In order to become a physician assistant, you must:

- complete a bachelor's degree (in any major) [WCU Undergraduate Major Options](#)
- take the appropriate prerequisite coursework (see list of programs for specifics)
- take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) [Examprep.wcu.edu](#)
- obtain required, paid clinical experience hours (see list of programs for specifics)
- apply through CASPA, some colleges may require additional applications [Application Log-in](#)
- complete the course of study in a PA program (~2 years) [List of programs](#)
- pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) [PANCE testing information](#)
- obtain license from state where practice is located

What should I major in?

While there is no prescribed major for admission into a physician assistant program, it is imperative that students complete all required courses for admission. PA programs vary significantly in their requirements, and it is important for you to learn what coursework the schools that interest you require. Students should choose their major according to their strengths, interests and alternative career choices. The Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants is used by the majority of PA schools but individual schools may also require a separate application to their institution as well.

Minimally, a student should complete these courses at WCU for entrance into many physician assistant programs:

- **BIO 140, BIO 240, BIO 291, BIO 292, BIO 313 or BIO 413/414**
  

- **CHEM 139, CHEM 140, CHEM 241, CHEM 242, BIO 361 OR CHEM 361**
  
  General Chemistry I, General Chemistry II, Organic Chemistry I, Organic Chemistry II, Principles of Biochemistry

- **MATH 170**
  
  Applied Statistics

- **HSCC 322**
  
  Medical Terminology

- **PSY 150**
  
  General Psychology

**WHO CAN HELP ME AT WCU?**

For information on undergraduate program options and admission requirements for Physician Assistant schools, contact pre-professional advisors:

**Pre-Professional Students:**

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**Honors College Students:**

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