There are 275 Physician Assistant Programs in the US, and 19 of them are in California.

Need help to plan your courses?

CSUN’s Health Professions Advisor: Dr Terri Richardson

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| REQUIRED COURSES | Western | USC | SCUHS | Drew | University of LaVerne | Ketchum | Chapman | KGI | Cal Baptist | Loma Linda | AT-Still Central Coast | Point Loma Nazarene | CSU-Monterey Bay | Dominican | Merritt | Stanford | Touro | UC Davis | UOP |
| LOCATION | LA | LA | LA | LA | LA | OC | OC | IE | IE | IE | CENTRAL COAST | SD | SF BAY | SF BAY | SF BAY | SF BAY | SF BAY | SF BAY | SF BAY |
| Chemistry | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L & prefer Organic | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L &  1 sem Organic Chem | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L, 102/L, 235/L, 365/L | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L | 101/L & 102/L | One course  101/L | 101/L & 102/L | One  Course  101/L | 101/L & 102/L |
| General Biology  101/L  OR  106/L & 107/L | Must take 106/L & 107/L for Genetics | 106/L & 107/L | Not required | 106/L & 107/L | Either | Must take 106/L + 107/L for Genetics | 106/L & 107/L | Must take 106/L & 107/L for upper division Biology | Must take 106/L & 107/L for Genetics | Not required | Not required |  | 106/L & 107/L | 106/L & 107/L | Either | Must take 106/L & 107/L for upper division Biology | 106/L & 107/L | Not required | 106/L & 107/L |
| Physiology  Biol 281/282  Or Biol 382/L& 383/L | Either but  Prefer 382/L & 383/L | Yes, lab not required | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Anatomy  Biol 211 or 213  And 212  Or Biol 382/L & 383/L | Either but prefer 382/L & 383/L | Either | 213/  212 | 213/  212 | 213/  212 | Either | 213/  212 | 213/212 | 213/  212 | Either | Either | Either | 213/  212 | 213/  212 | 213/  212 | Either | 213/  212 | Either | 213/  212 |
| Microbiology  Biol 215/L  OR 315/L | Either | Either | Either | Either | Either | Either | Either | Either | Either | Either but rec 315/L | Either | Either | Either | Either | Either | Either but rec 315/L | Either | Either | EIther |
| Online Lab OK? | OK through Fall 21 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes until further notice | Yes | No | Yes | OK through Sum 21 | Hybrid OK with 50% of lab on campus | Yes | No Info | No info | Only through SUM 21 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Genetics Biol 360 | Yes |  |  |  |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Rec |  |  |  |  |  |  | Rec |  |  |  |
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| Precalculus Math 102 & 105  OR Math 106 | Required for Genetics |  | 102 or 106 | 102 or 106 |  | Required for Genetics | Required for Genetics | Required for Genetics | 102 or 106 | 102 or 106 |  |  |  | 102 or 106 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Statistics Math 140 or 141/L | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Rec | Rec |  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |  | Yes |
| Writing 113B, 114B, 115 | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes |  | Yes |  | Yes | Yes |  |  | Yes |  |  |  |  | Yes | Yes |
| Additional English | 205, 208, 255, 305, 306, 313 or 364 |  |  | 215 or 255 | 215 or 255 |  |  |  | 215 or 255 | 215 or 255 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 215 or 255 |
| Intro Psych 150 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |  | Yes | Yes |  |  |  | Yes |  | Yes |  | Yes | Yes |
| Intro Soc 150 | Yes or Anth 152 |  | Yes or Anth 152 | Yes or Anth 152 | Yes or Anth 152 | Yes or Anth 152 | 150 |  | 150 | Yes or Anth 152 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Yes or ANTH 152 |  |
| Spanish REC = Recommend | Rec | 101 & 102\* | Rec | Rec |  |  | Rec |  |  | Rec |  |  | 101 & 102\* | Rec |  |  |  |  |  |
| Additional Courses | 9 units:  Art, Music, Language, Philosophy, Religious Studies |  |  |  | Crit Think, Speech |  |  | 3 units upper division Biology, can use Genetics | 2 more  Soc Sci/  Humanities courses |  |  |  |  |  |  | Rec 3 UD Science courses (360, 380, 315/L) |  |  |  |
| Medical Terminology\*\*  REC= recommend  REQ= required |  | Req (starting 2022) | Req | Req | Req | Req | Req |  | Rec | Rec | Req |  |  | Rec |  | Rec |  |  |  |

* **\*: Spanish Requirement:** To fulfill Spanish requirement you must either:
* Take two semesters of Spanish taken in college
* Have AP credit in Spanish from high school
* Pass a university Spanish placement exam (test into Intermediate Spanish). Contact (818)677-3452 (Language Lab) or got to JR316 for more info about this exam at CSUN.
* **\*\*: Medical Terminology Requirement:** CSUN does not offer Medical Terminology. Here are some local schools that offer medical terminology. Check with prospective PA schools to confirm the course you choose is acceptable:
* Moorpark, NS M19
* LA Valley/Mission: BIOL 33
* Glendale Community College: MOA 181 or MOA 182
* Pasadena City College: MA 115
* UC Berkeley Extension: MCELLBIX432

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| FAQ | Western | USC | SCUHS | Drew | University of LaVerne PROVISIONAL | Ketchum | Chapman | KGI APPLICANT | Cal Baptist | Loma Linda | AT-Still Central Coast | Point Loma Nazarene | CSU-Monterey Bay | Dominican | Merritt PROBATION | Stanford | Touro | UC Davis | UOP |
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| Minimum GPA (in degree or overall?) | 3.0 at time of app | 3.0 overall  and  science | 3.0 overall & science | Prefer 3.0 | 3.0 overall & science | Prefer 3.0 overall & science | 3.2 overall & science | 3.0 overall & science | 3.2 overall 3.0 science  3.0 prereqs | 3.0 overall & science | 2.5 overall & science | 3.0 overall & science | 3.0 overall & science | 3.0 overall and last 30 u of science courses | 2.8 overall & science | No Minimum | 3.0  (2.9 for 20-21 cycle) | 3.0 overall  2.7 science | 3.0 overall & science |
| Bachelor Degree Required by: | End of Spring matric year | June 30 of matric year | 8/31 of matric year | Start of program | Before submit app | End of Fall of app year | Start of program | End of Spring of matric year | 12/31 of app year | 12/31 of app year | Start of program | Start of program | No info on website | Time that you apply | No info on website | 7/15 of matric year | Time that you apply | Spring of app year | Time that you apply |
| Courses must be less than  \_\_\_\_ yrs old at time of app | Sci: 7 yrs | 10 yrs unless grad degree | Sci: 7 yrs | 7 yrs  recommended | A&P&M only: 7 yrs | A&P only: 7 yrs | No expiration | 10 years | Science courses: 5-7 yrs recommend | Science Courses: 10 yrs | No expiration |  | All courses:7 yrs | A&P only: 10 yrs | Prefer all courses:5 yrs | All courses:10 yrs | A&P only: 5 yrs | A&P only: 5 yrs preferred | No expiration |
| Minimum Grade in Prereq courses? | C | C | C | No info on website | C | No info on website | C | C | B- | C | C | C | No info on website | B- | C- | No minimum given | C | C | C- |
| AP Courses Accepted? | No | No, take 360+ 380 if AP BIOL done or repeat | GE +  Math only | Yes | No info | Psy & Stats only | GE/Math only | No | Engl/Math only | Math &  Engl only | No | No | Spanish only | No | No info | No | Yes | No | GE/Math only |
| GRE Required? | No | Yes, waived for 2022 entry | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | Rec | No | GRE, MCAT or PA-CAT | No | No | No |
| Can prereqs be in progress during application? | No more than 1 science IP after 12/31 excluding A&P | Science courses: end of Fall  Non science: end of Spring (no more than 2 courses IP in Spring) | No, must be on transcript when app submitted by deadline | No more than 2 prereqs IP when app submitted | No, must be done by time of app | Yes, 2 courses may be IP when applying but all must be done by Fall of app year | Science prereqs done by time of app. Non-science prereqs OK IP but done by time of matriculation | 2 courses IP OK, done by end of Spring of matric year | All prereqs done by 12/31 of app year | 3 courses IP OK:  2 science, 1 non-science. All done by end of Spring | No, must be done at time of app | 2 prereqs IP OK but prereqs done by end of Fall of app year | No, done by time of app | Yes, 2 courses may be IP, but must be done by 9/1 of app year | No, done by time of app | Recommend done by time of app, must be done by app deadline | No, done by time of app | No, done by time of app | No, done by time of app |
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| Clinical Experience Requirements | Minimum 120 hours of commun-ity service | Hands on, paid patient care & PA shadowing preferred, community service expected | 2,000 hours paid hands on patient care | Prefer 2,000 hours | 20 hrs PA shadowing, must upload proof | 1,000 hrs verifiable and hands on | 1,000 hrs paid or voluntary in healthcare setting involving patients | 1,000 direct patient care at time of app submission | 1,000 hrs paid, volunteer or combination by time of app submission  20 hrs shadow MD/DO/PA rec | 2,000 hrs  PAID in a position with patient assessment, treatment and testing by Aug 31 of matric year  8 hours shadowing PA recommended | Recommend patient care of community service | 500 hours paid direct hands on done at time of application.  Volunteer/shadow doesn’t count | 1,000 hrs paid or volunteer and suggest 500 hrs comm service and 8 hours PA shadow | 500 hrs paid or volunteer + 8 hrs shadow PA | 1,000 hrs healthcare experience paid or volunteer | Recommend  500 hrs Direct Patient Care | 1,000 hrs at time of app paid or volunteer | 1,000 hrs paid or volunteer Direct Patient Care | 1,000 hrs paid or volunteer Direct Patient Care at time of app |
| Application Deadline | 11/1 | 11/1 | 1/15 | 9/1 | No info | 11/1 | 8/1 START JAN) | Dec 1 | 12/1 | 10/1 | 8/1 |  | No info on website | 10/1 | 9/1 | 8/1 | 11/1 | 7/15 (START JAN) | 8/1  (START JAN) |
| Number Applied/Accepted  Avg GPA and experience hours | 2114/98  3.66 |  | 3.46  7,644 hours | 3853/26  3.4  5,400 | 756/27  3.4 | Avg GPA 3.5  5000 hours |  |  | Avg 3.47 overall Avg 4292 hours | 2415/38  3.5  4357 avg hours |  |  | Avg 3.35  4,000 hours |  | 3.6  3782 hours  GRE 66% Quant  73% verbal  79% analytical | 6% accepatnce rate |  |  |  |
| MISC | Accept international students, removes repeated grades from GPA |  |  | DACA students can apply | 57% URM |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interviews | Oct-Feb | Fall- Spring | Sept-Dec |  |  |  |  |  | August | Oct-Feb |  | Aug-Nov |  |  |  |  |  |  | July-Aug |
| Program Length in months | 24 | 33 | 28 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 24 |  |  | 24 | 24 | 28 |  | 28 |  |  | 33 | 27 | 27 |