

# Pre-Physician Assistant at UNT

## Prospective Student Handout

The Office of Health Professions provides advising and guidance for any current student who expresses an interest in applying and attending a Physician Assistant school after graduation. Though we do not offer a formal program, major, or concentration in Pre-Physician Assistant Studies, we will serve any student who wishes to become a Physician Assistant. Therefore, no UNT student has to 'qualify' for our advising services; as long as you are a current student, we will gladly help you create a plan to achieve your professional goals.

The Office of Health Professions provides the following services:

- Personalized Advising
- Career Exploration
- Application Guidance and Planning
- Review of Entrance Requirements and Prerequisite Coursework
- Professional Timeline
- Interview Preparation and Personal Statement Review

## Frequently Asked Questions about Pre-PA at UNT

### What prerequisites do I need for PA schools?

All prerequisites are located on the each PA School's website. If you plan to transfer to UNT, please see a list of all Texas PA prerequisites in our Pre-PA Packet (courses are presented as UNT course numbers): <https://cos.unt.edu/sites/cos.unt.edu/files/cos/COS%202017-8-18%20Pre-PA%20Packet.pdf>

### When do I apply for PA school?

Students will apply for PA programs one year before enrollment. Many students use the year in between to complete their Bachelor's degree. Be sure to check all deadlines on the PA Schools' websites.

### Is a Bachelor's degree required for admission to a PA school?

Yes. Becoming a PA requires that you earn a Master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies, and therefore, a Bachelor's degree is required first (in addition to all prerequisite coursework). Any Bachelor's is appropriate for admission.

### What should I major in?

Many students choose to major in Biology (Bachelor of Arts) because most of the PA prerequisites will apply towards such a degree. Other popular majors: Integrative Studies and Psychology. To learn more about these three degrees, please contact the College of Arts & Sciences to schedule a prospective appointment: 940-369-8606. As mentioned above, any major is appropriate, so please contact the department on campus that houses the major of your interest.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Pre-PA at UNT cont.

### What will make me a competitive candidate for PA school admission?

Though not all is required, the following information can help you become a competitive candidate:

- **GPA:** 3.6-4.0 is considered a competitive GPA for PA School
- **Entrance Exam:** Pre-PA students are required to take the GRE (Graduate Record Examination). Please visit the GRE website for more information: [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)
- **Community Service:** Pre-PA students should find volunteer opportunities that are consistent and relevant to their passion for serving others
- **Shadowing:** Students should shadow a PA regularly, and obtain direct-patient contact experience
- **Clinical Experience:** Though not required, clinical experience, such as scribing, being a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), EMT, Phlebotomist, etc., will make you a more competitive applicant

### When should I take the GRE?

Ideally, pre-PA students should take the GRE during the spring semester of the year they are applying.

### Does UNT offer any Pre-Health clubs on campus?

Yes. Please visit our website for a list of Pre-Health organizations on campus:

<https://cos.unt.edu/advising/health-professions/pre-physician-assistant-university-north-texas>

### Does UNT offer a PA Program?

No, the UNT Denton campus, does not offer a PA program. The UNT Health Sciences Center in Fort Worth, TX does offer a Master's in Physician Assistant Studies. Please visit their website for more information: <https://www.unthsc.edu/school-of-health-professions/physician-assistant-studies/>

### I am not sure if I would like to attend UNT. How can I learn more about transferring?

- 1) Feel free to schedule a prospective appointment with an advisor in the major of your interest. During your meeting, be sure to express your interest in Pre-PA and have a Pre-PA packet available (this can help evaluate how the Pre-PA courses will apply towards your major):  
<https://cos.unt.edu/advising/health-professions/pre-physician-assistant-university-north-texas>
- 2) Once you have been accepted to UNT, you will attend a new student orientation. At orientation, please attend our Pre-Health seminar to learn more about the journey to a Health Professional school.
- 3) After orientation, feel free to schedule an appointment with a Pre-Health Counselor in the Office of Health Professions: 940-369-8606.
- 4) Have questions about Pre-Health at UNT? Feel free to e-mail us or give us a call at 940-369-8606.