

4-Year Pre-Physician Assistant Timeline

This timeline is intended to serve as a general guide. Each student's path to PA school will look different. A Health Professions advisor can help create a plan based on your coursework, experiences, and goals.

YEAR 1

FALL	• Begin taking classes at WOU • Develop a Pre-PA academic plan with a Health Professions advisor • Get involved on campus (<i>optional</i>)
WINTER	• Continue developing good study habits • Utilize academic support resources
SPRING	• Finalize summer plans (classes, shadowing, volunteering, work) • Begin researching physician assistant programs
SUMMER	• Take courses if needed • Gain experience for applications (shadowing, volunteer, work) • Check in with your advisor if your plan needs adjusting
By the End of Year 1	☐ Meet with a Health Professions Advisor ☐ Research physician assistant programs ☐ Begin gaining experience (shadowing, work, volunteer)

YEAR 2 & 3

FALL	• Continue taking classes • Review Pre-PA academic plan
WINTER	• Discuss application timelines with Health Professions advisor • Make adjustments to academic plan if needed • Continue gaining experience
SPRING	• Finalize list of PA programs (Year 2) • Begin to identify faculty/mentors for future letters of recommendation (Year 3) • Become familiar with application requirements and deadlines (Year 3)
SUMMER	• Take courses if needed • Gain experience for applications (shadowing, volunteer, work) • Check in with your advisor if your plan needs adjusting

By the End of Year 2 & 3	☐ Continue gaining experience (shadowing, work, volunteer) ☐ Finalize list of physician assistant programs (Year 2) ☐ Identify faculty, mentors, and/or physicians for letters of recommendation (Year 3)
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YEAR 4

Follow this timeline during the year in which you plan to apply to physician assistant programs

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 <u>early in the term</u>
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
By the End of Year 4	☐ Continue gaining experience (shadowing, work, volunteer) ☐ Request letters of recommendation ☐ Begin applications ☐ Complete degree requirements & graduate ☐ Have a plan for next steps

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
- Submit your primary application early (June/July)
- Use summers wisely: experience matters as much as coursework
- Ask for help early - advisors are here to support you!