



Statutory and Regulatory Requirements for Initial Licensure and License Renewal

The chart below indicates PA licensure requirements in each state and the District of Columbia. Initial requirements apply to the initial license sought in a jurisdiction and are found in the first three columns following the jurisdiction.

License renewal requirements are found in the final column. Nearly every jurisdiction requires either a minimum number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, current certification by National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), or both as a condition of license renewal.

Some jurisdictions impose additional requirements for applicants who have had an extended break from clinical practice. For these provisions, check the state licensing authority website.

Jurisdiction	Initial Licensure Requirements			Renewal Requirements ¹
	Graduation from Accredited PA Program	Passage of NCCPA Exam (PANCE)	Current NCCPA Certification	
Alabama	•	•		CME
Alaska	•	•	•	NCCPA
Arizona	•	•	• ²	CME
Arkansas	• and baccalaureate degree ³	•		CME
California	•	•		CME or NCCPA
Colorado	•	•		
Connecticut	• and baccalaureate degree	•	•	NCCPA
Delaware	• and baccalaureate degree	•		CME
District of Columbia	•	•		CME
Florida <i>Osteopathic</i>	• •	• •		CME CME
Georgia	•	•		CME
Hawaii	•	•	•	CME or NCCPA

¹ CME (continuing medical education) means a minimum number of CME hours. NCCPA (National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants) means current certification by the NCCPA.

² An applicant who presents a certificate issued by the NCCPA that shows the applicant passed either the PANCE or the NCCPA recertification examination within the six-year period preceding presentation of the certificate to the Board shall be deemed to have met the requirement of A.R.S. § 32-2521(A)(2). See Arizona Admin. Code R4-17-202.

³ Certain military or federal service experience may qualify in lieu of a bachelor's degree.

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Idaho	• and baccalaureate degree ⁴	•	•	NCCPA
Illinois	•	•	•	
Indiana	•	•	•	NCCPA
Iowa	•	•		CME
Kansas	• or certain military training	•		CME
Kentucky	•	•	•	NCCPA
Louisiana	•	•	•	NCCPA
Maine <i>Osteopathic</i>	• •	• •	• •	CME CME
Maryland	• and baccalaureate degree or at least 120 credit hours of education at the college or university level	•		CME
Massachusetts	• and baccalaureate degree	•		CME
Michigan <i>Osteopathic</i>	• •	• •		
Minnesota		•	• ⁵	CME or NCCPA NCCPA for Rx
Mississippi	• and master's degree ⁶	•	•	CME
Missouri	and master's degree for those graduating after 1/1/08 ⁷	•	•	NCCPA
Montana	•	•		
Nebraska	•	•		CME or NCCPA

⁴ Graduate PA licensure may also be considered by the board when all requirements have been met with the exception of a baccalaureate degree. Plan for completion of the baccalaureate degree must be submitted and approved by the board. Degree must be completed within 5 years. See Idaho Admin. Code 22.01.03.036.

⁵ NCCPA certification is required for initial licensure, but not for renewal. However, current NCCPA certification is required when prescriptive authority is delegated per s. 147A.18(1)(a), MN stats.

⁶ Board may issue temporary license to PAs enrolled in master's program; extensive grandfather clause.

⁷ Program requirement waived for those employed as PAs prior to 1986.

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Nevada <i>Osteopathic</i>	• •	• •	• •	CME <i>CME and NCCPA</i>
New Hampshire	•	•	•	NCCPA
New Jersey	•	•		CME
New Mexico <i>Osteopathic</i>	• •	• •	• •	NCCPA (CME for Controlled Rx) <i>NCCPA</i>
New York	• and baccalaureate degree ⁸	•		See footnote ⁸
North Carolina	•	•		CME
North Dakota		•	•	CME and NCCPA
Ohio	• Master's degree ⁹	•	•	NCCPA CME for Rx
Oklahoma	• PA programs must meet specific requirements	•		CME
Oregon	•	•		NCCPA for Sch. II Rx
Pennsylvania ¹⁰ <i>Osteopathic</i>	• And baccalaureate degree • <i>And baccalaureate degree</i>	• •	• •	NCCPA <i>NCCPA</i>
Rhode Island	•	•		CME
South Carolina	•	•	•	NCCPA
South Dakota	•	•		CME or NCCPA
Tennessee	•	•		CME

⁸ New York requires infection control training as a condition before licensure and then every four years after initial licensure. See [Office of the Professions](#) site for more details.

⁹ The master's degree requirement is waived if the PA has a current, valid license or other form of authority to practice that was issued by another jurisdiction prior to January 1, 2008. Effective March 22, 2013, the master's requirement is also waived if the PA can provide evidence of (1) graduating from an accredited program and (2) experience practicing as a PA for at least three consecutive years while on active duty, in any of the armed forces of the United States or a state national guard, including any experience attained while practicing as a PA at a federal VA health facility.

¹⁰ Pennsylvania requires all health-related licensees to have 3 hours of DHS-approved training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements as a condition of initial licensure. Additionally, renewal of such licensure will require the completion of 2 hours of board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements.

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Texas	•	•	•	CME
Utah	•	•		CME or NCCPA
Vermont	•	•		CME or NCCPA
Virginia	•	•	•	NCCPA
Washington <i>Osteopathic</i>	• •	• •		CME or NCCPA <i>CME or NCCPA</i>
West Virginia	• and a baccalaureate or master's degree from said PA program or graduated from an approved program of instruction in primary health care or surgery prior to July 1, 1994; or was certified by the Board as a "Type B" PA prior to July 1, 1983	•	•	CME
<i>Osteopathic</i>	• and a baccalaureate or master's degree from said PA program or graduated from an approved program of instruction in primary health care or surgery prior to July 1, 1994	•	•	<i>CME</i>
Wisconsin	•	•	•	
Wyoming	•	•	•	NCCPA