

# Pre-PA

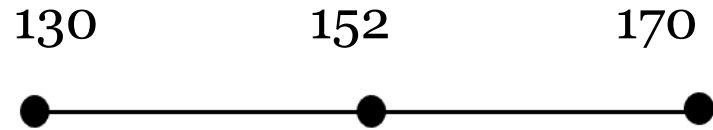
Physician Assistant

## Competitive GPA: 3.5+

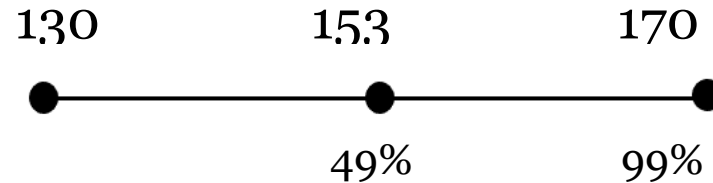
- [BCP, Cumulative GPA](#) - all attempts
- [Avg accepted](#): 3.51/3.57

## Competitive GRE: 305+

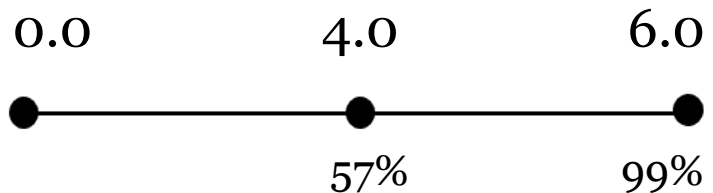
- **Verbal Reasoning** avg: 152



- **Quantitative Reasoning** avg: 153



- **Analytical Writing** avg: 4.0



Total test time: 3 hours, 45 mins

## Preparing for the [GRE](#)

- Plan for **1-3 months** and **200-400 hours** of study
- Create a study schedule
- Content review + question practice
  - 5-10 full length tests

### [Free resources](#):

- 2 free practice tests
- Math review

### **\$ exam prep:**

#### [ETS materials](#):

- [Powerprep Plus](#), [Official Guide to GRE book](#), practice questions, [ScoreItNow](#)

[Kaplan](#), [Magoosh](#), [Manhattan Prep](#), [Princeton Review](#)

## Applying to PA school is expensive...

Apply for the [Fee Assistance Program](#) through CASPA

New as of summer 2020:

## [The PA-CAT](#)

- A new standardized test designed to measure applicant scientific knowledge:
- *Anatomy, Physiology, General Biology, Biochemistry, General and Organic Chemistry, Microbiology, Behavioral Sciences, Genetics, Statistics*
- 240 questions, 4.5 hours, currently required by [15 PA programs](#); could grow to more programs in coming years
- [Study Resources](#)

Item	Cost
Test registration	\$205
Test prep	\$300-3,000+
Application (1 school)	\$179
Additional schools	\$55
Secondary applications	\$35-100
Interview costs	\$100-1000+
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$1,000-10,000+</b>

## CASPA: Central Application Service for Physician Assistants

### Experiences

- Community service
  - Serving the underserved
  - 150+ hours
- Clinical exposure
  - Patient care experience
  - Varies by program; averages can range from 1,000-4,000+ hours
- Research
- Leadership
- Extra-curricular involvement

PA programs Directory: Explore, search, sort, and compare programs

### Patient care experience (PCE)

Experiences in which you are directly responsible for a patient's health.

EMT, CNA, medical assistant, phlebotomist, dental assistant, physical therapy assistant, medical scribe, health aide

### Healthcare experience (HCE)

Work in a health-related field where you are not directly responsible for a patient's care, but still have patient interaction

**PCE is always valued more highly in the admissions process.**

## Timeline

**January-May:** Take GRE

**April:** Application opens; apply by May to be most competitive

**May-August:** Secondary applications

**July-March:** Interviews and decisions

**June/July/August:** PA school begins

## Parts of the Application

- Biographical information
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Statement (Essay)
- Experiences (Resume)
- School Selection

### A well-rounded application shows...

- Ability to communicate effectively on the application and in an interview
- Background, strengths, and what makes you unique
- Passion and fit for the PA profession and healthcare
- Ability to do the academic work

Communicate

Background, strengths, unique

Fit for the profession

Academic preparation

### A gap year could make you a stronger applicant

- Avg age of matriculants to PA school: **25**
- For many applicants, it's necessary to take gap year(s) to gain enough PCE.