PAs (physician associates/physician assistants) are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting. Trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professionals, PAs are dedicated to expanding access to care and transforming health and wellness through patient-centered, team-based medical practice.

**What is a PA?**

**AT A GLANCE**

**PA profession established in**

1967

**Approximately 168,300 PAs in the U.S.**

**PAs have more than 500 MILLION patient interactions per year**

**EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS**

304 PA Programs in the U.S.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2023

Programs are 27 months or 3 academic years (bachelor’s degree is required for acceptance)

2,000 hours of clinical rotations

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 after every two years)
- A recertification exam every 10 years

**CERTIFICATION & LICENSING**
2023 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.
*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.

2023 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.
*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.

PA Profession in the News

Best 100 Jobs List
U.S. News & World Report 2023

Best Healthcare Jobs List
U.S. News & World Report 2023

Best STEM Jobs List
U.S. News & World Report 2023

What Patients Say About PAs

Agree PAs are part of the solution to healthcare workforce shortages

Improve health outcomes for patients

PAs add value to healthcare teams

*The research was conducted online in the U.S. by The Harris Poll on behalf of AAPA among 2,519 adults age 18+. The survey was conducted from February 23 – March 9, 2023. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.