4-Year Pre-PA Timeline

Each student's pre-pa journey is unique. This timeline is meant to serve as a guide. Be sure to meet with a Health Professions advisor to create a plan that fits your goals and timeline.

Year 1

Fall

- Begin taking classes at WOU
- Develop Pre-PA academic plan with Health Professions advisor

Winter

- Begin researching PA programs
- Continue developing good study habits
- Utilize academic support resources

Spring

- Finalize Summer plans (taking classes, shadowing, volunteering, work)
- Continue researching programs

Summer

- Take courses if needed
- Gain experience for applications (shadowing, volunteer, work)
- Check in with your advisor if your plan needs adjusting

Year 2 & 3

Fall

- Continue taking classes
- Review Pre-PA academic plan
- Continue researching PA programs (Year 2)

Winter

- Discuss application timelines with Health Professions advisor
- Finalize list of PA programs (Year 2)
- Make adjustments to academic plan if needed
- Gain experience

Spring

- Finalize Summer plans (taking classes, shadowing, volunteering, work)
- Begin to identify faculty/mentors for future letters of recommendation
- Become familiar with application requirements and deadlines

Summer

- Take courses if needed
- Gain experience for applications (shadowing, volunteer, work)
- Check in with your advisor if your plan needs adjusting

Year 4

Fall

- Meet with major advisor to confirm graduation timeline
- Apply for graduation
- Confirm PA program admissions requirements
- Talk to faculty, physicians, volunteer coordinators, mentors, etc. for letters of recommendation (early in the term)

Winter

- Continue taking classes and gaining experience
- Review academic plan one final time

Spring

- Finish degree requirements & graduate!! 🎓
- Begin applications (April)
- Begin contingency planning (plans if you don't get into pa school first time applying)
    - Additional experience
    - Course retakes

Tips for Success

- Utilize campus resources
    - Advisors
    - Faculty
    - Academic support (tutoring)
    - Center for Professional Pathways
- Meet with your advisor every term
- Track all clinical, volunteer, shadowing, and leadership hours
- Use summers wisely: experience matters as much as coursework
- Ask for help early - advisors are here to support you!