



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

Physician Assistant Training Program Prerequisites

Physician Assistant training programs are variable in their academic prerequisites, minimum requirement for patient care hours, entrance exams, minimum overall/science GPA, and other requirements. The following checklist is to be used as a guideline when planning your coursework at Merrimack College. Please consult the websites for particular programs, as requirements are not universal and are subject to change.

Prerequisite	Merrimack College Course Equivalent
2 semesters of General Chemistry with Lab	CHM1110 + CHEM1120
1 semester of Organic Chemistry with Lab	CHM2210
2 semesters of Introductory Biology with Lab	BIO1027 (or BIO1025) + BIO1028
1 semester Statistics	MTH1111
1 semester Biochemistry with lab	BIO3037
1 semester Microbiology with lab	BIO3045
2 semesters Human A&P with lab	BIO3050 + BIO3051
1 semester Psychology	PSY1000
1 semester Genetics	BIO2018

At a Glance: Massachusetts Physician Assistant Training Programs

Program	Website	Minimum Patient Care Hours	Entrance Exam	Minimum GPA
MCPHS Boston	https://www.mcphs.edu/academics/school-of-physician-assistant-studies/physician-assistant/physician-assistant-studies-mpas	250	-	3.2
MCPHS Worcester, Manchester (Accelerated)	https://www.mcphs.edu/academics/school-of-physician-assistant-studies/physician-assistant/physician-assistant-studies-mpas-accelerated	250 (+ 250 PA shadowing)	-	3.0
Tufts	https://medicine.tufts.edu/education/physician-assistant/pa-prerequisites	1000 minimum/1500 recommended	GRE or MCAT	
MGH Institute	https://www.mghihp.edu/overview/pa-studies	1000/2000 recommended	GRE	
Bay Path College	https://www.baypath.edu/academics/graduate-programs/physician-assistant-studies-ms/admission-requirements/	500 minimum (+ 24 PA shadowing)	-	3.0
Westfield State University*	http://www.westfield.ma.edu/academics/master-of-science-in-physician-assistant-studies/admission-requirements	500 minimum	-	3.0
Boston University	https://www.bu.edu/paprogram/admissions/prerequisites/academic/	-	GRE – 50 th percentile and above	3.0

*Provisional accreditation status

A Note about Patient Care Hours

PA programs generally look for direct patient care experience that allows candidates to be exposed to the types of situations that a health care professional regularly encounters. Direct patient care hours may be obtained through paid or volunteer experiences and may include emergency medical technician (EMT)/paramedic, certified nurse assistant (CNA), surgical technician, phlebotomist, and other roles. Please consult the websites of each program for information about experiences that count towards clinical/patient care hours.

Please also consult the American Academy of Physician Assistants website for more information:
<https://www.aapa.org/career-central/become-a-pa/>