

## University of New Mexico Physician Assistant Program Changes to Admission Requirements *Effective for the 2025-2026 Admission Cycle*

Thank you for your interest in the Physician Assistant Program at the University of New Mexico. The UNM PA Program will implement the following changes to minimum requirements for admission **effective for the 2025-2026 admission cycle**, opening in April 2025 with a deadline of August 1, 2025. Only the requirements below are changing; all other requirements are unchanged from what is listed on the Admissions page of the program website, <https://hsc.unm.edu/medicine/departments/family-community/education/physician-assistant/admissions.html>. **Changes do NOT affect the current 2024-2025 admission cycle, which has a verification deadline of August 1, 2024.**

### Prerequisite Coursework

*Required Coursework (note highlighted changes):*

- **Microbiology & Lab** – minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours
- General Chemistry I for STEM Majors & Lab – minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours
- General Chemistry II for STEM Majors & Lab – minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours
- **Organic Chemistry I & Lab** – minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab – minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours
- Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab – minimum 4 semester credit hours / 5 quarter hours
- Psychology – minimum 3 semester credit hours / 4 quarter hours

*Highly Recommended Coursework (note highlighted change):*

- **Organic Chemistry II & Lab**
- Biochemistry or Biological Chemistry
- Genetics or Molecular Genetics
- Immunology
- Nutrition
- Statistics

*Summary/notes regarding coursework changes:*

- Microbiology with lab will now be required; previously, it was highly recommended. For UNM students, BIOL 2305 (lecture + lab) or BIOL 351/352L (lecture + lab) are acceptable. Other

Biology courses, including those that were previously accepted as one of the required Biology course options, will not be accepted in lieu of Microbiology with lab.

- Organic Chemistry I with lab will now be a required prerequisite. Organic Chemistry II with lab will now be a highly recommended course.
- All science prerequisites (all prerequisites except Psychology) must be taken within 10 years of application. Older coursework will need to be retaken to refresh your knowledge base; no exceptions to this will be permitted for any prerequisites, including for Chemistry coursework.
- Writing/Literature/Public Speaking/Linguistics courses will no longer be required.
- All other policies related to coursework (age limits, minimum grades, credit hours, etc.) are unchanged. Please see website for all policies.

### **Testing**

- Completion of the Exam Master [Physician Assistant College Admission Test \(PA-CAT\)](#) will be required for admission to the UNM PA Program. The PA-CAT is a specialized discipline-specific exam that is designed to measure applicant knowledge and application in key prerequisite science subjects typically required for PA school. The PA-CAT measures general academic ability and scientific knowledge necessary for success in the demanding Physician Assistant curriculum. The PA-CAT has been developed specifically for use by PA educators and their admissions departments as part of a holistic admissions process. There is no minimum score required on the PA-CAT for admission to the UNM PA Program. Additional information regarding PA-CAT testing will be available on our website in the near future.
- All other testing policies regarding the Casper, GRE, MCAT, etc. are unchanged. These tests are not required for admission to the UNM PA Program, and their scores do not factor into the application review process in any way. Please see website for all policies.