

**Bachelor of Science (BS)****Pre-Physician Assistant Option**

This option is for students preparing to apply for admission into a physician assistant program. Physician assistants are in demand. The profession is one of the fastest growing in the country due to the shortage of primary care physicians, as well as economic pressures on health care costs. The required and supporting courses are typically required for admission into physician assistant programs. Students may select additional electives in virology, immunology, pathogenic bacteriology, epidemiology, health physics and toxicology.

**Becoming Career Ready...**

*/* Faculty-mentored research and guidance will help you develop the professional skills needed for success in a competitive job market and/or advanced study in graduate and professional programs. Students attend classes in the renovated Magill Hall furnished with modern equipment.

*/* Most Pre-Physician Assistant graduates go on to Physician Assistant program and complete a Masters of Medical Science (MMS) degree. Example job titles include physician assistant, medical office manager and research technician.

*/* 100% of Southeast programs offer real-world experience. Pre-Physician Assistant students earn this experience through required 80 hours outside the class room which earn 2 college credits. Students in the Pre-Physician Assistant program often do this by shadowing PAs, doctors, and nurses, or working or volunteering at hospitals. PA programs often require 500-2000 hours experience as Certified Nurses Assistants, EMTs or other medical positions.

*/* Pre-Physician Assistant students take rigorous coursework in anatomy and physiology which are required for most MMS schools. Students also complete additional coursework in medical terminology, psychology, chemistry, and mathematics to make them competitive for admission to MMS schools.

*/* Alpha Epsilon Delta (honorary), American Student Medical Association, and the Student Medical Society provide peer-support and guidance. Students will meet with their advisor each semester to assess their progress towards admission to an MMS program.

*/* The path to a successful career starts with you! You can maximize your career development by working closely with Career Services and Southeast faculty – they are here to help you connect your passions, interests and skills to jobs and opportunities in the field. Career Services provides professional career counseling and coaching, resume critiques, practice interviews, job search strategies, career events, networking opportunities and more.

**Internship Opportunities:**

- Landmark Hospital
- Delta Area Hospital
- Regional physicians, physicians assistants, and nurse practitioners are eager to provide internship opportunities

**Professional School Matriculation:**

- Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- University of Missouri School of Medicine Springfield Clinical Campus
- University of Kentucky-Lexington
- St. Louis University
- Missouri State University

**Physician Assistants complete a Masters of Medical Science (MMS) degree. The application process is very competitive. Many programs require substantial (500-2000 hours) of creditable medical employment. This may be fulfilled as a Certified Nurse Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, and other allied health fields. Students considering becoming a Physician Assistant should consult the websites of the institutions they plan to attend for requirements and qualifications for admission.**

**Admission Requirements**

A college preparatory sequence that includes three years of science (including biology, chemistry, and physics) and mathematics through advanced algebra is encouraged.

**Transfer and Dual Credit Students**

If you have dual credit or transfer credit, please visit our transfer course equivalencies guide at [semo.edu/transfercredit](http://semo.edu/transfercredit).

**Bachelor of Science (BS)**

This is a guide based on the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on several factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students will meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their individual progress.

**CURRICULUM CHECKLIST**

*"Critical Courses" are italicized and bolded. Data shows that students who have completed this course in the first two years and have earned the noted grade are most likely to complete this program of study.*

**Required Courses:**

- \_\_\_ BI163 Evolution & Ecology (4)
- \_\_\_ BI173 Cell & Organismal Biology (4)
- \_\_\_ **BI283 Genetics (4)**
- \_\_\_ BI389 Career Development in Biology (2)
- \_\_\_ CH184 General Chemistry I Lab (1)
- \_\_\_ CH185 General Chemistry I (3)

Choose one math course:

- \_\_\_ MA116 Precalculus A (3)
- \_\_\_ MA137 Precalculus (5)
- \_\_\_ MA139 Applied Calculus (3)
- \_\_\_ MA140 Analytical Geometry & Calculus I (5)

Choose one additional math course:

- \_\_\_ MAxx Additional math (for which MA116 is a prerequisite) (3)

OR

- \_\_\_ MA155 Statistical Reasoning (3)

Experiential Learning Requirement: 2 hours

- \_\_\_ BI471-473 Internships in Biology (2)
- \_\_\_ BI551-553 Biology Field Studies (2)
- \_\_\_ BI563-565 Experience in Museum Curation (1-3)
- \_\_\_ BI570 Development of Instructional Materials (1)
- \_\_\_ BI589-591 Biological Research (2)

**Pre-Physician Assistant Option Required Courses:**

- \_\_\_ BS113 Anatomy & Physiology I and Lab (4)
- \_\_\_ BS114 Anatomy & Physiology II and Lab (4)

**Biology Electives - choose 12 Hours**

- \_\_\_ BI/BO/BT/ZO prefix with at least 9 hours at the 300 level (12)
- OR
- \_\_\_ BS 240 Microorganisms and Their Human Hosts (4)
- AND
- \_\_\_ BI/BO/BT/ZO prefix with at least 9 hours at the 300 level (8)

**Non-Biology Requirements:**

- \_\_\_ **CH 186 General Chemistry II (3)**
- \_\_\_ CH 187 General Chemistry II Lab (1)
- \_\_\_ CH341 Foundations of Organic Chemistry (4)
- \_\_\_ HL113 Medical Terminology (3)
- \_\_\_ PY220 Psychological Development Across the Lifespan (3)

**General Education Requirements** – some requirements may be fulfilled by coursework in major program

- Social and Behavioral Sciences – 6 hours
- Constitution Requirement – 3 hours
- Written Communication – 6 hours
- Oral Communication – 3 hours
- Natural Sciences – 7 hours (from two disciplines, one to include a lab)
- Mathematics – 3 hours
- Humanities & Fine Arts – 9 hours (from at least two disciplines)
- Additional requirements – 5 hours (to include UI100 for native students)
- Civics examination

**SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN**

|   | Fall Semester     |              | Spring Semester |           |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
|   | Course #          | Hrs          | Course #        | Hrs       |
| <b>FIRST YEAR</b>                                 | UI100             | 1            | BI173           | 4         |
|   | BI163             | 4            | EN100           | 3         |
|   | CH184/CH185       | 4            | <b>CH186</b>    | 3         |
|   | MA116/137/139/140 | 3-5          | CH187           | 1         |
|   | General Education | 3            | PY220           | 3         |
|   | <b>Total</b>      | <b>15-17</b> | <b>Total</b>    | <b>14</b> |
| Milestone: achieve a target cumulative GPA of 3.2 |                   |              |                 |           |

|   |                           |           |                   |           |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| <b>SECOND YEAR</b>                                | <b>BI283</b>              | 4         | Biology Elective  | 3         |
|   | PYxxx *                   | 3         | General Education | 3         |
|   | Experiential Learning Crs | 2         | General Education | 3         |
|   | General Education         | 3         | General Education | 3         |
|   | Elective                  | 3         | General Education | 3         |
|   | <b>Total</b>              | <b>15</b> | <b>Total</b>      | <b>15</b> |
| Milestone: achieve a target cumulative GPA of 3.2 |                           |           |                   |           |

|  |                   |           |                  |           |
|--|-------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>THIRD YEAR</b>  | BI389             | 2         | BS114/014        | 4         |
|  | BS113/013         | 4         | CH341            | 4         |
|  | Additional math   | 3         | Biology Elective | 3         |
|  | Biology Elective  | 3         | Elective         | 3         |
|  | General Education | 3         |                  |           |
|  | <b>Total</b>      | <b>15</b> | <b>Total</b>     | <b>14</b> |
| Milestone: take admission test (if required) & apply through CASPA |                   |           |                  |           |

|   |                               |              |                  |           |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>FOURTH YEAR</b>                                | Biology Elective or BS240/040 | 3-4          | HL113            | 3         |
|   | General Education             | 3            | Biology Elective | 3         |
|   | Elective                      | 3            | Elective         | 3         |
|   | Elective                      | 4            | Elective         | 3         |
|   | Elective                      | 4            | Elective         | 2         |
|   | <b>Total</b>                  | <b>17-18</b> | <b>Total</b>     | <b>15</b> |
| Milestone: achieve a target cumulative GPA of 3.2 |                               |              |                  |           |

A "Milestone" signifies a significant stage for a student in the completion of a degree.

\*Recommended for program; consult advisor

**Degree requirements for all students:** a minimum of 120 credit hours, completion of the General Education program, and completion of 39 senior division hours (300-599). Refer to the Undergraduate Bulletin or Degree Works for additional graduation requirements for your program.

A minimum 2.00 GPA in the major and overall are required to graduate with a BS degree.

Revised  
2/26/2021