

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.

Bachelor of Science (BS)

This is a guide based on the 2019-2020 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)
- ___ CH185/085/005 General Chemistry (5)

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:

- ___ Mxxxx 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:

- ___ BS113/013 Anatomy & Physiology I and Lab (4)
- ___ BS114/014 Anatomy & Physiology II and Lab (4)

Biology Electives - choose 11 Hours

- ___ BI/BO/BT/ZO prefix with at least 9 hours at the 300 level (11)
- OR
- ___ BS 240 Microorganisms and Their Human Hosts (4)
- AND
- ___ BI/BO/BT/ZO prefix with at least 9 hours at the 300 level (7)

Non-Biology Requirements:

- ___ **CH186 Foundations of Inorganic Chemistry (3)**
- ___ CH187 Inorganic Chemistry & Qualitative Analysis Lab (2)
- ___ 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
FIRST YEAR	UI100	3	BI173	4
	BI163	4	EN100	3
	CH185/085/005	5	CH186	3
	MA116/137/139/140	3-5	CH187	2
			PY220	3
Total	15-17	Total	15	
Milestone: achieve a target cumulative GPA of 3.2				

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

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

FOURTH YEAR	Biology Elective or BS240/040	3-4	HL113	3
	General Education	3	Biology Elective	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Elective	4	Elective	3
Total	16-17	Total	15	
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, completion of 39 senior division hours (300-599), Writing Proficiency Exam (WP003).

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 in Biology degree.