



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Physician Assistants (PAs) are trained personnel who provide patient services under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician. PAs do not exit a PA program with a specialty and have the ability to work in areas such as family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, and some work in specialty areas, such as surgery, emergency medicine and orthopedics. In 2011, the average salary for PAs in Texas was \$95,500 annually. Income varies, depending upon specialty, practice setting, geographic location, and years of experience.

Students may elect to major in any chosen field. Texas has seven Physician Assistant programs: Baylor, University of Texas Southwestern, University of Texas Medical Branch, University of Texas Pan American, University of Texas HSCSA, Texas Tech Health Science Center, and the University of North Texas Health Science Center. The application is a central application (CASPA), and is good for the majority of schools in the United States and all of the programs in Texas. The programs range in duration from 24 to 32 months. After completing a Physician Assistant program, a student is eligible to take the national board exam (PANCE) and become licensed with the State Board of Medical Examiners.

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PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT



NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection criteria vary for each program.

- Grades:** Average accepted Aggie GPA is 3.5. Competitive applicants typically have higher averages. Both science and non-science grades will be considered. The consistency of academic performance will also be considered.
- Interview:** Some schools require an interview, which usually addresses communication skills and commitment to career choice.
- Prior Experience:** Applicants who gain admission typically have spent time volunteering, working, or shadowing in environments that provide exposure to patient contact and to the physician assistant career.
- Letters of Evaluation:** Students are required to garner supportive letters of evaluation from professors and health care professionals. Acceptance into a PA program is highly competitive; applying a second time is something that is looked upon with favor.



PREREQUISITES

Course	Hours	Course Numbers	Requiring Programs
¹ Biology	8	Biol 111 and 112	Majority
Chemistry	8	Chem 101/111 and 102/112	Majority
Organic Chemistry	4 (8)	Chem 227/237 (228/238)	All programs (Tech & UTHSCSA)
¹ Microbiology	4	Biol 351 or Vtpb 405 preferred	All programs
¹ Anatomy/Physiology	8	Biol 319 & 320, or Vibs 305 & Vtpp 423	All programs
Statistics	3	Stat 302 or Stat 303	Majority
⁵ Psychology	3-6	Psyc 107(required as 3 of the 6 hours)	Majority
Genetics	3	Gene 301	All programs/Not Baylor
² Nutrition	3	Nutr 203	Required for Tech (counts for UTMB)
Upper level Science	4	¹ See note below	Required for UNT & UTHSCSA
⁵ Soci/Behav Science	3	Any Psyc, Soci, or Anth	Tech only
Medical Terminology	3	Hlth 354 or junior college	Recommended by all, required by Tech

¹Course which satisfy this requirement for UNT: Bich, Neuro, Immuno, Hist, Pharm. Recommended is Immunology. UTHSCSA requires Bich 303.

²UTMB prefers Immunology over Nutrition, but Tech will only accept Nutrition.

³Texas Tech will not accept AP credit for science courses.

⁴Courses taken at the junior college level are acceptable but can be viewed by some as less competitive.

⁵Hlth 342, Human Sexuality, will count as a Psyc course for Baylor, Tech, and UTMB but not for UNT.

⁶UT Pan American requires 50 hours of documented PA experience.

TEXAS PA PROGRAMS

Program	Entrance Test	Start	*Pre-req Deadline
Baylor	GRE	Summer	Prior to Start
Texas Tech	GRE	summer	Prior to Start
University of North Texas	GRE	Fall	Dec. 31st
UT Medical Branch	GRE	Summer	Prior to Start**
UT Health Science Center	GRE	Fall	Sept. 1st*
UT Southwestern	GRE	Summer	Dec. 31st
UT Pan American	NO GRE	Summer	Oct. 1st

The first opportunity to apply to Texas PA programs is the summer prior to your senior year for entrance the summer or fall after you graduate.

*To apply to ALL the Texas PA programs prerequisites need to be complete by September 1st, the year you apply. If you disregard this deadline and use December 31st, the year you apply, as a deadline then you rule out applying to UTHSCSA and UT Pan Am, but meet the deadline of all the other Texas programs.

**UTMB Requires that your application be VERIFIED by September 1st.

All prerequisites and information are subject to change at any time and without notice. It is the responsibility of the applicant to remain up to date on all requirements for their TAMU major and their desired program.

Highlighted bold courses in the General Nutrition Degree Plan (Right panel) are the required courses for PA Programs

CURRICULUM IN NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES GENERAL NUTRITION TRACK

University Core Curriculum**

Citizenship

_____ Am. History Elective (3)
(TCCN: HIST 1301)

_____ Am. History Elective (3)
(TCCN: HIST 1302)

_____ POLS 206 (3)
(TCCN: GOVT 2305)

_____ POLS 207 (3)
(TCCN: GOVT 2306)

Communication

_____ ENGL 104 (3)
(TCCN: 1301)

_____ ENGL 210, 301 (3)
(TCCN: 2311 accepted)

Natural Sciences

_____ **CHEM 101/111 (4)**
(TCCN: 1411)

_____ **CHEM 102/112 (4)**
(TCCN: 1412)

Language, Philosophy, and Culture

_____ **Language, Philosophy, and Culture ANTH 205 (3)**

Mathematics and Statistics

_____ MATH 141 (3)
(TCCN: 1324)

_____ MATH 142 (3)
(TCCN: 1325)

_____ **STAT 302 (3)**
(must be taken at TAMU)

Social & Behavioral Sciences

_____ **Social & Behavioral Science Elective (3) PSYC 107**

Creative Arts

_____ Creative Arts Elective (3)

International & Cultural Diversity

_____ 3 hours

_____ 3 hours
(can be used to satisfy other requirements)

Writing Intensive Credits (must be NUTR/2 required)

- NUTR 481
- NUTR 430 or NUTR 469

Science Courses (Credit hrs)

Anatomy/Physiology

_____ **BIOL 319 (4)**
****(Cannot substitute BIOL 2401)*

_____ **BIOL 320 (4)**
****(Cannot substitute BIOL 2402)*

Biochemistry

_____ **BICH 410 (3)**
_____ BICH 411 (3)

Biology and Genetics

_____ **BIOL 111 (4)**
(TCCN: 1406)

_____ **BIOL 112 (4)**
(TCCN: 1407)

_____ **GENE 301 (4)**

Chemistry

_____ **CHEM 227 (3)**
(TCCN: 2423)

_____ **CHEM 237 (1)**
(TCCN: 2423)

_____ **CHEM 228 (3)**
(TCCN: 2425)

Required Nutrition/Food Science Courses

_____ **BIOL 351 (4)**
_____ **NUTR 203 (3)**

_____ NUTR 210 (2)

_____ NUTR 301 (3)

_____ NUTR 430 (3)

_____ NUTR 470 (3)

_____ NUTR 481 "C" (1)

_____ NUTR Elective (3)***

_____ NUTR Elective (3)***

Technical Electives (9 hrs total)

_____ Approved Electives (3)****

_____ Approved Electives (3)****

_____ Approved Electives (3)****

Free Electives (9 Shrs total)

_____ Free Electives

_____ Free Electives

_____ Free Electives

A total of 120 hours is required for graduation; 36 hours of 300/400 level courses are required at TAMU.

*Catalog should correspond with your first semester.

**University Core Curriculum.

***Students may choose from NUTR 211, 369 "W", 410, 405, 415, 430 "W", 440, 450, 471, 485, 489.

****Approved Electives – **CHEM 238**, PHYS 201, PHYS 202, CHEM 315 and 318, BIOL 413 or 414, MICR 352 or 360, VTPP 425, COMM 203, 315, or 325, **PSYC 306, PSYC 307, BICH 431, HLTH 354**

***** Student may choose to take biomedical anatomy and physiology. Choose VIBS 305 and VTPP 423