

## PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE/ASSISTANT (PA) PLANNING GUIDE

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:	Email:
Major(s):	Minor(s):
GPA:	State of Residence:
Expected Graduation Date:	Expected Application Date:
Previous Degree(s):	Are you applying as an international student?

### PART 1: IDENTIFY TARGET SCHOOLS.

Identify the PA schools to which you might be interested in applying. The PA Education Association publishes a [list of PA schools with links to their websites](#). Use this chart to record information about your target schools.

SCHOOL NAME	MINIMUM GRE	MINIMUM GPA	MINIMUM SCIENCE GPA	REQUIRED EXPERIENCES	NON-RES. INTL.*

\*Use this column to record whether this school admits non-resident (of the state) and/or international students (if this applies to you).

**PART 2: CHECK PREREQUISITE COURSES.**

Required prerequisite courses vary from school to school. Use this chart to record prerequisites for your target schools. Copy this page as needed.

SCHOOL	PREREQUISITE	TAKEN (DATE)	PLANNED (DATE)	GRADE

**PART 3: RECORD YOUR EXPERIENCES**

Record work, shadowing, volunteer, research, study abroad, student organization, and other experiences here. Copy this page as needed.

<b>EXPERIENCE AND/OR POSITION TITLE</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>SUPERVISOR NAME AND CONTACT INFO.</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>DATES</b>

**PART 4: PREPARE FOR AND TAKE ANY REQUIRED STANDARDIZED TESTS.**

Check with your target programs to see which standardized tests they require. Some PA schools require applicants to take the [Graduate Record Exam](#) (GRE). Some may also require the [Computer-Based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics](#) (CASPer) situational judgment test.

<b>I TOOK/PLAN TO TAKE THE GRE ON THE FOLLOWING DATE(S):</b>			
<b>PRACTICE TEST(S)</b>	<b>SCORE</b>	<b>GRE</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
Composite Score		Composite Score	
Verbal Reasoning		Verbal Reasoning	
Quantitative Reasoning		Quantitative Reasoning	
Analytical Writing		Analytical Writing	

<b>I TOOK/PLAN TO TAKE THE CASPER TEST ON THE FOLLOWING DATE(S):</b>		
<b>STANDARDIZED SCORE</b>	<b>PERCENTILE RANK</b>	<b>QUARTILE RANK</b>

**PART 5: REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.**

Identify three to five people who might be willing to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Check the requirements of the school(s) to which you are applying to find out how many and what kind of letters they require.

NAME	TITLE/POSITION	CONTACT INFORMATION	ASKED (DATE)	LETTER SUBMITTED

**PART 6: PLAN AND WRITE YOUR PERSONAL ESSAY.**

Your PA school application will contain a prompt for and space to write a personal essay that is approximately 5,000 characters long. The prompt is usually a variation on the question, “Why do you want to be a PA?”

As early as possible in your academic career, open a Google Doc to use to collect your thoughts about this prompt. Jot down ideas about your statement whenever they occur to you. Don’t worry about grammar or structure at first. You can take care of those details later. When the time comes to write your essay, you will have some ideas with which to begin. CASPA publishes a [helpful guide to writing a strong personal statement](#).

**PART 7: COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION.**

You will submit your application approximately one year before you hope to begin PA school. CASPA allows you to complete one application to apply to each of the programs in which you are interested. CASPA publishes a [quick-start guide to the PA school application process](#).