What is a PA?

PA profession established in 1967

255+ PA Programs in the U.S.

Programs are 27 months or 3 academic years (bachelor’s degree is required for acceptance)

PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient’s principal healthcare professional. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

AT A GLANCE

PA profession established in 1967

123,000 PAs in the U.S.

PAs have more than 400 million patient interactions per year

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), 2018

2,000 hours of clinical rotations

Educated at MASTER’S DEGREE level

To obtain a license, PAs must:

Graduate from an accredited PA program

Pass a certification exam

To maintain their certification, PAs must complete:

100 hours of continuing medical education (CME every two years)

A recertification exam every 10 years

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING

NCCPA, 2017

2017 AAPA Salary Survey
PAs practice in every work setting

- 38.3% – Hospital
- 6.1% – Urgent Care Center
- 7.7% – Other
- 2.4% – School, college or university
- 45.5% – Outpatient Office or Clinic

PAs practice medicine in all specialties

- 24.6% – Primary Care
- 25.9% – Surgical Subspecialties
- 10.7% – Internal Medicine Subspecialties
- 8.9% – Emergency Medicine
- 1.3% – Pediatric Subspecialties
- 28.6% – Other

What Patients Say About PAs

- 93% PAs are trusted healthcare providers
- 92% Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments
- 91% PAs improve the quality of healthcare

PA Profession in the News

- #3 Best 100 Jobs List
  US News & World Report 2018
- #2 Best Healthcare Jobs List
  US News & World Report 2018
- #7 25 Highest Paying Jobs In America
  Forbes 2018
- #5 Fastest Growing Jobs in America
  Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018

*Attitudes Toward PAs: A 2014 Survey by the American Academy of PAs. The Harris online survey was conducted September 15–22, 2014 among 1,544 adults age 18 and older living in the US, including an oversample of 680 adults who have seen a PA and/or have accompanied a loved one to see a PA in the past 12 months. For full methodology visit aapa.org/media.