

Prerequisite Guide

The Physician Assistant Program does not provide transcript reviews, course equivalency determinations, prerequisite evaluations, or pre-approval of coursework. Applicants are responsible for determining whether coursework satisfies published prerequisite requirements based on the course title, catalog description, subject matter, credit value, and laboratory component. Applicants should review this guide in its entirety before contacting the program. Final determination of prerequisite eligibility is made only during CASPA application review by the Admissions Committee.

General Prerequisite Policies

- A single course may not satisfy multiple prerequisite requirements.
- Prerequisite coursework must be completed **within 10 years of CASPA submission**.
- Advanced Placement® (AP) credit is accepted if it appears on an official college transcript.
- CLEP (College-Level Examination Program®) credit **is not accepted**.
- Community college coursework is accepted.
- Online coursework and online laboratory experiences completed through regionally accredited institutions are accepted. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete face-to-face laboratory experiences when available in preparation for the Physician Assistant curriculum.
- Pass/Fail coursework is not accepted **except** for approved COVID-19 pandemic grading exceptions (2020-2021).

Prerequisite Self-Assessment Guide

This guide addresses prerequisite courses that most commonly generate applicant questions. It is not a complete list of all required prerequisite coursework. Applicants should review the Program Admission Requirements for the full list of prerequisites and admissions requirements.

Requirement	Examples That May Qualify	Examples That Typically Do <u>Not</u> Qualify
General Biology with laboratory – 2 semesters (minimum 8 credits)	Introduction, Cell Biology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Developmental Biology, Evolution	Toxicology, Environmental Science, Botany-only, Zoology-only
General Chemistry with laboratory – 2 semesters (minimum 8 credits)	Organic Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry	Chemistry for Non-Science Majors (if no lab), Food Chemistry
Microbiology (lab not required) – 1 semester (minimum 3 credits)	General Microbiology, Medical Microbiology, Microbes and Disease	Immunology, Virology alone

Requirement	Examples That May Qualify	Examples That Typically Do <u>Not</u> Qualify
Psychology – 1 semester (minimum 3 credits)	General Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Clinical/Personality Psychology	Sociology, Counseling, Social Work, Psychological Research or Statistics, Animal
Mathematics – 1 semester (minimum 3 credits)	Precalculus, Calculus, Applied Mathematics (College Algebra, Trigonometry)	Remedial Math, Accounting, Economics, Business, Finance, Physics, non-quantitative courses, Epidemiology
Statistics – 1 semester (minimum 3 credits)	Intro Statistics, Biostatistics, Psychological Statistics, Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	Epidemiology, Research Methods (where Statistics is not the main curriculum)

Examples are not guarantees and are not exhaustive. The examples in this guide are illustrative, provided for general guidance only and are not guarantees of prerequisite eligibility. The presence of a course, subject area, or example in this guide does not guarantee that coursework will satisfy a prerequisite requirement. Final determinations are made during CASPA application review.

Biology and Chemistry Substitutions

- Higher-level biology or chemistry coursework **that includes a laboratory component** may be considered toward the General Biology and/or General Chemistry prerequisite requirements. Higher-level coursework may be considered to satisfy a missing prerequisite course.
- Laboratory requirements for substituted coursework must be comparable to the laboratory expectations of the prerequisite being satisfied.
- Applicants are responsible for determining whether coursework is substantially equivalent to introductory biology or chemistry coursework based on the course title, catalog description, subject matter, credit value, and laboratory component.
- The program does not provide course-by-course evaluations or advance determinations regarding prerequisite substitutions. Submission of an application does not indicate that prerequisite requirements have been satisfied and does not guarantee application review, interview invitation, or admission. Final determination of prerequisite eligibility is made by the Admissions Committee during CASPA application review.

Must laboratory coursework appear as a separate course on my transcript?

No. Laboratory coursework may be integrated into the lecture course or appear as a separate laboratory course, depending on the institution. Applicants should review the published laboratory requirements for each prerequisite. Laboratory coursework must be documented on the official transcript and satisfy the required laboratory component.

Can a higher-level course replace a prerequisite course with a grade below the minimum requirement?

No. Higher-level coursework may be considered as a substitute for a missing prerequisite requirement. However, higher-level coursework may not be used to replace a prerequisite course completed with a grade below the program's minimum required grade of "C." Applicants who received a grade below "C" in a prerequisite course must repeat the prerequisite course and earn the minimum required grade.

Does a higher-level course substitution affect GPA calculations?

No. Approval of a higher-level course substitution only addresses prerequisite eligibility and does not alter GPA calculations. All coursework and grades are included in GPA calculations according to CASPA policies.

Human Anatomy and Physiology Requirements

The program accepts Human Anatomy and Human Physiology as *combined* or *separate* courses. Human Anatomy and Human Physiology must be completed at a college level through a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must complete coursework equivalent to:

- Human Anatomy (minimum 3 credits)
- Human Physiology (minimum 3 credits)
- At least one associated laboratory (Anatomy or Physiology)
- Minimum two semesters and 7 credits total

The following do **NOT** satisfy this requirement:

- Animal Anatomy
- Animal Physiology
- Comparative Anatomy
- Comparative Physiology
- Mammalian Anatomy and Physiology

Mathematics and Statistics Requirements

Applicants must complete a minimum of 3 credits of statistics coursework covering fundamental statistical concepts. Examples: Introduction to Statistics, Biostatistics, Psychological Statistics, Statistics for Behavioral Sciences

Examples that **do NOT** satisfy the requirement:

- Epidemiology
- Quantitative Research Design
- Data Analytics courses without foundational statistics content

Frequently Asked Questions

My school is on the quarter system rather than semester system. How are credits evaluated?

Coursework completed on a quarter system will be evaluated using standard semester-credit conversion methods.

What if my College or University does not use the standard Carnegie credit system?

Most applicants attending U.S. colleges and universities will not be affected. Most U.S. colleges and universities use the standard Carnegie credit system. Applicants whose institution uses a different credit system (e.g., competency-based education or another nontraditional credit system) or award coursework without standard semester or quarter credits should arrange for the course syllabus and information regarding institutional credit/contact hours to be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admission (gradhelp@stjohns.edu) at the time of application. This documentation is used solely to verify course credit equivalency and may delay application review if not received.

My course title is different from the examples listed. Will it count?

Course titles vary among institutions. Applicants should evaluate coursework based on course content, catalog description, credit value, and laboratory component rather than title alone.

What if my course combines multiple subjects? For example, “Anatomy & Physiology I” or “Integrated Biology”.

Courses that combine multiple subject areas may be considered if the course content, credit value, and laboratory component satisfy the published prerequisite requirements. Final determination is made during application review.

This guide is intended to assist applicants in evaluating prerequisite coursework. It does not constitute a transcript review, prerequisite approval, or guarantee of admission eligibility. Final determinations are made by the Admissions Committee during application review.