

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

# HEALTH SCIENCE



## PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT HEALTH SCIENCE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine under the direction and supervision of physicians and surgeons. They are formally trained to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and provide treatment. Physician assistants can specialize in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, emergency medicine, orthopedics, surgical procedures, and general and thoracic surgery.

### Responsibilities of a physician assistant:

- Works under the supervision of a physician or surgeon
- Reviews patients' medical histories
- Does physical exams to check patients' health
- Orders and interprets diagnostic tests, such as X rays or blood tests
- Makes preliminary diagnoses of a patient's injury or illness
- Provides treatment, such as setting broken bones and giving immunizations
- Counsels patients and their families along with answering questions
- Prescribes medicine
- Records a patient's progress
- Completes insurance paperwork

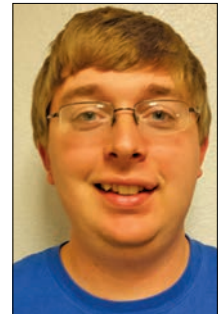
### Advantages that UNK has to offer health science students:

- Smaller class size
- Low student-to-faculty ratio
- Laboratory experiences
- Opportunities for student research
- Strong science preparation
- Academic advising
- Mentoring
- Contact with local professionals
- Application process assistance
- Shadowing programs
- Health Science Club
- Extensive health careers course
- Health Careers Fair
- Health science seminar course

## Student profile

"I have always wanted to have a career in the health sciences, and the psychobiology major is an excellent option for me to study the courses I needed for this career," Ryan Sowle said. "The mixture of biology and psychology interested me."

Sowle, from Wallace, Neb., is also in the physician assistant pre-professional program. "In



RYAN SOWLE

my pursuit to become a physician assistant, the department resources are very beneficial. There are many opportunities for involvement in the department, as well as guidance to become active in the community, a community I enjoy."

As a senior at the university, Sowle says he has all the necessary abilities he needs in order to pursue his career. "In the health science department, I always am able to ask questions and receive useful answers when I have a problem. I have immense support by all the UNK faculty and staff and am very satisfied with their guidance and assistance."

### HEALTH CAREER BENEFITS

- Chance to help people in need
- Advancement opportunities
- Secure and meaningful career
- Variety of jobs in different settings

### SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Successful healthcare students display good moral character, adapt to change, communicate well, lead with confidence, show compassion and value healthcare.

**HEALTH SCIENCE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM:  
Pre-Physician Assistant**

**SUGGESTED SEQUENCE FOR KEY PREREQUISITE COURSES**

Consult with your academic adviser.

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
CHEM 160 MATH See adviser for placement. BIOL See adviser for suggestions.	CHEM 161 BIOL See adviser for suggestions. STATS See adviser for selection.
<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Semester 4</b>
CHEM 250 or CHEM 360 BIOL 225	CHEM 251 or CHEM 361 BIOL 226
<b>Semester 5</b>	<b>Semester 6</b>
CHEM 351	Register to take the GRE in late spring or early summer. Complete PA school application in the summer.
<b>Semester 7</b>	<b>Semester 8</b>
Complete courses for major.	Complete courses for major.

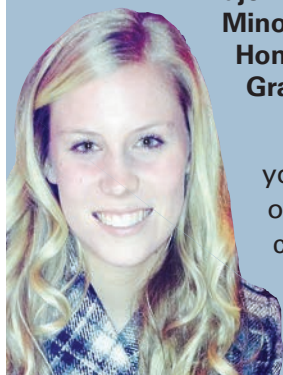
**STUDENT PROFILE – Taryn Trospen**

**Major: psychobiology comprehensive**

**Minor: health science**

**Hometown: Grand Island, Neb.**

**Graduation: spring 2015**



“I love that UNK is a small enough campus that you can get to know your professors while still offering the opportunities of a bigger university. I chose my major because psychobiology not only fits my physician assistant prerequisites, but the subject matter was interesting and would be helpful for real-life situations.”

**Health Science Club**

**Members in Health Science Club would love to have you join!**

- Be sure to check your LoperMail for the weekly edition of the Health Science Weekly newsletter that will include information on upcoming activities.
- Interested students can also **Like** UNK Health Sciences on Facebook to learn more about the organization.



**Did you know?**

**More than 700 students are enrolled in Health Science programs at UNK.**

That means, one of 10 Loper students are interested in health-related careers.

**UNK has an excellent record helping health science students gain acceptance into professional schools or clinical programs.**

For more than a decade, the overall acceptance rate of UNK students into various health programs has been approximately 70 percent.

**Job shadowing leads to employment according to the U.S. Department of Labor.**

Not only will you benefit from the on-the-job training and gain insight into a particular career, industry, or company, but you will also be mentored.

**Learn more at**  
[www.unk.edu/healthsciences](http://www.unk.edu/healthsciences)

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