

Physician Assistant

Health Professions Advisory Program



Academic Requirements for a Master's Program in Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.)

Required Courses These are the SSU courses most commonly used to satisfy the prerequisite requirements	Other Requirements
<p>Biology A minimum of 16 semester units in any area of the biological sciences, but they must include: BIOL 220: Human Anatomy BIOL 224: Human Physiology BIOL 240: Medical Microbiology</p> <p>Chemistry One semester of general chemistry and one semester of organic chemistry. A second semester of general chemistry can be substituted for organic chemistry. CHEM 115A & B: General Chemistry CHEM 335A: Organic Chemistry</p> <p>Math MATH 165: Statistics</p> <p>All courses should have been completed in the past 5 years with a C- or better. Some programs require a B- or better. Additionally, most MPA programs require a minimum overall and science GPA of 3.0 to be considered.</p>	<p>Other Some programs may require an English course and/or a course in Psychology ENGL 101: Expository Writing and Reading PSY 250: Introduction to Psychology</p> <p>Experience Almost all MPA programs require shadowing of a PA and a substantial (minimum of 500 hours) amount of direct "hands on" health care experience. Most competitive applicant have a minimum of 2,000 hours.</p> <p>This experience can be gained through a variety of work such as: EMT, paramedic, certified nursing assistant (CNA), phlebotomist, scribe, registered nurse, medic, etc.</p>

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

MPA programs are quite varied with respects to their prerequisites. The courses above are based on the prerequisites for the MPA program at Samuel Merritt University in Oakland, CA (only as an example). Be sure to look up the specific programs to which you intend to apply.

Most MPA programs do not require a standardized exam (such as the GRE) to apply, but some do recommend it.

For information about being a PA or about the MPA application process, visit <http://www.aapa.org> or <http://paeonline.org> respectively.

For a list of all PA programs in the US, go to: <https://paeonline.org/our-programs>

For information about the SSU Health Professions Advisory Program, visit: <https://stb.sonoma.edu/hpap>

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