The Pre-Physician Assistant Program sets guidelines and timetables for students to successfully complete prerequisite coursework and other requirements relating to traditional PA schools. Pre-PA is not a major at UND and the Pre-PA Program is not a degree granting program. Undergraduate students planning to pursue a Master’s in PA Studies at a traditional PA school must finish an undergraduate degree first. In order to graduate with a degree from UND, students must:

1. Choose a Major and complete the specific requirements determined by the department responsible for that major
2. Complete the Essential Studies Requirements
3. Complete 125 semester credits (36 of which must be upper divisional credits)

In order to join the Pre-PA Program at UND, freshmen students (planning to finish in 4 years) must:

1. Officially declare Pre-PA in the main office of the College of Arts and Sciences (Montgomery Hall 125)
2. Activate and use UND e-mail account (make sure Campus Connection lists the UND e-mail as the primary e-mail account)
3. Attend all freshmen group advising meetings during fall semester
4. Attend one freshmen group advising meeting during spring semester
5. Complete the following courses, with a C grade or better, before the start of sophomore year:
   a. Bio 150-151, with labs
   b. Math 103 (may test out of this with an ACT Math score of 26, or appropriate COMPASS Math placement test score)
   c. Chem 121-122, with labs
6. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
7. Visit with their major advisor

In order to stay in the Pre-PA Program at UND, students must:

1. Complete the prerequisites for PA school(s) as advised
2. Maintain a competitive cumulative GPA (3.0 minimum)
3. Take the GRE (if required)
4. Visit with the Health Sciences Advisor regularly
5. Visit with their major advisor regularly

Getting into PA school is highly competitive! It is very important that you are well prepared in order to present your best possible application to these schools! Pre-PA undergraduates at UND should receive regular academic advising from the Health Sciences Advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students should also receive regular academic advising for the major of their choice from their major department.

PA schools consider a variety of factors when reviewing applications:

1. Academics
   a. Undergraduate Preparation
      PA schools require a 4 year degree (BS, BA, etc.) **Science courses required for PA schools should be done at the 4 year college level** – no AP or CLEP credits for those!
b. Major

PA schools do not require any particular major - any major is fine! You should pick something you are good at, or enjoy studying, or fits your “plan B” if you don’t end up going to PA school. All majors and degrees available at UND are outlined in the UND catalog and on the UND website. Pre-PA students have completed such majors as Anthropology, Athletic Training, Biology, Chemistry, Foreign Language, Forensic Science, Honors, Interdisciplinary Studies, Nutrition, Philosophy and Psychology.

The combination of the Pre-PA program with a major in the College of Arts and Sciences can usually be finished in 4 years if started freshmen year. The combination of the Pre-PA program with a major in Athletic Training, Aviation, Engineering, Education, Nursing, Nutrition or Medical Laboratory Science will take longer. Because these particular majors include busy curricula and/or practicums, in most cases if you plan to combine one of them with Pre-PA, you will need at least 5 years of undergraduate studies to do so.

c. GPA

Since graduate school (i.e. PA school) is tougher than undergraduate school, you need to leave no doubt of your academic ability by excelling at the undergraduate level.

Average cumulative GPA of recent PA school matriculants: 3.5+.

2. GRE

a. Timing

This rigorous exam is required by a number of PA schools – students planning to finish their undergraduate degrees in 4 years typically take the GRE in May or June after their 3rd year (junior year) of college. While retakes are allowed, it is best to “do it right the first time”.

b. Preparation

Since considerable time (10+ hours/week) needs to go into GRE preparation, UND students are encouraged to take a lighter load (12 credits) during the spring semester of their junior year to give them room for reviewing and practice testing on their own.

c. Scores

Average GRE score (Verbal + Quantitative) for recent PA school matriculants: 1100-1210

3. Relevant Life Experiences

a. Shadowing

Get a good feel for the profession by shadowing as many different kinds of PAs as possible.

b. Direct patient care experience

Work in a patient care setting (hospital, group or nursing home, EMS, etc.).

c. Keep a log of all hours

Formal documentation for life experiences is not needed – just a simple personal log in a small notebook will do – aim for at least 1000+ hours.

4. Letters of Recommendation

a. You will need 3-4 letters of recommendation or evaluation for most PA schools.

b. Letters need to address the personal attributes and academic abilities that make you a good fit for PA school and the profession.

c. Authors will have to include professors and work supervisors who know you very well.

5. Legal Record

a. Keep legal records clean: All minors and felonies will need to be disclosed on applications

b. Keep personal social media sites clean (Facebook, Twitter, etc.): be sure to demonstrate integrity, maturity, wholesomeness and good taste in all postings (verbal, photos, pictures, etc.)

6. Home State Residency

PA schools consider your home state of residency to be where you graduated high school and/or where your parent(s) live.
Courses included in the **UND Pre-Physician Assistant Program** fall into one, or more, categories. These categories are:

1. Requirements for most regional PA schools
2. Good, additional preparation for PA schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-PA Courses</th>
<th>Required by PA schools?</th>
<th>Good prep for PA schools?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year of General Biology =&gt; Biol 150-151 (including labs)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year of General Chem =&gt; Chem 121-122 (including labs)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Organic Chemistry =&gt; Chem 340-342 (including labs)</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of BioChem =&gt; BMB 301</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Anatomy =&gt; Anat 204 + L</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Microbiology =&gt; MBio 302 + L</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Cell Biology =&gt; Biol 341</td>
<td>some</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Genetics =&gt; Biol 315</td>
<td>some</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Pharmacology =&gt; PPT 315</td>
<td>some</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Algebra =&gt; Math 103</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Calculus =&gt; Math 146</td>
<td>few</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Physics =&gt; Phys 211 or 161</td>
<td>few</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year of English =&gt; Engl 110, 130</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 semesters of Psychology =&gt; Psyc 111, 250, 270</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Statistics =&gt; Psyc 241 or Soc 326</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester of Medical Terminology =&gt; Med 205</td>
<td>√</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sample schedule shown below indicates when the Pre-PA courses should be taken, and shows the timing for taking the GRE and applying to PA schools. **This is not a complete semester schedule!** UND students will also have to add their major and Essential Studies graduation requirements to each semester as well:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Sophomore**</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio 150, 150L Chem 121, 121L Math 103</td>
<td>Bio 315 (Genetics) Chem 341, 341L (?)*** Courses from Group 1 or 2*</td>
<td>PPT 301 (Human Physiology Physics 161, 161L (?) or Physics 211, 211L (?)) Courses from Group 2 or 3*</td>
<td>Nutr 240 Courses from Group 2, 3 or 4* <strong>2️⃣ PA School Apps Due</strong> <em>(Submit to schools ASAP)</em> <strong>Interviews Begin</strong> <em>(Usually run October-February)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spr</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio 151, 151L Chem 122, 122L Math 146 (?) Courses from Group 1*</td>
<td>Chem 340, 340L or Chem 342, 342L (?)*** Anat 204, 204L (Human Anatomy) Courses from Group 1 or 2*</td>
<td>Mbio 302, 302L BMB 301 or Bio 341 (Cell Bio) Courses from Group 2 or 3*</td>
<td>PPT 315 (Pharmacology) Courses from Group 2, 3 or 4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gre</td>
<td>1st PA School Apps Due</td>
<td>2nd PA School Apps Due</td>
<td>3rd PA School Apps Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1st by June 15th)</td>
<td>(Submit to CASPA by July 15th)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Courses from Groups 1 and 2 are required by most PA schools. Courses from Groups 3 and 4 are recommended or preferred electives:

**Group 1:** Eng 110 or 130, Comm 110, Psych 111, Soc 110
**Group 2:** Medical Terminology (Med 205), Psych 250, Psych 270, a Stats class (Psych 241 or Soc 326)
**Group 3:** Cell Bio (Bio 341), Nutrition 240, Comm 212
**Group 4:** Immunology (Mbio 328), Pharmacology (PPT 315), Histology (Bio 369+L)

**Bio or Chem majors will have a different schedule from what is listed above – please consult with the Health Sciences Advisor for details!**

***OChem and BioChem requirements vary greatly from PA school to PA school - some require two semesters of OChem (Chem 341-342); others require one semester (Chem 340); and still others require semester of OChem (Chem 340) + one semester of Biochem (BMB 301)