

Course Requirements

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

Prerequisite Courses

Take the following required courses:

BIOL 121+122+123	Biological Foundations I,II,III	5+5+5
CHEM 111+L	General Chemistry I+Lab	4+1
CHEM 112+L	General Chemistry II+Lab	4+1
CHEM 113+L	General Chemistry III+Lab	4+1
CHEM 371+L	Organic Chemistry I+Lab	3+1
CHEM 372+L	Organic Chemistry II+Lab	3+1
CHEM 373+L	Organic Chemistry III+Lab	3+1
ENGL 101+102	College English I,II	4+4
MATH 106	College Algebra	4
MICR 134	General Microbiology	5

The following courses are not required, but they are recommended:

BIOL 223	Medical Terminology (2)
CHEM 481+82+82L	Biochemistry I,II+Lab (4+4+1)
SPAN 105	Spanish for Healthcare I (3)

Shadowing Experience

Excerpted from the LLU website:

Applicants 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, rather we ask that you gain enough knowledge to articulate in writing on your application and verbally (if invited for an interview), your shadowing experience and the duties of a PA 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 cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 (average 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.

For More Information

Kinesiology and Health Sciences Department
 Pacific Union College
 One Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508
 Phone: (707) 965-6313

Pathologists' Assistant Program
 Department of Pathology, School of Medicine
 Suite 327 Alumni Hall of Basic Science, 11021 Campus St
 Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350
 (909) 558-8095
www.llu.edu/medicine/pathologists-assistant/

To apply online, go to: www.caspaonline.org

Note: Admission requirements are subject to change each year.

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

Pacific Union College

Pre-Pathologists' Assistant, M.H.S., for Loma Linda University

PRE-21

2025-2026
