Health Professions | Physician Assistant Admissions Timeline

**Academic Factors**
Admissions committees are looking for solid academic performance in both your overall and science GPA.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Successful Applicant Average GPA</th>
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<td>3.6 – 3.7</td>
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**Non Academic Factors**
Applicants to physician assistant school should demonstrate genuine experiences in the following areas: career exploration and shadowing, leadership, extracurricular activities, a diversity of community/volunteer service, and an awareness of current issues.

**Graduation Records Examinations (GRE)**
The GRE is a computerized test taken in certain testing centers and is offered throughout the year. These programs are designed to test applicants on problem solving, critical thinking, reading comprehension, and writing skills. All physician assistant schools require applicants to take the GRE. For information or to register for the GRE go to:  [http://www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)

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<th>Successful Applicant Average GRE</th>
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<td>1050-1150</td>
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**Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)**
 Almost all schools use CASPA as a centralized application service. It is important to research each school you plan on attending to find out when you need to apply. Physician assistant schools fill their classes on a rolling basis; therefore it is important to apply early. To apply using CASPA go to: [https://portal.caspaonline.org/](https://portal.caspaonline.org/).

**Physician Assistant School Timeline**

**Freshman**
- Visit the Health Professions Website
- Review the prerequisites you need for physician assistant schools
- Schedule the major and prerequisite classes you need to take using the Grad Plan Tool (note that you should review the course catalogue to ensure classes are available during the semester you have planned to take them)
- Explore the physician assistant field and look for shadowing opportunities
- Take the Health Professions Workshops

**Sophomore**
- Explore the physician assistant field and shadow physicians
- Research physician assistant schools (it is acceptable to call them and ask questions)
- Build good relationships with professors and supervisors for future letters of recommendation
- Begin writing a Personal Statement

**Junior**
- Start studying for the GRE
- Know current physician assistant issues
- Continue to explore the field and shadow
- Participate in community service
- Edit and review Personal Statement
- Ask 3 or more people to write you a letter of recommendation
- Research physician assistant schools you plan on attending and review each school’s admissions timetable
- Visit physician assistant schools if possible
- Take the GRE
- Start filling out the CASPA application
- Submit CASPA application

**Senior**
- Prepare for your interviews by visiting with career services and participating in mock interviews
- Research Financial Aid options
- Know current physician assistant issues