



## 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 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. **Note: The information below reflects permanent statutory and regulatory language only. It does not reflect state emergency orders and/or rulemaking related to Covid-19 which may have removed or amended certain licensure requirements on a temporary basis.**

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>1</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
<b>Alabama</b>	Board of Medical Examiners & Medical Licensure Commission	No	1,221	4-6 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Alaska</b>	State Medical Board	PA on Board	810	12-14 weeks <sup>2</sup>	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Arizona</b>	Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants	PA Board – Full Autonomy	3,634	5 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Arkansas</b>	State Medical Board	PA on Board	607	6-8 weeks	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No <sup>3</sup>	Yes
<b>California</b>	Physician Assistant Board/Medical Board	PA Board – Partial Autonomy <sup>4</sup>	13,927	4-6 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Colorado</b>	Medical Board/ Department of Regulatory Agencies	2 PAs on Board; 1 PA on Licensing Panel	4,191	8-10 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Connecticut</b>	Medical Examining Board/State Department of Public Health	PA on Board	3,274	3-4 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>1</sup> In 2020-2021, many states were subject to emergency orders or rules that extended renewal deadlines and/or extended license reciprocity to out-of-state PAs. These numbers reflect each state's current, active license count and may be higher than typical as a result of these emergency actions.

<sup>2</sup> The Alaska State Medical Board estimates 8-12 weeks for issuance of a temporary permit and 12-14 weeks for final license approval.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Board has full authority over licensure/discipline, partial authority over rulemaking.

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>1</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
<b>Delaware</b>	Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline	2 PAs on Board	816	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>District of Columbia</b>	Board of Medicine	No	912	16+ weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
<b>Florida</b>	Council on Physician Assistants/ Board of Medicine/ Board of Osteopathic Medicine	No <sup>5</sup>	11,449	2-4 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Georgia</b>	Composite Medical Board	No	5,805	4-6 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
<b>Hawaii</b>	Medical Board	No	404	3+ weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Idaho</b>	Board of Medicine	PA on Board	1,379	4+ weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Illinois</b>	Medical Licensing Board, Department of Financial and Professional Regulation	2 PAs on Board <sup>6</sup>	4,039	6-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Indiana</b>	Medical Licensing Board/ Professional Licensing Agency	No <sup>7</sup>	2,270	Up to 8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

<sup>5</sup> Majority-PA council responsible for licensure and partially responsible for discipline/rulemaking.

<sup>6</sup> Effective 1/1/22.

<sup>7</sup> PA Committee responsible for licensure and partially responsible for discipline/rulemaking.

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>1</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
Iowa	Board of Physician Assistants/ Board of Medicine	PA Board – Partial Autonomy <sup>8</sup>	1,939	2 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kansas	Board of Healing Arts	No	1,233	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Kentucky	Board of Medical Licensure	No	1,546	8 weeks	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Louisiana	State Board of Medical Examiners	No	1,459	4 +weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Maine	Board of Licensure in Medicine	Two PAs on Board	1,044	6-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	No <sup>9</sup>
Osteopathic	Board of Osteopathic Licensure	Two PAs on Board	61	6-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Board of Physicians	PA on Board	4,013	3-6 weeks	No	No	No	No – Unless “advanced duties”	No	No – Unless “advanced duties”
Massachusetts	Board of Registration of Physician Assistants	PA Board – Partial Autonomy <sup>10</sup>	4,982	3-5 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>8</sup> Full authority over licensure/discipline, partial authority over rulemaking (Board of Medicine makes rules related to physician supervision of PAs).

<sup>9</sup> Maine Board of Medical Licensure rules 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.

<sup>10</sup> Board has full authority over licensure/discipline, partial authority over rulemaking.

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>1</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
<b>Michigan</b>	Task Force on Physician's Assistants/ Board of Medicine/ Board of Osteopathic Medicine & Surgery	PA Board – Partial Autonomy <sup>11</sup> ; PA on Medical and Osteopathic Medical Boards	6,769	6-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Minnesota</b>	Board of Medical Practice	No	3,731	8-10 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No <sup>12</sup>
<b>Mississippi</b>	State Board of Medical Licensure	No	291	2-4 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Missouri</b>	Board of Registration for the Healing Arts	No	1,712	4-6 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Montana</b>	Board of Medical Examiners	PA on Board (non-voting)	1,031	2-4 weeks	No	Yes	No	No	Yes <sup>13</sup>	No
<b>Nebraska</b>	State Board of Medicine and Surgery/State Board of Health	No	1,501	8-10 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>11</sup> Board has full authority over licensure/discipline, partial authority over rulemaking.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> New in 2021, PAs and supervising physicians must complete an online training and assessment about the supervisory relationship prior to licensure.

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>14</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
<b>Nevada</b>	State Board of Medical Examiners	No	1,379	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Osteopathic</b>	<i>State Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>174**</i>	<i>2-8 weeks</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Board of Medicine	PA on Board	1,027	4-8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
<b>New Jersey</b>	State Board of Medical Examiners	PA on Board <sup>15</sup>	4,660	4-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>New Mexico<sup>16</sup></b>	Medical Board	PA on Board	1,027	8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No

<sup>14</sup> In 2020-2021, many states were subject to emergency orders or rules that extended renewal deadlines and/or extended license reciprocity to out-of-state PAs. These numbers reflect each state's current, active license count and may be higher than typical as a result of these emergency actions.

<sup>15</sup> PA Advisory Committee has full authority over licensure/discipline and partial authority over rulemaking.

<sup>16</sup> The New Mexico Medical Board and the New Mexico Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Board merged effective 7/1/21.

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>17</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
<b>New York</b>	Board of Professional Medical Conduct/ State Board of Medicine	PAs on State Board of Medicine – PA may be appointed as lay member on BOPM	19,004	3-6 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>North Carolina</b>	Medical Board	PA on Board	8,823	2 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
<b>North Dakota</b>	Board of Medicine	PA on Board	485	8-12 weeks	No	No <sup>16</sup>	No	No <sup>18</sup>	No	No <sup>16</sup>
<b>Ohio</b>	State Medical Board	No	4,340	4 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Medical Board	No	1,962	6-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Oregon</b>	Medical Board	PA on Board	2,460	8-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

<sup>17</sup> In 2020-2021, many states were subject to emergency orders or rules that extended renewal deadlines and/or extended license reciprocity to out-of-state PAs. These numbers reflect each state's current, active license count and may be higher than typical as a result of these emergency actions.

<sup>18</sup> 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).

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>19</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	State Board of Medical Licensure	Rotating “other” seat – includes PAs	9,994	7-10 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Osteopathic</b>	State Board of Osteopathic Medicine	Rotating “other” seat – includes PAs	4,471**	7-10 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Board of Licensure for Physician Assistants/ Department of Health	PA Board – Full Autonomy	737	2 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>South Carolina</b>	Board of Medical Examiners	No	2,193	2-6 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>South Dakota</b>	Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners	No	682	4-5 weeks	No	No	Board’s discretion	No	No	Yes
<b>Tennessee</b>	Board of Physician Assistants	PA Board – Partial Autonomy <sup>20</sup>	2,525	6 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes

<sup>19</sup> In 2020-2021, many states were subject to emergency orders or rules that extended renewal deadlines and/or extended license reciprocity to out-of-state PAs. These numbers reflect each state’s current, active license count and may be higher than typical as a result of these emergency actions.

<sup>20</sup> Board has full authority over licensure, determining appropriate standard of care, investigating alleged violations of law and rules; partial authority over rulemaking regarding the collaboration of PAs with physicians, the collaborating physician’s personal review of historical, physical, and therapeutic data contained in the charts of patients examined by the PA, PA prescribing, and disciplinary action issued for violations involving the prescribing, dispensing or issuance of controlled substances by a PA.



State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>21</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
<b>Texas</b>	Physician Assistant Board	PA Board – Partial Autonomy <sup>22</sup>	10,937	4-8 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Utah</b>	Physician Assistant Licensing Board	PA Board – Full Autonomy	1,769	2-3 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Vermont</b>	Board of Medical Practice	PA on Board	413	6-12 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
<b>Virginia</b>	Board of Medicine	No	4,561	6-8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Washington<sup>23</sup></b>	Medical Commission	2 PAs on Board	3,181	up to 12 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>West Virginia</b>	Board of Medicine	2 PAs on Board	1,123	8 weeks	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Osteopathic</b>	<i>Board of Osteopathic Medicine</i>	<i>PA on Board</i>	<i>234**</i>	<i>8 weeks</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>

<sup>21</sup> In 2020-2021, many states were subject to emergency orders or rules that extended renewal deadlines and/or extended license reciprocity to out-of-state PAs. These numbers reflect each state's current, active license count and may be higher than typical as a result of these emergency actions.

<sup>22</sup> Board has full authority over licensure/discipline, partial authority over rulemaking.

<sup>23</sup> The Washington Medical Commission now licenses both medical and osteopathic PAs, effective 6/1/21.

State	Regulatory Authority	PA on Board/PA-Specific Board?	Number of Active PA Licenses <sup>24</sup>	Average Length of Time for Licensure	Personal Interview Required of Every Applicant	Physician Identification Required Prior to Licensure	Letter(s) of Recommendation or Employer Form Required	Practice Agreement Approved by Regulatory Agency	Test on State Law (Jurisprudence Exam) Required	Licensure Requires Direct Board Action
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board <sup>25</sup> /Department of Safety and Professional Services	PA Board – Full Autonomy	3,821	8-12 weeks	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Wyoming</b>	Board of Medicine	PA on Board	355	4-12 weeks	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes

Last updated: July 2021

\* 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 licensing boards as of 7/29/2021. PA Board authority varies by state, and some boards have more authority to set PA licensure laws than others.*

<sup>24</sup> In 2020-2021, many states were subject to emergency orders or rules that extended renewal deadlines and/or extended license reciprocity to out-of-state PAs. These numbers reflect each state's current, active license count and may be higher than typical as a result of these emergency actions.

<sup>25</sup> Effective 4/1/21.