**Visual Reference: MOCK 4 Year Semester Layout for the BSC (BS) Degree**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in Cellular and Molecular Biology**

**Pre-Physician Assistant Proposed Course Sequence**

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| **Freshman Year, Fall** UNIV LU course                                                           1 hour ENGL 15000 Composition 1                                        3 hours CHM 23000 General Chemistry 1                                3 hours MTH 15100 College Algebra                                        3 hours BSC 24000 Intro Biological Diversity                           4 hours   Total                                                                           14 hours  | **Freshman Year, Spring** ENGL 17000 Composition 2                                     3 hours CHM 23100 General Chemistry 2                             3 hours CHM 24100 General Chemistry 2 Lab                      1 hour MTH 17300 Survey Calculus                                    4 hours BSC  24400 Intro Cell and Molec                              4 hours Total                                                                        15 hours  |
| **Sophomore Year, Fall** CHM 23200 General Chemistry 3                               3 hours CHM 24200 General Chemistry 3 Lab                        1 hour PHY 25100 Intro Physics 1                                         4 hours BSC 24800 Intro Ecology Evolution                            4 hours MTH 24100 Natural Sciences Stats                            3 hours Total                                                                          15 hours  | **Sophomore Year, Spring** PHY 25200 Intro Physics 2                                     4 hours   BSC 28500 Methods and Writing                            1 hour CHM 36100 Organic Chemistry 1                           4 hours GE Social Science                                                   3 hours GE ENGL Lit                                                            3 hours Total                                                                       15 hours  |
| **Junior Year, Fall** CHM 36200 Organic Chemistry 2                             4 hours 30000+ Level BSC Major Elective Course                  4 hours GE Human Cultures                                                    3 hours BSC 227 Human A&P I                                               4 hours 30000+ Level Elective (Public Health)                        3 hours Total                                                                          18 hours  | **Junior Year, Spring** BSC 40400 Cell Biology                                           4 hours CHM 42200 Biochemistry: Metabolism 4 hoursBSC 22800 Human A&P II                                       4 hours BSC 35300 Microbiology                4 hours Total                                                                        16 hours  |
| **Senior Year, Fall** BSC 40800 Genetics                                                   4 hoursBSC 46400 Evolution 3 hours CHM 42100 Biochemistry: Structure 4 hoursCHM 35500 Analytical Chemistry 4 hours Total                                                                          15 hours  | **Senior Year, Spring** BSC 48800 Genetics of Evolution                           2 hours GE ART                                                                   3 hours GE US HIST or Govt                                               3 hours30000+ Level Elective   (Psychology)                     3 hours 30000+ Level Elective                                             3 hours Total                                                                       14 hours Grand Total 120 hours  |

# APPLICATION PROCESS

You can start your application process as early as the spring or summer following your junior year, provided you’ve completed the necessary prerequisites. Most Physician Assistant (PA) programs admit students once a year, typically for summer or fall, though start dates can range from May to January of the following year. You will need to take the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) and submit your application at least 12 months prior to the desired entry year.

# CASPA (Central Application Service for Physician Assistants)

The majority of U.S. PA programs use CASPA, which you can access at [https://caspa.liaisoncas.com](https://caspa.liaisoncas.com). Note that the University of Texas system utilizes a separate online system, TMDSAS, available at [https://www.tmdsas.com](https://www.tmdsas.com).

For additional resources, visit PA Focus at [http://pafocus.org/](http://pafocus.org/).

## Application Requirements:

- Transcripts

- Personal background information

- Extracurricular experiences

- Personal statement

- Application fees

Since many schools use a rolling admissions process, submitting your application early can improve your chances, regardless of when you take the GRE. Completing the application typically takes at least a week, but many students spend several weeks on it. Ensure you have ample time to fill it out thoroughly and to have someone review it before submission. PPA advisors are available to assist with this process.

To better assist other students, we request that you release your information to the Health Professions Advisor. Rest assured, this information will remain confidential.

Pre-PA Information Summary

# Academic Preparation

Preparing for a graduate PA program involves earning a bachelor’s degree and completing required prerequisite courses, typically in the sciences, which vary by institution. There is no preferred major, so it’s recommended to pursue a field you’re passionate about. Competitive applicants maintain high grades, so it’s important to pace yourself for success. Keep in mind that all grades, including repeated courses, will be considered during the application process.

# Shadowing & Clinical Experience

Observing Physician Assistants in various settings will give you valuable insight into the profession and help determine if it's the right fit for you. Additionally, shadowing enables you to build relationships with PAs, which is important since many PA programs require at least one recommendation letter from a PA with whom you’ve worked or shadowed. Many students secure shadowing opportunities through jobs or volunteer work at medical facilities.

# Patient Care Experience

Effective interaction with patients is a crucial trait for a successful healthcare provider. Your patient care experience can come in various forms, such as working as a Medical Assistant (MA), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), or another role that involves direct, hands-on patient care. Schools have varying requirements, with minimums typically ranging from 250 to 1000 hours. On average, accepted applicants nationwide have around 3500 hours of patient care experience, with the median being approximately 1400 hours.

# Extracurricular Activities

## Community Engagement

Engaging with individuals from diverse backgrounds enhances your interpersonal and communication skills. This type of interaction broadens your perspective and helps you connect better with others.

## Leadership Experiences

Demonstrating leadership can take many forms, including holding positions in organizations, participating in committee work, leading church activities, coordinating projects, managing or training staff, and teaching or mentoring. Other examples include peer counseling and supervising roles in various settings.

# Things to Remember

1. What you do outside of class is important so don’t neglect activities. However, remember that activities complement your coursework, but they will not compensate for low grades
2. Keep contact information for supervisors, doctors, and PA’s you shadow or work within case you need recommendation letters. Even if you discontinue an activity, try to maintain a relationship with your supervisor.
3. Record all hours of service and experiences. Writing reflections on what you learned in a journal will help when you write your personal statement for your application.