What is a PA?

PAs are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient’s principal healthcare provider. 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.

PA profession established in 1967

123,000 PAs in the U.S.

PAs have more than 400 million patient interactions per year

EDUCATION

BY THE NUMBERS

255+ PA Programs in the U.S.

2,000 hours of clinical rotations

Educated at MASTER’S DEGREE level

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

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

PAs practice in every work setting

- 38.3% – Hospital
- 6.1% – Urgent Care Center
- 7.7% – Other
- 2.4% – School, college or university
- 45.5% – Outpatient Office or Clinic

2017 AAPA Salary Survey

PAs practice medicine in all specialties

- 24.6% – Primary Care
- 10.7% – Internal Medicine Subspecialties
- 8.9% – Emergency Medicine
- 3.1% – Pediatric Subspecialties
- 28.5% – Surgical Subspecialties
- 25.9% – Surgical Subspecialties

2017 AAPA Salary Survey

What Patients Say About PAs

- Physicians Assistant Education Association (PAEA), 2018
- NCCPA, 2017
- 2017 AAPA Salary Survey

*“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 U.S., 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.

PA Profession in the News

- #1 Most Promising Jobs for Millennials List Forbes, 2017

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