



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

PRE-PROFESSIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

# PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

CSU Pre-Professional Programs  
[www.csuohio.edu/sciences/preprof](http://www.csuohio.edu/sciences/preprof)

American Association of Physician Assistant  
[aapa.org](http://aapa.org)

Physician Assistant Education Association  
[paeaonline.org](http://paeaonline.org)

The Central Application Service for Physician Assistants  
[caspaonline.org](http://caspaonline.org)

## CAMPUS LOCATION

Cleveland State University  
College of Sciences and Health Professions Advising Office  
1899 East 22nd Street, BH 218  
Cleveland, OH 44115

P: 216-687-9321 F: 216.687.6945

E: [coshpadvising@csuohio.edu](mailto:coshpadvising@csuohio.edu)

[www.csuohio.edu/sciences/preprof](http://www.csuohio.edu/sciences/preprof)

Current students can make appointments by calling  
the office or by accessing Starfish in CampusNet.



College of Sciences  
& Health Professions

Cleveland State University is an AA/EQ institution. 190242



# PRE-PROFESSIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

## PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

The Office of Pre-Professional Health Programs mission is to serve all students, prospective through alumni and post baccalaureate, seeking entry into professional health schools by providing resources, application assistance, mock interviews and by supporting individual student goals.

If you have questions about specific course requirements, reach out to Office of Pre-Professional Health Programs.

### ABBREVIATED TIMELINE

#### FRESHMAN YEAR

- Maintain a strong GPA.
- Attend pre-health meetings on campus to get involved.
- Get to know professors in early prerequisite courses.
- Explore health careers by starting to shadow and volunteer.

#### SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Maintain a strong GPA.
- Pursue meaningful experiences through medically related activities.
- Develop relationships with faculty and mentors that could serve as references.

#### JUNIOR YEAR OR APPLICATION YEAR

- Maintain a strong GPA.
- Attend Applicant Track to learn about application and test preparation process. Meet with Pre-Prof Health Programs office to plan individual timeline and goals.
- Consider who you will ask for letters of reference and schedule meetings to ask them.
- Write your Personal Statement and have at least three people review it.
- Plan a timeline/study schedule for GRE and sign up for a test date in spring or summer after Junior year.
- Familiarize yourself with the CASPA application.

- Research PA schools and complete applications over the summer.

#### SENIOR YEAR OR INTERVIEW YEAR

- Maintain a strong GPA.
- Continue meaningful experiences related to the field.
- Complete secondary applications in a timely manner.
- Prepare for interviews and schedule mock interview.
- Make final decisions on plans for PA school or actively seek out Plan B/Gap Year options.

### PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ASSOCIATION AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

The purpose of the CSU Pre-Physician Assistant Association (PPAA) chapter is to provide members with information about the PA profession, connect students to physician assistant admissions offices and speakers and to share resources.

Speakers are invited to provide additional information about various aspects of their programs.

The Pre-Physician Assistant Association has meetings bi-weekly or monthly throughout the school year. Meetings are announced via email and in the Pre-Professional Health Programs newsletter each week.

Interested students should consider joining by attending meetings and through VikesConnect.

### PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK

BIO 200/201/202/203 Principles of Biology I and II
BIO 264/265 OR 416/417 Microbiology/Lab
BIO266/267/268/269 OR HSC 457/475 and HSC 422/450 Anatomy and Physiology I and II OR Human Gross Anatomy/Lab and Clinical Physiology/Lab
BIO 306/307 or CHM 402 Biochemistry I
BIO 310/311 Genetics
CHM 261/262/266/267 General Chemistry I and II
CHM 331/336/332/337 Organic Chemistry I and II
STA 147 Statistics
MTH 167 Pre-Calculus I (for College Algebra requirement)
PHY 221 OR 231 College Physics I OR Physics for Biomed Applications I
PSY 101 and 223 or 345 (depends on schools) Intro to Psychology and Abnormal Psychology AND/OR Lifespan Development
HSC 203 Medical Terminology

**Additional Course Recommendations:** Please see Pre-Professional Health Programs for recommendations and the online Physician Assistant Directory.

The above list is not comprehensive and some schools require less than the suggestions listed above. Each Physician Assistant (PA) school may have slightly different requirements and it is the responsibility of the student to take prerequisite courses according to the schools he or she plans to apply to. The suggestions above represent the prerequisite requirement for PA programs in the state of Ohio.

**THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**, which was enacted in 2010, recognized PAs for the first time as one of three primary care providers (PAs, Nurse Practitioners and Physicians.) The law also empowered PAs to lead patient-centered medical teams. PAs can practice autonomously or in a collaborative relationship with other members of a patient’s healthcare team. This combination is a major source of their strength.

The PA field offers employment in family medicine, emergency medicine and a wide variety of specialties.

Pre-Physician Assistant students generally major in Health Sciences, Pre-PA Track and

the courses for the major will complete the prerequisites or some PA programs throughout the state and country.

A PA graduate program is typically 27 months in length and follows much of the same coursework that medical students take as PAs are licensed to diagnose and treat illness in collaboration with a physician. PAs assistants work in clinical settings both in primary care and specialty areas. PAs provide quality healthcare to patients and there is a high projected growth within the field for the future as the need for primary care providers also expands.