



What is a PA?

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.

AT A GLANCE

PA profession established in

1967 



Approximately
168,300
PAs in the U.S.

NCCPA, 2023

PAs have more than

500
MILLION



patient interactions
per year

NCCPA, 2022,
All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



306 PA Programs in the U.S.

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



2,000 hours of clinical rotations



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



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)

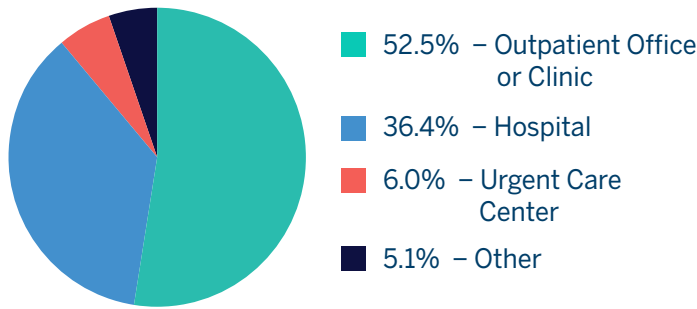


A **recertification exam** every 10 years

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING



PAs practice in every work setting

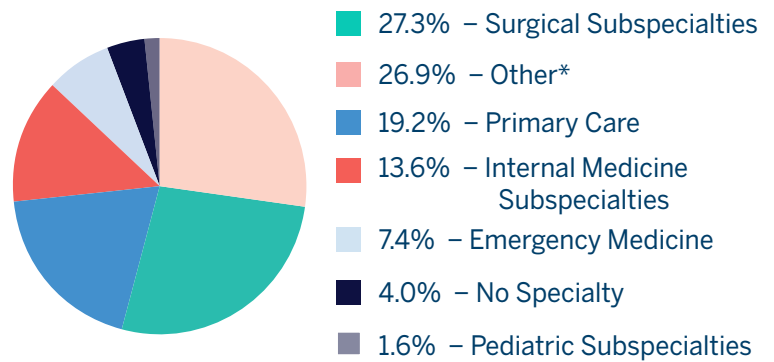


2023 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.



PAs practice medicine in all specialties



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



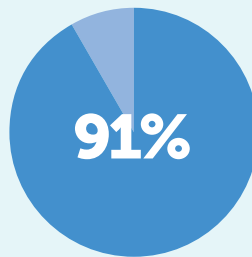
Best STEM Jobs List

U.S. News & World Report 2023

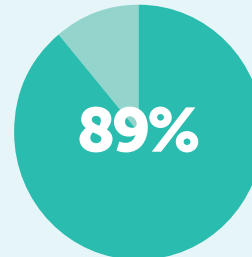
What Patients Say About PAs



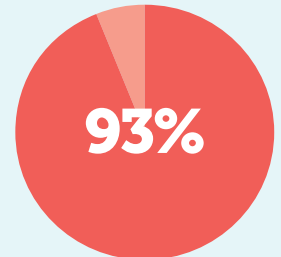
* 2023 AAPA Harris Poll



Agree PAs are part of the solution to healthcare workforce shortages



Improve health outcomes for patients



PAs add value to healthcare teams



American Academy of Physician Associates

aapa.org

*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.