Physician Assistants (PAs) provide healthcare services under the supervision of physicians. PAs take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, make diagnoses, and prescribe medications. They should not be confused with medical assistants who perform routine clinical and clerical tasks. Many PA programs require completion of a Bachelor’s Degree before entry. (No specific undergraduate major is required; however, science majors are often seen.) Some PA programs are direct first year student entry with limited seats for transfer students. It takes at least 5 - 6 years to become a PA.

Most MCC students are advised to prepare to transfer to a 4-year college for Biology or another science major, and then apply to PA graduate programs.

Typical Admission Requirements

- Recent experience providing direct patient health care. The amount of experience required varies by college.
- Interviewing and shadowing a PA through daily routines.
- Bachelor’s Degree often required.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.
- Applications are often submitted through the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA).

Typical Prerequisite or Recommended Courses

Two semesters of general biology with labs; two semesters of general chemistry; organic chemistry or biochemistry; calculus; microbiology; anatomy & physiology; sociology; psychology; English; statistics; medical terminology. Requirements vary by program. Advanced Placement (AP) credit might not be accepted for science coursework.

Examples of MCC Courses That Might Be Taken Before Transfer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCC Courses</th>
<th>College Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 155 &amp; 156 - General Biology I &amp; II</td>
<td>PSY 101 - Intro to Psychological Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 151 &amp; 152 - General College Chem I &amp; II</td>
<td>PSY 206 - Abnormal Psychology and/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 251 &amp; 252 - Organic Chemistry I &amp; II</td>
<td>PSY 212 - Developmental Psy – Lifespan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 202 - Microbiology</td>
<td>SOC 101 - Intro to Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 144 &amp; 145 - Anatomy &amp; Physiology I &amp; II</td>
<td>MTH 210 - Calculus (some programs may accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIM 104 - Medical Terminology</td>
<td>MTH 200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 101 and/or 200 - English Composition</td>
<td>MTH 160 - Statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research colleges for admission prerequisites and to verify course transferability.

Partial List of NYS Colleges with PA Programs

- Albany Medical College
- Clarkson University
- Cornell University
- Daemen College
- D’Youville College
- Hofstra University
- LeMoyne College
- Long Island University
- Marist College
- Pace University
- Mercy College
- New York Institute of Technology
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- St. John’s University
- SUNY Downstate Medical
- SUNY Stony Brook
- SUNY Upstate Medical University
- Touro College
- Wagner College
- York College (CUNY)
Additional Information

Occupational Outlook Handbook, Physician Assistant:
- www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physician-assistants.htm
- PAEA Accredited Programs by State

Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.

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