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Physician Assistants (PAs) provide healthcare services under the supervision of physicians. They should not be confused with medical assistants, who perform routine clinical and clerical tasks. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive healthcare services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of the healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, make diagnoses, and prescribe medications.

Degree: Many PA programs require completion of a Bachelor's Degree before entry. Some programs are direct freshman entry, with limited seats for transfer students. PA programs vary in length from 2 – 6 years and are full time.

Typical Admission Requirements to Physician Assistant Programs:

- Recent experience providing direct patient health care is often required. The amount of experience required varies by college.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (with 3.0 in prerequisite coursework).
- It is very useful for prospective students to meet several practicing physician assistants and “shadow” one through daily routines.
- References and personal interview.
- Applications are submitted online through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) at www.caspaonline.org or directly to the college. Research colleges for processes and deadlines.

Typical Prerequisite or Recommended Courses for Physician Assistant Programs:

Prerequisite requirements vary. Often required are: One year of biology with laboratories; One year of physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories, including organic; Calculus; Microbiology; Anatomy & Physiology; Sociology; Psychology, English, Medical Terminology. Examples of MCC courses are below:

CHE 151 – General College Chemistry I	BIO 202 - Microbiology
CHE 152 – General College Chemistry II	MTH 160 – Statistics I
CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I	MTH 200/210 – Applied Calculus or higher
CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II	ENG 101 and/or 200 – English Composition
BIO 155 - General Biology I	PSY 101 - Intro to Psychology
BIO 156 - General Biology II	PSY 206 – Abnormal Psychology
BIO 142 - Anatomy	PSY 212 – Developmental Psychology - Lifespan
BIO 143 - Physiology	SOC 101 – Intro to Sociology

Physician Assistant programs may prefer some courses be completed at a 4-year institution. Contact each institution for specific information and to verify course transferability.

Partial Listing of New York State Colleges with Physician Assistant Programs:

Rochester Institute of Technology (see specific guide)	Cornell University (Weill Cornell Medical)
Daemen College	Long Island University – Brooklyn
D’Youville College	SUNY Stony Brook
Le Moyne College	Touro College
Pace University	Wagner College
St. John’s University/Queens	Albany Medical College
Hofstra University	St. Francis College-Brooklyn Heights
SUNY Upstate Medical University	

For more information, see <http://www.nccpa.net> and <http://www.paeaonline.org>

Please note: while every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.