

# Checklist & Timetable for Students Applying to Physician Assistant (PA) Programs

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## Freshmen Year

- Begin taking your first Biology and Chemistry courses (with corresponding labs)
- Focus on grades! To be competitive for PA school, you need at least a ~3.5 GPA
- Begin building relationships with professors who can later serve as mentors, offer you the opportunity to participate in research, or write recommendations on your behalf

## Sophomore Year

- If you haven't already, consider participating in extracurricular activities, which will enhance you as a PA school applicant
- Spring/Summer of sophomore year
  - Start prepping for the GRE
  - Seek out opportunities for internships (research and/or shadowing medical professionals, especially PAs)
  - Research potential PA schools & visit their campuses.

## Junior Year

- Fall of junior year
  - Take an GRE prep course
  - Begin writing personal statement
  - Seek out recommendation letters
- Spring of junior year
  - Take the GRE (average competitive scores: Q – 150, V – 150, AW – 4.0)
  - Obtain CPR certification
  - Check application deadlines for schools
- Summer of junior year
  - Submit all application materials by August/September

## Senior Year

- Send thank you notes to your recommenders
- Prepare for interviews (mock interviews)

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## Required Courses:

- 8 hours of upper-level biology courses (3000+ level)
  - 8 hours of Anatomy & Physiology
  - 8 hours of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory
  - 6 hours of behavioral sciences
  - 4 hours of organic chemistry or biochemistry with laboratory
  - 4 hours of Microbiology
  - 3 hours of Genetics
  - 3 hours of college algebra or higher
  - 3 hours of Statistics
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