What is a PA?

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

AT A GLANCE

PA profession established in 1967

123,000 PAs in the U.S.

NCCPA, 2017

PAs have more than 400 MILLION patient interactions per year

1967

1967

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

255+ PA Programs in the U.S.

Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), 2018

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)

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING

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
PAs are trusted healthcare providers

What Patients Say About PAs

93%

92%

91%

PAs are trusted healthcare providers

Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments

PAs improve the quality of healthcare

PA Profession in the News

#3 Best 100 Jobs List
US News & World Report 2018

#2 Best Healthcare Jobs List
US News & World Report 2018

#7 25 Highest Paying Jobs In America
Forbes 2018

#5 Fastest Growing Jobs in America
Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018

*“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 US, 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.

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