

Pre-PA Scheduling and Timelines

Scheduling of Graduate School Prerequisites. Scheduling of the core science coursework for the pre-physician assistant track is shown in Table 1. These plans chart the minimum science coursework for students on a pre-physician assistant track over the four years that students are expected to be at Mercer University. (Remember, students must check the admission requirements of the physician assistant schools to which they are likely to apply so as not to overlook any admission requirements specific to those schools!)

A student's actual scheduling of these courses depends on factors such as a student's initial mathematics placement and the availability of required courses for the student's academic major.

When arranging their course schedules, pre-PA students are advised to plan ahead and review the published lists of Mercer University course offerings; this is important because not all of the required courses for a student's major and/or the pre-PA track will be offered every semester, and a one-semester delay along the pre-PA track could turn into a one-year delay in starting PA school due to complications involving prerequisites.

Math Placement. To enroll in chemistry (and physics) course sequences, a student must demonstrate a minimum mathematics competency that is equivalent to pre-calculus (MAT 133) or above; this competency may be demonstrated by a math index of 980 or higher, through credit for MAT 133 (college, AP, or CLEP), or through a score of 15 or higher on the math placement test. Information about the math placement test can be found online here:

<http://aas.mercer.edu/for-students/placement-exams/>.

Course Load. The PA school curriculum is quite rigorous, so admissions committees will look to an applicant's ability to carry a full academic load as s/he completes the undergraduate studies as an indicator of how well he or she might handle the graduate school curriculum. Unless there are extenuating circumstances that prevent him/her from doing so (e.g., employment, family circumstances), a pre-PA student is expected to take 15 to 17 hours each semester.

Table 1. Suggested Scheduling of Science Prerequisites for PA School (showing the 23-24 BIO curriculum)

Plan A

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	CHM 111 BIO 171	CHM 112 BIO 172	Shadowing or PCE
2	CHM 221 BIO 260 or 280 as required by major	CHM 222 BIO 260 or 280 as required by major	Shadowing or PCE
3	BIO 131 BMB 465 or BIO 303?	BIO 132 BMB 465 or BIO 303?	Shadowing or PCE; Take admission exam; submit applications?
4	Take admission exam; submit applications?	Take admission exam; submit applications?	Shadowing or PCE; Take admission exam; submit applications?

Plan B

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	MAT 095 or 133 BIO 131	MAT 133 or STA 126 BIO 132	Shadowing or PCE
2	CHM 111 BIO 171	CHM 112 BIO 172	Shadowing or PCE
3	CHM 221 BIO 260 or 280 as required by major	CHM 222 BIO 260 or 280 as required by major	Shadowing or PCE; Take admission exam; submit applications?
4	BMB 465 or BIO 303? Shadowing or PCE; Take admission exam; submit applications?	BMB 465 or BIO 303? Shadowing or PCE; Take admission exam; submit applications?	Shadowing or PCE; Take admission exam; submit applications?

Courses in **bold** are only taught during the semesters shown.