UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

Pre-Physician Assistant Prerequisite Checklist

STUDENT:

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UPDATED: October 2026 (UA Little Rock five-digit course numbers)

APPLYING TO: ☐ UAMS ☐ Harding ☐ Other **Applying in:**

This checklist is built around the **UAMS Master of Physician Assistant Studies** prerequisites and also lists other Arkansas and nearby programs. PA programs require a **bachelor's degree** and substantial **hands-on patient care experience**. Requirements differ from program to program, so take the combined set of courses for every program you plan to apply to, and confirm each program's current requirements before you apply. **For advising, contact Dr. Ghosh (axghosh@ualr.edu); if he can't meet or is slow to respond, reach out to Dr. Flowers (eeflowers@ualr.edu).** We run the program together. Keep this checklist current; you will submit it with your UA Little Rock committee letter application.

Tip: open this file in Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview or your browser, click the boxes to check off courses, type in the fields, and save. You can update it at every advising meeting.

Part A. PA programs in Arkansas

	UAMS Master of Physician Assistant Studies (Little Rock)
Program	28 months, full time; starts mid-May each year; 40 students; Arkansas residents receive preference
Degree and GPA	Bachelor's degree (any major) before starting; minimum 3.0 cumulative and 3.0 science GPA (CASPA-calculated)
Prerequisites (41 hrs)	Biology I and II with labs 8 (Zoology or Cell Biology with lab may replace Biology II); Human Anatomy with lab 4; Human Physiology with lab 4 (A&P I and II with labs meets both); Microbiology with lab 4; Genetics 3; General Chemistry I and II with labs 8; Organic Chemistry I with lab 4; General Psychology 3; Statistics 3
Course rules	C or better; no pass/fail; no AP, IB or CLEP; no survey courses; online labs accepted but in-person recommended; anatomy, physiology and microbiology within 7 years of starting; up to 2 prerequisites may be in progress at acceptance
Patient care	**500 hours of direct patient care** before starting (volunteer hours count; student or intern hours do not). Scribe or pharmacy-technician work counts for at most 250 hours. Examples: CNA, EMT, medical assistant, paramedic, phlebotomist, RN.
Shadowing	Shadowing a PA or physician is highly recommended (does not count toward the 500 hours)
Letters	3: a physician or PA; a supervisor; a professor or a second physician or PA. No family or friends.
Application	CASPA plus a UAMS application; opens about April 30 and closes November 1 (rolling review; submit by September 15). In-person interviews September–December.

Harding University PA Program (Searcy; admissions): 28 months, class of 36; CASPA deadline November 1. Its prerequisites include anatomy and physiology, microbiology, general and organic chemistry or biochemistry, statistics, psychology, upper-level biology and **medical terminology**; confirm the full list and hour requirements on Harding's site.

New programs in development: Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (Fort Smith) has applied for accreditation for a PA program, with a first class expected in 2028 if approved; John Brown University (Siloam Springs) plans a program around 2030. Check their websites.

Nearby programs:

Program	Notes
UTHSC (Memphis)	GPA 3.0 overall and science; **PA-CAT required** (500+ competitive); all prerequisites done before applying; January start
LSU Health Shreveport	**GRE required**; out-of-state GPA 3.5; prerequisites include medical terminology and upper-level biology; about 90% Louisiana residents
University of Oklahoma (Tulsa)	GPA 3.0 overall and science; A&P and upper-level sciences within 7 years; Oklahoma residents preferred; CASPA deadline October 1
Missouri State (Springfield)	PA-CAT preferred (or GRE or MCAT); recent class averaged GPA 3.7 and about 3,500 patient-care hours; CASPA by July 15

Part B. Experience and the application

- **Patient care hours matter most.** Minimums range from none to 500 hours, but admitted students usually have far more. Start a hands-on job early (CNA, EMT, medical assistant, phlebotomist, scribe) and keep a log.
- **Shadow PAs** in more than one specialty and be ready to explain why you want to be a PA rather than a physician or nurse practitioner.
- **CASPA** (apply): the 2026–27 cycle opened April 30, 2026; fees are $185 for the first program and $65 for each additional. Apply early in the cycle; most programs review on a rolling basis.
- **Tests:** UAMS does not list the GRE or PA-CAT; some nearby programs require one (UTHSC: PA-CAT; LSU Shreveport: GRE).
- After graduation, PAs must pass the **PANCE** certification exam.

Part C. Course checklist

UAMS PA prerequisites (41 hours, C or better):

	Course (credit hours)	Prerequisite	Term / grade
☐	Biology I with lab: BIOL 10284 Biological Concepts I (4) or BIOL 10104 Science of Biology (4)	None	
☐	Biology II with lab: BIOL 20504 Zoology (4) or BIOL 40694 Cell Biology (4)	Intro biology	
☐	BIOL 24004 and 24104 Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II (4 each), **or** BIOL 30294 Human Anatomy (4) and BIOL 42284 Human Physiology (4)	See catalog	
☐	BIOL 20194 Microbiology (4)	Intro biology and a chemistry course	
☐	BIOL 30883 Genetics (3)	Intro biology, Microbiology and chemistry	
☐	CHEM 13003 General Chemistry I (3) + CHEM 11001 Lab (1)	College Algebra or chemistry placement (see catalog)	

	Course (credit hours)	Prerequisite	Term / grade
☐	CHEM 14203 General Chemistry II (3) + CHEM 14201 Lab (1)	General Chemistry I	
☐	CHEM 36053 Organic Chemistry I (3) + CHEM 36051 Lab (1)	General Chemistry II	
☐	PSYC 20043 Psychology and the Human Experience (3)	None	
☐	MATH 21003 Introduction to Statistical Methods (3)	See catalog	

Also required by some other programs:

	Course (credit hours)	Prerequisite	Term / grade
☐	CHEM 42133 Biochemistry I (3) or CHEM 36203 Organic Chemistry II (3) + Lab (1)	Organic Chemistry I (and II for Biochemistry)	
☐	Medical terminology (often online; confirm the course counts)	See catalog	
☐	A second psychology course, e.g., PSYC 30203 Abnormal Psychology (3)	See catalog	
☐	ENGL 10103 and 10203 Composition I and II (3 each)	Placement	
☐	Upper-level biology, e.g., BIOL 41384 Immunology (4) or BIOL 40694 Cell Biology (4)	See catalog	

Experiences and plans

Item	Notes (hours, places, dates)
Test date / score (if required)	
Direct patient care (UAMS minimum 500 hrs)	
PA shadowing	
Service and leadership	

Item	Notes (hours, places, dates)
Programs you plan to apply to	

Department and campus contacts

For more information on prerequisites and course content, transfer equivalencies, finding classes and connecting with professors (please keep Dr. Ghosh or Dr. Flowers informed):

Contact	Email	Ask about
Dr. Sinead Ni Chadhain, Biology Chair	snichadhain@ualr.edu	Biology courses and transfer equivalencies
Dr. Juliette Rivero, Chemistry	jxriverocas@ualr.edu	Chemistry courses and sequencing
Dr. Georgy Guisbiers, Physics	gxguisbiers@ualr.edu	Physics courses and sequencing
Office of Transfer Student Services	transfer@ualr.edu; 501-916-3273	Articulating courses from other colleges

Requirements were checked on the schools' websites in October 2026 and change every year; confirm each school's current requirements before you apply.