

Statutory and Regulatory Requirements for Initial Licensure and License Renewal

The chart below indicates PA licensure requirements in each state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. 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 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 licensing authority website.

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Jurisdiction	Initial Licensure Requirements			Renewal Requirements ¹ Graduation from Accredited PA Program
	Graduation from Accredited PA Program	Passage of NCCPA Exam (PANCE)	Current NCCPA Certification	
Alabama	•	•		CME
Alaska	•	•	•	NCCPA
American Samoa	± ²	±	±	Unknown
Arizona	•	•	•	CME
Arkansas	• and baccalaureate degree ³	•		CME
California	•	•		CME or NCCPA
Colorado	•	•		CME
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	•	•	•	NCCPA
Connecticut	• and baccalaureate degree	•	•	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 Applicants must establish to the satisfaction of the board that the individual is a graduate of an accredited school of medicine or dentistry and has completed at least one year of post-graduate training in a hospital or other health care or dental facility accredited for post-graduate training. Graduates from an accredited school of medicine or dentistry located in the United States, Canada, Papua-New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Switzerland, France, Belgium, West Germany, Norway, Sweden, or Denmark will be considered as having met standards of education acceptable for licensure in American Samoa. Graduates of Fiji schools of medicine or dentistry or of any other health profession listed in this chapter who have graduated prior to January 1, 1987, will also be considered as having met standards of education acceptable for licensure in American Samoa. Alternatively applicants shall provide the board with evidence that the applicant has completed educational requirements consistent with licensure as a physician [...]; further, that such educational requirements for licensure as a physician assistant be in accordance with standards established by the U.S. National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants; further that such applicant furnish the board with evidence of compliance with Continuing Medical Education activities as mandated by the NCCPA.

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

Jurisdiction	Initial Licensure Requirements			Renewal Requirements ¹ Graduation from Accredited PA Program
	Graduation from Accredited PA Program	Passage of NCCPA Exam (PANCE)	Current NCCPA Certification	
Delaware	• and baccalaureate degree	•		CME
District of Columbia	•	•		CME
Florida	• and master's degree for those who matriculated after 12/31/20	•		CME
<i>Osteopathic</i>	• <i>and master's degree for those who matriculated after 12/31/20</i>	•		<i>CME</i>
Georgia	•	•		CME
Guam	•	•	•	NCCPA
Hawaii	•	•	•	CME or NCCPA
Idaho	• and baccalaureate degree ⁴	•	•	NCCPA
Illinois	•	•	•	CME
Indiana	•	•	•	NCCPA
Iowa	•	•		CME
Kansas	• or certain military training	•		CME
Kentucky	•	•	•	NCCPA
Louisiana	•	•	•	NCCPA
Maine	•	•	•	CME
<i>Osteopathic</i>	•	•	•	<i>CME</i>
Maryland	• and baccalaureate degree or at least 120 credit hours of education at the college or university level	•		CME

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 242.3301.023.036.

Jurisdiction	Initial Licensure Requirements			Renewal Requirements ¹ Graduation from Accredited PA Program
	Graduation from Accredited PA Program	Passage of NCCPA Exam (PANCE)	Current NCCPA Certification	
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
Nevada <i>Osteopathic</i>	• •	• •	• •	CME or NCCPA <i>CME or NCCPA</i>
New Hampshire	•	•	•	See footnote ⁸
New Jersey	•	•		CME
New Mexico	• •	• •	• •	NCCPA (CME for Controlled Rx)
New York	• and baccalaureate degree	•		See footnote ⁹
North Carolina	•	•		CME
North Dakota		•	•	CME and NCCPA
Ohio	• Master's degree ¹⁰	•	•	NCCPA CME for Rx
Oklahoma	• PA programs must meet specific requirements	•		CME

⁵ NCCPA certification is required for initial licensure, but not for renewal. However, current NCCPA certification is required for prescriptive authority.

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.

⁸ Legislation (SB 488) passed in 2024 requires the New Hampshire Board of Medicine to adopt rules to have the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification maintain CME for PAs that have passed their initial NCCPA certification but have chosen not to maintain their certification.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

Jurisdiction	Initial Licensure Requirements			Renewal Requirements ¹ Graduation from Accredited PA Program
	Graduation from Accredited PA Program	Passage of NCCPA Exam (PANCE)	Current NCCPA Certification	
Oregon	•	•		NCCPA for Sch. II Rx
Pennsylvania ¹¹ <i>Osteopathic</i>	• And baccalaureate degree • <i>And baccalaureate degree</i>	• •	• •	NCCPA <i>NCCPA</i>
Puerto Rico	± ¹²	±		CME
Rhode Island	•	•		CME
South Carolina	•	•	•	NCCPA
South Dakota	•	•		CME or NCCPA
Tennessee	•	•		CME
Texas	•	•	•	CME
United States Virgin Islands	•	•	•	CME
Utah	•	•		CME or NCCPA
Vermont	•	•		CME or NCCPA
Virginia	•	•	•	NCCPA
Washington	• •	• •		CME or NCCPA

¹¹ 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.

¹² Puerto Rico authorizes graduates of ARC-PA accredited programs or physicians whose course of study is accepted by the Board of Licensing and Medical Discipline to become licensed as "medicos asistentes." Only successful graduates of academic programs accredited by ARC-PA or one of its predecessors are eligible to take PANCE.

Jurisdiction	Initial Licensure Requirements			Renewal Requirements ¹
	Graduation from Accredited PA Program	Passage of NCCPA Exam (PANCE)	Current NCCPA Certification	Graduation from Accredited PA Program
West Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	CME
<i>Osteopathic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<i>CME</i>
Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	CME
Wyoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	NCCPA