

# FUTURE DOCS

- ◆ This program, sponsored by UT College of Medicine Chattanooga and Erlanger Health System, provides high school and college students opportunities to learn about careers in medicine. Students work with physicians either as clinical observers or as a research assistant.
- ◆ Youth Leadership Forum:
  - A one-week informational and observer program each summer
- ◆ Medical Explorations Program
  - A 2-week program of didactics and clinical observation during June of each summer
- ◆ Sponsored Clinical Observer
  - Allows students to observe a specific physician or department for a limited time.
- ◆ Requirements:
  - 18 years or older
  - GPA of 3.5 or higher and grade level of a high school senior or college student
  - Submit a reference letter from a teacher or guidance counselor



## Contact Information

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Visit the CHIPS Facebook page for  
question forums and more  
information

Chattanooga Healthcare  
Inter-Professional Society



# Becoming a P.A.



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# Why should I become a Physician Assistant?

PAs work as part of a healthcare team, alongside physicians, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, and so on. PAs are nationally certified and state licensed to practice medicine with full prescribing rights under the supervision of a physician. Most PA programs are between 2 and 3 years' duration after undergraduate work. PAs are not required to complete a residency program, though some are available. PAs are generally afforded the opportunity to move throughout different specialties without additional training. A career as a Physician Assistant requires a passion for lifelong learning, as well as a genuine empathy for others. If you bear these traits, a career as a PA might just be the path for you!



**“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”**

**Jane Goodall**



## High School Academics

High school academics should focus on adequately preparing your student for the rigors of a science-driven undergraduate degree.

High school curriculum should expose students to **physics, chemistry, biology**, and higher order math such as **pre-calculus** or **calculus**. These courses, along with the normal complement of English, foreign language and other social studies should provide a solid foundation for the pre-medical work completed in college.

Students should take the ACT and SAT standardized assessments for college admission

## Undergraduate Academics

Most PA schools require a bachelor's degree which includes the fulfillment of certain prerequisite courses. These courses may include:

- General Chemistry I & II
- Biology I & II
- Physics I & II
- Organic Chemistry I & II
- Anatomy & Physiology

Completion of additional science courses, such as Microbiology, Immunology, or Genetics is highly encouraged due to the competitive nature of the application process.

Some students choose to pursue a degree in non-science areas such as music, art, history, etc. Regardless of major, the minimum prerequisite courses must be completed prior to applying to PA school.

The GRE is a standardized test required for entrance into PA school. This exam consists of 3 sections: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing.

## Extracurricular Activities

We all depict a unique story defined by our passions and pursuits. PA school admission committees search for well-rounded students with personal interests cultivated outside of the school environment. We admonish students to seek out their own personal interests and, if possible, take on a leadership role in that area.

Outside of personal interests, students should consider becoming involved in one or more of the following activities:

- Hospital Volunteering
- PA or Physician Shadowing
- Medical Missions
- Undergraduate Research
- Medical Research