7 Questions to Answer Before Writing Your PA School Personal Statement or Going to Your PA School Interview

1. **What are you passionate about?**

What are you passionate about? Address this, and you'll be on the road to success.

1. **How and when did you develop these interests?**

If you are passionate about the piano, it’s not just that you learned to play the piano, but what made you strive to keep learning? ***How and when*** did you develop your interests, and why are they special to you?

1. **What mistakes have you made, and what have you learned from those mistakes?**

Make this into a positive statement that says I recognized I made a mistake; I realize there were skills I needed to have, that I didn't have, and I had a plan on how to fix them.

Example: *“I recognized early on that I didn't have the skills I needed to manage the course load I had taken on. So the first semester I had to drop a class, my second semester I took a lighter course load, and I started to go to the writing center and the tutoring center so I could really start to hone my skills in science learning.”*

1. **What ideas, books, courses, or events have influenced how you see the world?**

How has this made you the person that you are now, and how does this connect to the person that you want to be? How does this connect to the people that you want to serve as a physician assistant?

1. **How do your current activities reflect your values?**

How has this translated to the things that you enjoy doing in life?

Example: *Maybe you were raised in a house with lots of kids, and you're the oldest of seven. So, your activities are always about the team. You're on a basketball team, you're on a soccer team, or you are part of a dance or musical ensemble. Anything to show the value of having to live in a group, of sharing and getting along, of taking a leadership position.*

1. **How have you changed? How have you matured in the past 3 to 5 years?**

How have events in your life over the past three to five years shaped the person you are today? How has this helped you to grow as a person? What have you learned?

1. **Can you link your interest to your goal of being a PA?**

Example: *“I want to be a clinical PA, so I've had an interest in teaching and learning a foreign language, in speech writing, or speech and public speaking, things that I think will help me connect with patients.”*