



PA Licensure Procedures and Number of PA Licenses by State

Licensure procedures for PAs vary widely from state to state. PAs applying for a license must typically meet several core licensure requirements, including graduating from an accredited PA educational program, passing the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) and providing proof of national certification, providing information regarding prior practice (if applicable), and paying associated fees. Many states also require PAs to undergo fingerprinting and/or a background check. However, PA applicants may be required to complete additional actions prior to licensure. There is also a significant variation (between 2-16 weeks) in the time it takes for state licensing boards to process, approve, and issue a license.

Every year since 2016, AAPA has reviewed information from each state's relevant licensing board(s) to verify: (1) the average time to process an application for PA licensure; (2) whether a personal interview is required; (3) whether a PA must identify a supervising or collaborating physician prior to licensure; (4) whether letters of recommendation or other supplemental forms besides transcripts are required; (5) whether a practice agreement must be approved by the regulatory agency prior to licensure; (6) whether the PA must take and pass a jurisprudence examination; and (7) whether a PA license may be granted administratively by board staff without direct board action (individual approval or ratification).

While these requirements are often found in state laws and regulations, in some cases, the regulatory board has the authority to change licensure procedures by changing board policies. AAPA consults numerous sources to determine licensure procedures, including each state's laws and regulations, regulatory board websites, and application materials. Occasionally, AAPA contacts a board directly for additional clarification. The below chart summarizes AAPA's findings on additional licensure procedures in each state (beyond the core licensure requirements) for uncomplicated licensure actions, or those without a "yes" answer for questions on the application regarding criminal history or disciplinary action.

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Additional School/Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
Alabama	Board of Medical Examiners & Medical Licensure Commission	No	1,102	4-6 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

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Alaska	State Medical Board	PA on Board	833	12-14 weeks ¹	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Arizona	Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants	PA Board	3,381	5 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Arkansas	State Medical Board	No	548	6-8 weeks	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ²	Yes
California	Physician Assistant Board/Medical Board	PA Board	13,960	4 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Colorado	Medical Board/ Department of Regulatory Agencies	2 PAs on Board; 1 PA on Licensing Panel	4,049	8-10 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Connecticut	Medical Examining Board/State Department of Public Health	PA on Board	2,921	3-4 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Delaware	Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline	No	747	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
District of Columbia	Board of Medicine	No	884	16+ weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes

¹ The Alaska State Medical Board estimates 8-12 weeks for issuance of a temporary permit and 12-14 weeks for final license approval.

² The Arkansas State Medical Board requires licensure applicants to sign and submit an affidavit stating that they have read the PA Practice Act and the associated regulations. No official examination is required.

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Florida	Council on Physician Assistants/ Board of Medicine/ Board of Osteopathic Medicine	PA Board	10,155	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Georgia	Composite Medical Board	No	5,504	4-6 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Hawaii	Medical Board	No	428	3+ weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Idaho	Board of Medicine	PA on Board	1,323	4+ weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Illinois	Medical Licensing Board, Department of Financial and Professional Regulation	No	3,772	6-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Indiana	Medical Licensing Board/ Professional Licensing Agency	No	1,835	Up to 8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Iowa	Board of Physician Assistants/ Board of Medicine	PA Board	1,718	2 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kansas	Board of Healing Arts	No	1,148	4-8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Kentucky	Board of Medical Licensure	No	1,471	8 weeks	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Louisiana	State Board of Medical Examiners	No	1,376	4 +weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

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Maine	Board of Licensure in Medicine	Two PAs on Board	1,014	6-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	No ³
Osteopathic	<i>Board of Osteopathic Licensure</i>	<i>Two PAs on Board</i>	66	6-12 weeks	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Board of Physicians	PA on Board	3,629	3-6 weeks	No	No	No	No – Unless “advanced duties”	No	No – Unless “advanced duties”
Massachusetts	Board of Registration of Physician Assistants	PA Board	3,833	3-5 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Michigan	Task Force on Physician’s Assistants/ Board of Medicine/ Board of Osteopathic Medicine & Surgery	PA Board; PA on Medical and Osteopathic Medical Boards	6,313	2+ weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	Board of Medical Practice	No	3,442	8-10 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No ⁴
Mississippi	State Board of Medical Licensure	No	291	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No

³ Maine Board of Medical Licensure authorize board staff to make licensing decisions. Recent Board minutes indicate this duty is presently delegated to Board staff, as licenses not necessitating further review have been approved without specific ratification. The Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure does not have the same rule, and meeting documents appear to show continuation of ratification of licenses for PAs.

⁴ Under Minn. Stat. § 147A.02(7), applicants must be approved by the Board. However, recent Board minutes indicate that most licenses are now approved by Board staff.

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Missouri	Board of Registration for the Healing Arts	No	1,516	4-6 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Montana	Board of Medical Examiners	PA on Board (non-voting)	841	2 weeks	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	State Board of Medicine and Surgery/State Board of Health	No	1,501	8-10 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nevada	State Board of Medical Examiners	No	953	2-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Osteopathic	<i>State Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>133**</i>	<i>2-8 weeks</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
New Hampshire	Board of Medicine	PA on Board	953	4+ weeks	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
New Jersey	State Board of Medical Examiners	PA on Board	4,007	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
New Mexico	Medical Board	PA on Board	1,027	8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Osteopathic	<i>Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners</i>	<i>PA on Board</i>	<i>21**</i>	<i>8 weeks</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>

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New York	Board of Professional Medical Conduct/ State Board of Medicine	PAs on State Board of Medicine – PA may be appointed as lay member on BOPM	18,256	3-5 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	Medical Board	PA on Board	8,540	2 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
North Dakota	Board of Medicine	PA on Board	466	8-12 weeks	No	No	No	No ⁵	No	No
Ohio	State Medical Board	No	4,149	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	Medical Board	No	1,877	6-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Medical Board	PA on Board	2,235	8-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	State Board of Medical Licensure	Rotating “other” seat – includes PAs	9,975	2-4 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Osteopathic	<i>State Board of Osteopathic Medicine</i>	Rotating “other” seat – includes PAs	2,703**	2-4 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No

⁵ This may be necessary in rare cases, such as when a PA with fewer than 4,000 hours of practice experience owns their own practice, pursuant to N.D. Cent. Code § 43-17-02.1(2), (4)-(6).

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Rhode Island	Board of Licensure for Physician Assistants/ Department of Health	PA Board	695	Up to 2 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	Board of Medical Examiners	No	2,389	2-6 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
South Dakota	Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners	No	682	4-5 weeks	No	No	Board's discretion	No	No	Yes
Tennessee	Committee of Medical Examiners, Committee on Physician Assistants	PA Board	2,512	6 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Texas	Physician Assistant Board	PA Board	10,294	4-8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Utah	Physician Assistant Licensing Board	PA Board	1,769	2-3 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Vermont	Board of Medical Practice	PA on Board	372	6-12 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Virginia	Board of Medicine	No	4,561	6-8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Washington	Medical Commission	2 PAs on Board	2,813	4-6 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Osteopathic	<i>Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery</i>	<i>PA on Board</i>	<i>129*</i>	<i>4-6 weeks</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>

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West Virginia	Board of Medicine	2 PAs on Board	1,128	8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Osteopathic	<i>Board of Osteopathic Medicine</i>	<i>PA on Board</i>	238**	8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Wisconsin	Medical Examining Board/Department of Safety and Professional Services	No	3,463	8-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Wyoming	Board of Medicine	PA on Board	355	4-12 weeks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Last updated: August 2020

* State provides one total for PAs regulated by the medical board and PAs regulated by the osteopathic medical board

** State may double-count medical/osteopathic licensees

Information applies only to individuals with "clean" applications – those who did not check "yes" to questions on the application regarding criminal history or disciplinary action

Number of licenses per state is the most recent information available from state medical boards as of 8/4/2020

PA Board authority varies by state, and some boards have more authority to set PA licensure laws than others