Pre-PA Virtual Mixer

Set Yourself Up for Success

By building a network of mentors and peers in the healthcare field, you can gain valuable support, guidance, and opportunities for professional growth. This preparation not only makes you a more attractive candidate but also equips you with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in your studies and future career.

Virtual Mixer host, Brittny Dawkins, PA-C, developed her own blueprint for pre-PA success based on her experiences as a PA school applicant and pre-PA mentor. As you prepare for a successful application to PA school, start with these steps:

B's Blueprint for Pre-PA Success

Choose Your Target Programs

- Consider program details, requirements, and culture
- Start broad, then narrow it down
- Attend info sessions and ask questions

Meet Program Prerequisites

- Make a game plan to complete all course prerequisites
- Prepare for any standardized tests
- Find and build experience — be creative!
- Calculate your GPAs ahead of time

Ace Your Personal Statement

- This is your golden ticket
- Your story should speak to your essence and passion for the profession

Stay Involved

- Continue to volunteer and stay involved after you graduate or apply to PA school
- Get involved with AAPA and constituent organizations

Find a Mentor

- Connect with PAs, professors, peers, colleagues, advisors, special interest groups, social media, student orgs, and Mentor Match
- Create an action plan and commit by following up

Get Prepared

- Seek scholarships
- Practice time management
- Identify sources of support
- Follow programs and students on social media

With guidance and preparation, you are on the path to success in PA school and beyond!

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Resources

Community and Networking

Huddle - AAPA online member community for PAs, PA students, and pre-PAs
Mentor Match - AAPA mentor directory

Building HCE & PCE

Accrue HCE and PCE Before Applying to PA School - AAPA article
How to Find PA Shadowing Experience - AAPA article

Application and Admissions Support

PA School Application and Checklist - AAPA PA school application guide
CASPA Applicant Help Center - PAEA general CASPA information and FAQ's
Pre-PA Record Keeper - AAPA PA school application tool
PA Program Directory - PAEA directory of all PA programs and program requirements

Financing Your PA Education

PA Money Sense - AAPA interactive budget guide
PA Foundation Scholarships - must be a current PA student to apply

Preparing for PA School

Nontraditional PA Success Stories - PA Foundation podcast
Career Advancement and Transitions - AAPA resources for career transitions
Surviving Your Didactic Phase - AAPA guide to surviving the first phase of PA school

Additional Resources

AAPA Member Central - resources, events, and discounts for Pre-PA members
AAPA Constituent Organizations - state chapters, special interest groups, and caucuses
Host Spotlight: The PA.C and the National Society of Black PAs (NSBPA)

Meet the Host: Brittny Dawkins, PA-C

Brittny Dawkins is a first-generation Caribbean-American, board-certified PA based in Silver Spring, Maryland. She obtained her Master of PA Studies from the Ithaca College PA program in December 2023 and is currently practicing as a PA in Trauma Surgery. Brittny currently serves as the AAPA Student Academy President and the Student Director for the AAPA Board of Directors. She has served as a PAEA Health Fellow, mentor for The PA.C and the National Society of Black PAs. She is also continuing her advocacy with involvement in the Maryland Academy of PAs and advocating for healthcare equity on Capitol Hill.