

Pre-Pathologists' Assistant Scheduling and Timelines

Scheduling of the Graduate School Prerequisites. Pre-pathologists' assistant students should schedule their core science prerequisites in one of the ways shown in Table 1. These plans chart the minimum science coursework for students on a pre-pathologists' assistant track over the 4 years that students are expected to be at Mercer University.

Pre-pathologists' assistant students must check the admission requirements of the individual graduate schools to which they are likely to apply and to adjust their personal plans accordingly. See the document, *Investigating Graduate Schools for Pathologists' Assistant* on the Track Page.

Mercer University advisors recommend that during their first year, students create a personalized "4-year plan" that includes the requirements of their major(s) and minor(s) and the admission requirements of their target schools, and takes into account initial math placement. When creating their own 4-year plans, students should review the published lists of course offerings and consult the University catalog for information about course pre-requisites and offering frequency. Doing so is essential because not all of the required courses for a student's major and/or the pre-pathologists' assistant track will be offered every semester. See <https://aas.mercer.edu/for-students/creating-a-4-year-plan/> for assistance.

Math Placement. To enroll in chemistry and physics courses, a student must demonstrate a minimum mathematics competency that is equivalent to pre-calculus (MAT 133) or above; this competency may be demonstrated through credit (college, AP, or CLEP) for MAT 133 or its equivalent, 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 Loads. The graduate 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-pathologists' assistant student is expected to take 15 to 17 hours each semester.

Table 1. Suggested Scheduling of the Core Science Prerequisites for Pathologists' Assistant Graduate Programs

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	CHM 111 BIO 171	CHM 112 BIO 172	<i>Shadowing experience as required by target schools</i>
2	CHM 221 BIO 260 or 280 as required by major <i>Investigate PathA schools</i>	CHM 321 BIO 260 or 280 as required by major	<i>Shadowing experience as required by target schools</i>
3	BIO 303 or BMB 465? BIO 131 <i>Prepare for GRE</i>	BIO 303 or BMB 465? BIO 132 <i>Prepare for or Take GRE?</i> <i>Prepare for or submit applications?</i>	<i>Shadowing experience as required by target schools</i> <i>Take GRE?</i> <i>Submit applications?</i>
4	<i>Work towards completing a CLAS degree; apply for May graduation</i> <i>Take GRE? Submit applications?</i>		