



# What is a PA?

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.

*NCCPA, 2017*

PAs have more than

**400**  
MILLION



patient interactions per year

*2017 AAPA Salary Survey*

## EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



**255+** PA Programs in the U.S.

*Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2018*



**2,000** hours of clinical rotations



Programs are **27 months or 3 academic years** (bachelor's degree is required)



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

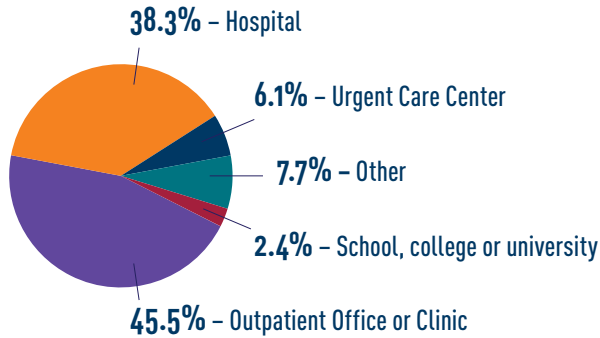


A **recertification exam** every 10 years

## CERTIFICATION & LICENSING



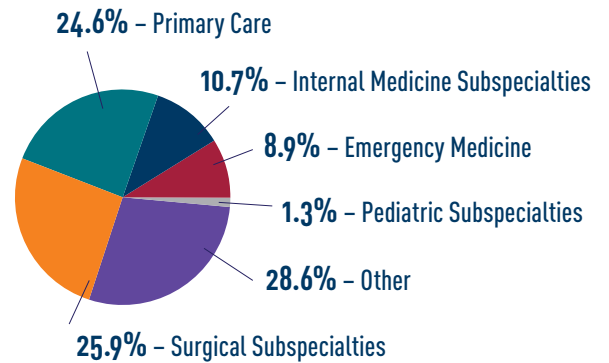
### PA's practice in most work settings



2017 AAPA Salary Survey



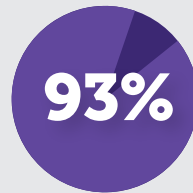
### PA's practice medicine in all specialties



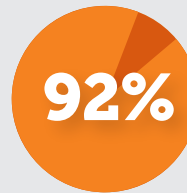
2017 AAPA Salary Survey

### What Patients Say About PAs

2014 Harris Poll\*



PA's are trusted healthcare providers



Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments



PA's improve the quality of healthcare

### PA Profession in the News

**#3** Best 100 Jobs List  
US News & World Report  
2017

**#3** Best Healthcare Jobs List  
US News & World Report  
2017

**#1** Most Promising  
Jobs for Millennials List  
Forbes  
2017

**#5** Fastest Growing Jobs  
in America, Bureau of  
Labor Statistics  
2017



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\*\*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](http://aapa.org/media).