

Course Requirements

Applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree plus required prerequisite courses and documented shadowing experience as follows:

Prerequisite Courses:

Take the following required courses:

BIOL 111+112+113	Biological Foundations	5+5+5
CHEM 111+112+113	General Chemistry	5+5+5
CHEM 371+372+373	Organic Chemistry	4+4+4
CHEM 481+482+L	Biochemistry I, II, Lab	4+4+1
ENGL 101+102	College English I, II	4+4
MATH 106	College Algebra	4
MICR 134	General Microbiology	5

The following course is not required, but it is recommended:

BIOL 223	Medical Terminology (2)
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Shadowing:

The student must complete a surgical shadowing experience with a practicing Pathologists' Assistant or have applicable work experience in Surgical or Autopsy Pathology. An essay regarding this experience is required as part of the application packet. There are no set number of hours in which applicants need to shadow. The student must gain enough knowledge to articulate in writing (on the application) and verbally (if invited for an interview) the shadowing experience and the duties of a Pathologists' Assistant in a typical working day.

Occupational Information

General Areas of Service

Pathologists' Assistants (PAs) are mid-level medical providers (analogous to a Physician's Assistant) working in the surgical and autopsy divisions of the Pathology Department under the supervision of a medical doctor, usually a Pathologist.

In addition to clinical duties, PAs are also trained for management of the laboratory, tissue banking, teaching at the college/university level, and research presentation.

Professional Training

The Pathologists' Assistant program at Loma Linda University is a full-time, two year Master's degree. The first year is didactic, with some exposure to the gross room and autopsy suite procedures, and frozen section training. The second year consists of clinical rotations and a comprehensive review course which prepares the student for the national certification examination.

Applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree plus required prerequisite courses. A baccalaureate degree in any field is acceptable. Applicants should be able to document surgical shadowing experience with a practicing Pathologists' Assistant or have applicable work experience in Surgical or Autopsy Pathology. A minimum overall and science G.P.A. of 3.0 (Letter Grade of B) is required.

Applicants will be reviewed based on a variety of criteria, including undergraduate GPA, interview summary, references, and essay/shadowing statement.

It is strongly recommended that PUC students contact LLU directly early in their pre-PA program to ensure adequate preparation.

For More Information

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To apply online go to: www.caspaonline.org
Note: Admission requirements are subject to change each year.
