEP credit will not be accepted for any science or social science prerequisite course
4. GRE not required
5. Must have 66 hours of prerequisites to be considered for admission but may be in progress in the

spring semester prior to entering the program. All prerequisites must be completed before entering the program.

6. Accepts only 10% of students from out of state.

Baylor College of Medicine

1. GPA for those accepted into program in 2005 was 3.7
2. GRE required

UT Health Science Center at San Antonio

1. Minimum 2.75 GPA overall, in science prerequisites, in all prerequisites and in final 30 hours
2. Bilingual skills, especially Spanish are considered valuable
3. Must complete a minimum of 90 hours before enrollment

UTMB-Galveston:

1. B.A. or B.S. required
2. Completed CASPA application
3. GRE required
4. All course work counted in GPA – even repeated courses

Consult the individual schools' websites often!

5/06