



# PRE-PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT PREPARATION

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
AT EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

NAME	
E NUMBER	
CATALOG	
AS/AA/ASA DEGREE	
TRANSFER HOURS	

F17

Pathologists' assistants (PathAs) provide anatomic pathology services under the direction and supervision of a pathologist. These allied health professionals utilize a variety of manual and automated techniques to process, dissect, stain, etc. tissue samples from patients. Individuals assess the condition of patients for sample procurement, examination, diagnosis, and treatment. Job duties may include coordination of autopsy protocols perform postmortem examinations. They must pass a national certifying examination (American Society for Clinical Pathology, or ASCP) which is open only to graduates of accredited PathA programs.

The preferred PathA degree is at the Masters-level degree based on a curriculum involving both classroom instruction and clinical rotations, usually requiring 1 ½ to 2 years for degree completion. Therefore, most students entering a PathA program have already completed a baccalaureate degree, usually in the sciences. The average entrant has competitive scores on the GRE, and has a minimum grade point average of 3.00/4.00. Attributes such as demonstrated caring attitude toward others, communication skills, emotional stability under stress and problem solving ability are important selection factors.

**There are currently 8 NAACLS accredited PathA programs in America. It is very important when you begin your program to identify which programs you plan to apply and plot out their requirements accordingly.**

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

### **LANGUAGE\*: 6 HRS**

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
ENG 1001G Composition & Language	3		
ENG 1002G Composition & Literature	3		

### **CHEMISTRY\*: 12 HRS**

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
CHM 1310G General Chemistry I	3		
CHM 1315G General Chemistry I Lab	1		
CHM 1410G General Chemistry II	3		
CHM 1415G General Chemistry II Lab	1		
CHM 24340 Survey Organic Chemistry I	3		
CHM 2435 Survey Organic Chemistry I Lab	1		

### **BIOLOGY\*: 8 HRS**

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
BIO 1500 General Biology I	4		
BIO 3300 Microbiology	4		

### **REQUIRED OR HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (DEPENDING ON SCHOOL)**

BIO 2210 Anatomy & Physiology I	4		
BIO 2220 Anatomy & Physiology II	4		
BIO 3120 Molecular & Cellular Biology	4		
BIO 3200 Genetics	4		
BIO 3210 Immunology	4		
BIO 3624 Histology	4		
PHI 2500G Intro to Ethics	4		

### **MATH\*: 3 HRS**

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
MAT 1271G College Algebra	3		

\* Many courses have math prerequisites. Additional prerequisite classes may be required. See Undergraduate Catalog.

*Departmental Exit interview required prior to graduation.*

## **RESOURCES:**

**American Association of Pathologists' Assistants**  
[www.pathassist.org](http://www.pathassist.org)

**Indiana University** [pathology.medicine.iu.edu/about-pathology/](http://pathology.medicine.iu.edu/about-pathology/)

**University of Maryland**  
[medschool.umaryland.edu/pathology/pa/app\\_pre.asp](http://medschool.umaryland.edu/pathology/pa/app_pre.asp)

**Wayne State University** [cphs.wayne.edu/program/apa-bs.php](http://cphs.wayne.edu/program/apa-bs.php)

**Rosalind Franklin University** [www.rosalindfranklin.edu/Default.aspx](http://www.rosalindfranklin.edu/Default.aspx)

**Duke University**  
[pathology.duke.edu/academic-programs/pathologists-assistant-program](http://pathology.duke.edu/academic-programs/pathologists-assistant-program)

**Drexel University** [catalog.drexel.edu/](http://catalog.drexel.edu/)

**West Virginia University** [medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/pa/](http://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/pa/)

**Quinnipiac University** [www.quinnipiac.edu/](http://www.quinnipiac.edu/)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

### **PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING**

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