

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

Pre-Physician Assistant Advisement Guide

In the state of California, there are currently eight Physician Assistant programs. Some award certificates, while others award the Associate Degree, the Bachelor's Degree and/or the Master's Degree. Because many programs have been recently revised in the past few years, it is recommended that interested students contact each program directly in order to ascertain their status and their specific admission requirements (including the important health experience requirements). The current California PA programs are listed below along with their websites.

California Physician Assistant Programs

Charles R. Drew University (Bachelor's Degree Program)

(http://www.cdrewu.edu/cosh/physician_assistant/physician_assistant.htm)

Loma Linda University (Master's Degree Program) (www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/pa/)

Riverside County Regional Medical Center/Riverside Community College

Associate Degree/Certificate Program (www.rcc.edu/academicprograms/PhysicianAssistant)

Samuel Merritt College (Master's Degree Program)

San Joaquin Valley College (Associate Degree) (www.sjvc.com/campuses/visalia/pa/)

Stanford University/Foothill College (Associate Degree/Certificate Program):

(<http://pcap.stanford.edu/>)

Touro University International (Masters Degree Program), (www.tu.edu)

University of California, Davis Medical Center (Certificate Program) (Located in Sacramento, Fresno and Irvine)

(http://www-med.ucdavis.edu/adm_edu/fnp_pa_program/index.htm)

University of Southern California (Master's Degree Program):

(www.usc.edu/medicine/pa)

Western University of Health Sciences (Master's Degree Program):

(www.westernu.edu/xp/edu/admissions/mspas_requirements.xml)

Typical Lower Division Prerequisite Requirements

That may be taken at a Community College

- 1-2 semesters General Biology (major level with lab) (depending on program)
- 1 semester College Chemistry (some programs accept one year high school chemistry) or 1 year General Chemistry with lab (College Preparatory Chemistry is a prerequisite) (depending on school)
- 1 year Organic Chemistry (depending on school)

- 1 semester General Physics (depending on school)
- 1 year Anatomy and Physiology with lab
- 1 semester Microbiology with lab
- 1 semester College Mathematics (varies according to program but may include College Algebra or Statistics or higher)
- 1 year English Composition/Critical Thinking (varies according to program)
- 1 semester Speech (depending on program)
- 1 semester General Psychology
- 1 semester Sociology or Cultural Anthropology (depending on program)
- 1 semester Foreign Language (depending on program. Spanish is generally either required or recommended)
- Additional courses in Social Sciences/Humanities (varies according to program)

In addition, all programs have paid/non-paid health care experience requirements.

It is important that students meet with a counselor to develop an educational plan in conjunction with the requirements listed above and the transfer to a university, if necessary to earn a Bachelor's Degree.

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