The pre-physician assistant program comprises a core of courses required for admission to physician assistant programs. Your choice of the pre-physician assistant program of study at UNCG indicates your interest in preparing for a career as a physician assistant. The physician assistant pre-professional program is not a major in which a degree can be earned but rather a program of study intended to be complementary to a chosen major. Because the required courses can be incorporated into many majors at UNCG, students should consider a major they find interesting and feel they will do well in academically and then declare pre-physician assistant as a second major at UNCG.

The Student Experience

- Experienced advisers help plan your academic program; answer questions about the various aspects of applying to physician assistant programs; and choose classes that are helpful in preparing for the GRE.
- Students are automatically enrolled in the pre-professional program’s online Canvas learning group, with resources and information about upcoming events, opportunities, and deadlines.
- Past program participants have attended physician assistant programs at institutions including Wake Forest University, Wingate University, Duke University, East Carolina University and UNC Chapel Hill.

Additional Information

Students interested in the physician assistant pre-professional program will be assigned a secondary adviser from the UNCG Health Careers Advisory Committee (comprising faculty from biology, chemistry and biochemistry, psychology, physics, and nutrition; the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center; School of Health and Human Sciences; and the Students First Office). This is in addition to your primary adviser, whom you should seek out and meet with regularly.

To be a competitive applicant for a physician assistant program, students must shadow a PA and accrue at least 1,000 direct patient contact hours, as well as demonstrate leadership and service to underserved populations.

Students applying to physician assistant programs typically take the GRE after the senior year, as they plan to complete their patient contact hours after graduation.