



TRANSFER TIMES

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Educational Pathways

“Start Here” at BMCC and “Go Anywhere.” To move smoothly toward your professional goal you want to make sure that you are on the right track, or more specifically, the right *educational pathway*. The term ‘educational pathway’ refers to the academic preparation you need to pursue a particular professional goal. For some professions, an associate’s degree will suffice; others require a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctorate. Before you embark on a particular pathway it is important to be aware of the nature of the educational commitment you will need to make.

A second important fact to understand is that educational pathways are not static: the minimum educational requirements for entry level positions can and do change. In the allied health professions there have been recent changes in the required academic preparation for pharmacists, nurses, and physical therapists. The best source for the latest information on degree requirements, professional certification, licensure, and examinations can be obtained through their respective professional organizations.

The associate’s degree is the first step on your educational pathway. Early in your career at BMCC, you want to make sure that your major is in step with your long-

range degree and career goals. This connection is not always obvious and the name of a program may be misleading. For example, the first step on the educational pathway to careers as different as lawyer, teacher, physician assistant, and occupational therapist is an associate’s degree in liberal arts.

Finally, before you invest a lot of time, energy, and money, you want to know as much as possible about your career objective.

There are several steps you can take now to gain insight into whether your professional goal is the right choice for you.

Take an assessment of your aptitudes, skills, and personality traits

Be brutally honest with yourself. If you have no science aptitude, perhaps you shouldn’t consider a medical career. If you can’t draw a straight line, a career in architecture may be ruled out. If you have an out-going personality, you may be unhappy working alone in a cubicle crunching numbers.

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Talk to people in your field of interest

People currently working in a field are excellent sources of information. Ask them why they do what they do, and how they prepared to do it. Make sure to note when they did their training so that you may determine if professional requirements have changed.

Consider an internship

An internship is a position which allows you to gain professional experience in an occupational area you are considering. This is a great way to “test drive” a career and to begin building a professional resume and acquiring professional contacts. Additionally, some specialized programs (e.g., physician assistant) require some related work experience as a criterion for admission.

Read the Occupational Outlook Handbook

The handbook is published by the U.S. Department of Labor and is an essential reference for goal oriented academic planning. For each listed occupation there is a section describing the nature of the work and working conditions, educational requirements, job outlook, potential earnings, and a listing of professional organizations.

Contact professional organizations

Most careers have affiliated professional associations. These organizations are excellent resources for career exploration and networking. They also offer updated information on educational pathways, licensure, and certification. Membership in a professional organization is an important investment in your professional development. Many of these organizations have active student chapters. Membership in one of these student chapters will let you tap into the most up-to-date information and developments in a chosen field and give you a head start in thinking and acting as a professional. Links to these organizations can be found in the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

For more information, visit the Transfer Library located in the Academic Advisement and Transfer Center, Room S763.

Off Campus Events

The CUNY Baccalaureate Program Spring Informational Sessions for Prospective Students

The CUNY BA Program provides students with a flexible, academically challenging way to earn the bachelor's degree. The program allows self directed, academically able students to design an individualized program of study that complements their academic, professional, and personal goals. Informational sessions will cover the program profile, degree requirements, and the application process. You can register by phone: (212) 817-8220 or by email: cunyba@gc.cuny.edu. Be sure to include your name, phone number, and the date of the session you want to attend. Sessions are held at the Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34th Street.

Daytime Sessions (12:30 pm)

- Fri, Feb 29, Room C197**
- Fri, Mar 14, Room C198**
- Fri, Mar 28, Room C197**
- Fri, May 2, Room C197**
- Fri, May 9, Room C197**

Evening Sessions

- Wed, Mar 5 Room C205**
- Wed, Mar 19, Room C205**
- Wed, Apr 2, Room C205**
- Wed, Apr 16, Room C205**
- Wed, May 7, Room C205**



SPRING 2008 TRANSFER FAIRS

Don't miss these opportunities to begin gathering information about:



admission requirements academic programs
financial aid scholarship opportunities

Meet representatives from CUNY, SUNY, and other public and private colleges and universities

Non-Traditional Career Transfer Fair
Wednesday, February 20, 2008
12:00pm-5:00pm
Main Lobby Promenade

**Evening / Weekend Student
Transfer Fair**
Saturday, February 23, 2008
11:00am-3:00pm
Main Lobby Promenade

Senior Colleges Transfer Fair
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
11:00am-3:00pm & 4:00pm-8:00pm
Main Lobby Promenade

ARE YOU ON TRACK FOR TRANSFER? DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ **Transfer planning MUST begin by your second semester**
- ◆ **Transferring with the associate's degree gives you strategic advantages**
- ◆ **Special programs often require an additional application and/or supporting materials such as a portfolio**
- ◆ **A 2.00 GPA is NOT high enough for admission to many special programs and majors at the senior colleges.**
- ◆ **YOU and only YOU are responsible for your academic career**

For more information visit us in room S763

THE CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT Room N-210

The Center for Career Development provides assistance to students in developing academic and professional objectives as they pertain to future employment. The office provides comprehensive, group, and one-on-one workshops that cover all aspects of the successful acquisition and continuation of gainful employment.

Services Include:

- ◆ Resume review and cover letter creation
- ◆ Job search tools and techniques
- ◆ Mock interviewing and interview skills evaluation
- ◆ Career skills and customer service workshops
- ◆ Personal career assessment using *Career Zone*

Using *Career Zone* students can explore occupations, use an assessment tool to link their interests to potential careers, view some of the 300 videos available, and register for a free career portfolio account. Visit the *Career Zone* website to begin your career exploration today!

<http://www.nycareerzone.org/>

CAREER SPOTLIGHT: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

What is a Physician Assistant (PA)?

Physician Assistants (PAs) are healthcare professionals licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of a physician. Within the physician/PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventative health care, assist in surgery, and in most states write prescriptions.

Upon graduation, PAs take a national certification examination developed by the National Commission on Certification of PAs in conjunction with the national Board of Medical examiners. To maintain their national certification, PAs must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and sit for recertification every six years. Graduation from an accredited Physician Assistant program and passage of the national certifying exam are required for state licensure.

What are the prerequisites for applying to a PA program?

Most programs require applicants to have previous healthcare experience and some college education. The typical applicant already has a bachelor's degree and approximately 4 years of healthcare experience. Prerequisites vary from school to school. Check with the school(s) you wish to attend.

Physician Assistant Programs

There are currently more than 130 accredited programs. Below are some of the programs in the New York area:

Albany Medical College	SUNY Downstate Medical Center
College of Staten Island/CUNY	Hofstra University
Long Island University	Pace University
Stony Brook University/SUNY	York College/ CUNY
Sophie Davis School Of Biomedical Education/CUNY	

For more information visit: The American Academy of Physician Assistants: aapa@aapa.org and The Central Application Service for Physician Assistants: (Caspa) <https://caspaonline.org>

ABOUT THE ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT AND TRANSFER CENTER

The Academic Advisement and Transfer Center provides students with comprehensive one-on-one academic advisement and transfer services to facilitate well-informed decisions about appropriate senior college choices after graduation. Additionally, the AATC:

- Administers the Title V program for Liberal Arts students and the Out-in-Two Scholarship Program
- Houses and maintains a transfer library with both print and electronic resources
- Sponsors 6 senior college transfer fairs annually
- Offers eAdvisement and Distance Learning Advisement
- Provides advisement for students in non-traditional careers (e.g., men in early childhood education)
- We are open 7 days a week: M-TH 9-8; Fri 9-7; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-4

ARE YOU ON TRACK FOR TRANSFER?

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