

# The Office of Counseling and Career Services

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## DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION

### JOB DESCRIPTION

Physician Assistants are formally trained to provide routine diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive health care services under the direction and supervision of a physician. They take medical histories, examine patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, and make preliminary diagnoses. They also treat minor injuries by suturing, splinting, and casting. Physician Assistants record progress notes, instruct and counsel patients, and order or carryout therapy. They work in primary care areas such as general internal medicine, pediatrics, and family practice.

### PREREQUISITES

(According to the \*American Academy of Physician Assistants)

Most P.A. programs require that applicants have a minimum of two years of college credits and some health care experience prior to admission. More than half of those who apply to P.A. programs already have a bachelors degree. A college degree is not always required. Recommended studies which should be completed before applying to a P.A. program include:

#### \*A.A.O.P.A. Courses

Biology  
Chemistry  
College Math  
Humanities  
Social Science  
Psychology  
English

#### Suggested DCC Course Selection (L.A.X.)

BIO 101 & 102 & 212  
CHEM 121 & 122  
MAT 110 (or a higher level math course)  
any foreign language or 200 level English  
BHS 103 & HIS 104 or HIS 108 or HGE 101  
PSY 111 & PSY 203  
ENG 101 & 102

**\*(Students should be aware that the pre-requisite requirements of P.A. schools may vary somewhat.)**

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Additional courses are recommended: Anatomy & Physiology, Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry, Statistics, and Physics.
- Many applicants are former E.M.T.'s, nurses and other allied health professionals. Plan on getting documented health related or direct patient care experience. Most P.A. programs require it for admission.
- Many P.A. programs require CPR certification, as well as results from the Allied Health Profession Admission Test.
- P.A. programs have become increasingly competitive. Although admission requirements vary from school to school, a cumulative G.P.A. above 3.0 is generally required.
- DCC students are encouraged to satisfy all requirements to complete an A.S. degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences (L.A.X.) additional coursework and an Associate degree can only make you a stronger candidate!

#### A PARTIAL LISTING OF P.A. SCHOOLS:

SUNY SCHOOLS: SUNY STONY BROOK, SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

CUNY SCHOOLS: CUNY/HARLEM HOSPITAL CENTER

PRIVATE SCHOOLS: TOURO COLLEGE, DAEMEN COLLEGE, LONG ISLAND UNIV., CORNELL UNIV. MED. COLLEGE, R.I.T., D'YOUVILLE COLLEGE, ALBANY-HUDSON VALLEY/ALBANY MED. CENTER, LEMOYNE COLLEGE, WAGNER COLLEGE, QUINNIPIAC COLLEGE, NORTHEASTERN UNIV, YALE UNIV.

# DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION (SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER B.S. Degree)

Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAX) is the most appropriate program for DCC students to begin their academic preparation for Physician Assistant school. Students also need to be aware of the requirements of each four-year school and that they may differ.

Below is a list of prerequisites from the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, which requires completion of 60 semester credits with grades of "C" or better. \*(However, students recently accepted into the program have earned grades of "B" or better.)

<u>SEMESTER HOURS</u>	<u>SUNY COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>DCC COURSE</u>
8	2 semesters Anatomy & Physiology	BIO 109 & 110
8	2 semesters General Biology	BIO 101 & 102
8	2 semesters General Chemistry	CHEM 121 & 122
4	1 semester Microbiology	BIO 212
6	2 semesters English (Comp & Lit)	ENG 101 & Eng102
3	1 semester General Psychology	PSY 111
3	1 semester Abnormal Psychology or Developmental Psychology	PSY 201, or PSY 203
3	1 semester college mathematics	Mat 110 or higher (not MAT 118)
3	1 semester Other World Civilizations	HIS 108
3	1 semester Humanities elective	Select from appendix H
3	1 semester Foreign Language	Select from appendix I

### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Completion of additional science courses recommended: Anatomy & Physiology, Physics, Statistics and Organic Chemistry
- Previous health related or direct patient care recommended  
(applicants required to document a minimum of 50 hours of previous health related or direct patient care experience)

\*A cumulative G.P.A. above 3.0 is required for admission consideration.

- ❖ DCC students are encouraged to complete all the requirements for an A.S. degree (additional coursework and an Associate degree can only make you a stronger candidate!)

### A PARTIAL LISTING OF P.A. SCHOOLS:

**SUNY SCHOOLS:** SUNY STONY BROOK, SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

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