Minnesota North College

Transfer Guide
ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

College of St. Scholastica – Physician Asst. – Biology Transfer Pathway – A.S. Degree

Campus: Itasca

First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2025 – 17 credits	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1561 – Gen Biol of Cells (MnTC Goal 3)	4	(3/1)
MATH 1215 – Statistics (MnTC Goal 4)	4	(3)
ENGL 1231 – College Comp 1 (MnTC Goal 1)	4	(4)
PSYC 1220 – Lifespan Dev (MnTC Goal 5 & 7)*	3	(3)
ALHE 1610 – Medical Terminology*	1	(1)
ALHE 1xxx – Seminar 1	1	(1)

SPRING SEMESTER 2026 – 15 credits	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 1562 – Gen Biol of Organisms (MnTC Goal 3 & 10)	4	(3/1)
CHEM 1521 – Gen Chem 1 (MnTC Goal 3)	4	(3/1)
MATH 1220 – College Algebra (MnTC Goal 4)	3	(3)
ECON 1200 – Intro to Econ (MnTC Goal 5 & 8)	3	(3)
GENS 1xxx – Seminar 2	1	(1)

First Year – Summer - *Recommended

SUMMER SEMESTER 2026 – 6 credits	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ENGL 1231 – College Comp 2 (MnTC Goal 1)	3	(3)
PYSC 2261 – Abnormal Psyc (MnTC Goal 5 & 7)*	3	(3)

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2026 – 16 credits	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
COMM 1210 – Introduction to Communication (MnTC Goal 1) OR COMM 1215 – Public Speaking (MnTC Goal 1) OR COMM 1220 – Interpersonal Communication (MnTC Goal 1)	3	(3)
BIOL 2371 – A & P 1 (MnTC Goal 3)*	4	(3/1)
BIOL 2320 – Microbiology (MnTC Goal 3)	4	(3/1)
CHEM 1562 – Gen Chem 2 (MnTC Goal 3)	4	(3/1)
ALHE 2xxx – Seminar 3	1	(1)

SPRING SEMESTER 2027 – 15 credits	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 2372 – A & P 2 (MnTC Goal 3)*	4	(3/1)
BIOL 2330 – Genetics (MnTC Goal 3)	4	(3/1)
HUM 1245 – World Religions (MnTC Goal 6 & 8)*	3	(3)
PHIL 1230 – Ethics (MnTC Goal 6 & 9)	3	(3)
ALHE 2xxx – Seminar 4	1	(1)

Second Year – Summer - *Recommended

SUMMER SEMESTER 2026 – 3 credits	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
GOAL 6 – Creative Process/Interpretive Performance	3	(3)

**** Additional courses required for the College of St. Scholastica Physician Assistant Graduate Program, but not the A.S.***

Required Courses for College of St. Scholastica Physician Assistant Graduate Program

COURSES (all four courses are required)	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
BIOL 2320 – Microbiology (MnTC Goal 3)	4	(3/1)
BIOL 2371 – A & P 1 (MnTC Goal 3)	4	(3/1)
BIOL 2372 – A & P 2 (MnTC Goal 3)	**4**	**(3/1)**
ALHE 1610 – Medical Terminology	1	(1)
MATH 1215 – Statistics (MnTC Goal 4)	4	(3)
PHYC 1220 – Lifespan Dev (MnTC Goal 5 & 7)	3	(3)
Organic Chem 1 (To be taken at CSS)	4	(3/1)
Organic Chem 2 (To be taken at CSS)	4	(3/1)

Biochemistry (To be taken at CSS)	3	(3/1)

Note:

Program Description

The Biology Transfer Pathway AS offers students a powerful option: the opportunity to complete an Associate of Science degree with course credits that directly transfer to designated Biology bachelor's degree programs at College of St. Scholastica, University of Minnesota – Duluth, and Minnesota State universities. The curriculum has been specifically designed so that students completing this pathway degree are on track for completing a bachelor's degree in biology and entering the physician assistant graduate program at the College of St. Scholastica. Most courses in the transfer pathway associate degree will transfer and apply to the designated bachelor's degree programs in a related field.

Occupational Description

A physician assistant (PA) is a licensed healthcare professional who practices medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. PAs are trained to perform a wide range of medical duties, making them vital members of healthcare teams. They are involved in diagnosing and treating illnesses, prescribing medications, and assisting in surgeries, among other responsibilities. The role of a physician assistant includes:

1. Patient Examination and Diagnosis: PAs take patient histories, conduct physical exams, and order diagnostic tests such as blood work, X-rays, and MRIs. They use this information to diagnose medical conditions.

2. Treatment Planning and Management: After diagnosing a condition, physician assistants develop treatment plans, which may include prescribing medications, recommending lifestyle changes, or suggesting physical therapy. They manage ongoing patient care, monitoring the effectiveness of treatments and adjusting them as necessary.

3. Procedural Skills: PAs perform a variety of medical procedures, such as suturing wounds, setting fractures, administering injections, and performing biopsies. In some settings, they may assist in surgeries or even perform minor surgical procedures under the supervision of a physician.

4. Patient Education and Counseling: PAs spend time educating patients about their medical conditions, treatment options, and preventive care. They provide guidance on managing chronic diseases, medication adherence, and healthy lifestyle choices.

5. Prescription Authority: Physician assistants are authorized to prescribe medications in all U.S. states, though the extent of this authority can vary depending on state regulations and the supervising physician's preferences.

6. Collaboration with Physicians: While PAs practice autonomously in many aspects of patient care, they work closely with supervising physicians, consulting them as needed for complex cases or when a second opinion is required. This collaborative approach ensures comprehensive patient care.

7. Specialization: Many PAs choose to specialize in areas such as emergency medicine, surgery, pediatrics, dermatology, orthopedics, or internal medicine. Specialization often involves additional training and certification.

8. Preventive Care: PAs play an important role in preventive care by conducting health screenings, administering vaccinations, and providing counseling on disease prevention and health maintenance.

9. Healthcare Team Integration: Physician assistants are key members of multidisciplinary healthcare teams, working alongside doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and other professionals to deliver coordinated care. They may also supervise medical assistants and other support staff.

10. Administrative Duties: In some settings, PAs may be involved in administrative tasks such as ordering medical supplies, managing patient records, and contributing to the development of healthcare protocols and policies.

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To become a physician assistant, individuals must complete a master's degree program in physician assistant studies, which typically takes about two years and includes both classroom instruction and clinical rotations. After completing their education, PAs must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) and obtain state licensure to practice. PAs are required to engage in ongoing education and periodic recertification to maintain their credentials.

Physician assistants work in a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics, private practices, long-term care facilities, and outpatient centers. Their ability to provide high-quality medical care, combined with the flexibility to work in various specialties, makes them an integral part of modern healthcare.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

1. SCIENTIFIC METHOD: Propose testable hypotheses and carry out experiments using standardized international measurement systems.
2. MICROSCOPY: Use the light microscope effectively.
3. DATA INTERPRETATION & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: Analyze simple data sets using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics.
4. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION: Communicate data and analysis in oral and written format.
5. COLLABORATION: Communicate and work productively with others in designing, conducting, and evaluating projects and experiments.
6. SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE: Use public literature databases to find appropriate published material and read, understand, and evaluate the validity and importance of the scientific literature.
7. SCIENCE & SOCIETY: Analyze scientific studies considering their ecological, social, economic, ethical, and cultural implications.
8. INTERDISCIPLINARY NATURE OF SCIENCE: Students utilize other disciplines as sources of context and skills to inform their learning and work.

Transfer and Articulation Agreements

The program maintains articulation agreements with the College of St. Scholastica, the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and Minnesota State University, Mankato. These agreements facilitate the transfer of credits and allow ample time to complete an additional minor.

Program Faculty Contact

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